

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Funding to finish job sought

BY MARIEL BETANCOURT
Cox NC Publications

Construction of the Edenton Bay breakwater should be complete in six weeks.

That's how long town officials expect it will take to secure a grant for and build the breakwater's final piece, a square that will be used as a lookout area.

The town needs \$30,000 to pay for the square, but chose not to halt construction while awaiting the money, said Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

"We've still got some grant applications pending. It just didn't make sense to stop the progress (waiting for them to be funded)," Knighton said. "...It would have cost \$10,000 or \$15,000 more to have someone come back at a later point and do it."

The town has already received

See FUNDS On Page 3-A



Make All-District Band

Six students at Chowan Middle School were selected from among 1,300 students to be members of the All-District Band. Courtney Mathias, Hawkins Gagnon, Sarah Proctor, Amber Settles, Stewart Bean, and John McCall competed for their distinguished positions on Saturday, Jan. 6, at E.B. Aycock Middle School in Greenville. The students competed in two categories, concert band and symphonic band. Concert band honors went to Mathias, fourth chair baritone; Gagnon, eighth chair French horn; Settles, sixth chair clarinet; and Bean, tenth chair trumpet. Symphonic band honors went to McCall, first chair drums, and Proctor, fourth chair trumpet. The Chowan Middle School Band is directed by Jaraun Ransome. (Submitted photo)

Shootings prompt Town Hall meeting

BY DERRICK ARMSTEAD
Staff Writer

EDENTON—Reacting to the on-going violence prevalent in one local neighborhood, a hastily called meeting to address the problems was held on Tuesday evening.

And according to one anonymous source who resides in the affected area, if left unchecked that violence could have serious implications.

"There are kids who are walking home from school in that area...because several of the parents are working, or perhaps cannot afford to pick them up," the source said. "And when kids are that age they really don't pay attention to (their surroundings). Therefore, when the shooting starts they would get caught right in the middle of all that."

"And that's the most tragic thing in the world, for a parent to lose a child," the source added.

Town Manager, Anne-Marie Knighton, addressed the timeline involved with the organization of the meeting.

"Around noon today (Jan. 22), I received a call from someone who said that they were concerned with the incidences on W. Carteret St.," said Knighton. "They requested an opportunity to talk before the town council about some random shootings (in) the area. They asked if they could speak at the next town council meeting, but I told them that this was in mid-February. Then I suggested that they could do it sooner, but there was no way that I could do it that night (Jan. 22) because of a (previously) planned town council program...so we set it up for tomorrow night (Jan. 23)."

The meeting was also expected to focus on the troubled west side area's rampant drug activities, which are reportedly even transacted in plain view.

"A lot of times I come home and my neighbors come and tell me that somebody was selling drugs right down the street," said one resident. "And this is right out in the open during the day."

See SHOOTINGS On Page 3-A

Chowan County Fair honored for exhibit

The Chowan County Fair recently received acclaim from state agriculture officials at the annual North Carolina and South Carolina Association of Agricultural Fairs Meeting in Greensboro.

Agriculture Commissioner Meg Scott Phipps and county fair officials presented Chowan County Fair Manager E.C. Toppin with an honorable mention in the "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" exhibit contest.

"Choosing an exhibit that best represents North Carolina's agricultural diversity is a difficult task," Phipps said in making the announcement. "Each county fair worked hard to create eye-catching and original exhibits that raised the awareness of agriculture products grown in the state. I

commend their efforts."

This is the first year the "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" contest was held. Fairs submitted photos and a description of their exhibit, which highlighted North Carolina agricultural products and featured the "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" logo.

Exhibits were judged on creativity, attractiveness, educational content, and use of North Carolina food and agricultural products.

North Carolina's 48 county fairs participated in the "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" display contest, sponsored by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

More than 20,000 people attended the 2000 Chowan County Fair.



Jim Badger (left) is joined by Chowan County Clerk of Court Mike McArthur, center, and fellow magistrate Carlton Jackson during a recent swearing-in ceremony at the Chowan County courthouse. (Staff photo by Derrick Armstead.)

Badger new magistrate for county

EDENTON—Chowan County's newest magistrate may have taken on a new position, but not a profession.

That is because Jim Badger, who takes over for the outgoing Larry McLaughlin, says that he believes past experiences will aid him early on in his new role.

"I think my background in law and reverence for the law will come through," said the Tennessee native. "And it's an important job...anything in the public (eye) that allows you to hold up values in the law is important."

Throw in a heavy dose of judicial experience, and the position fits like a glove.

"In Tennessee there are no magistrates," he said. "And whereas magistrates are involved with district and superior court, we had general sessions and circuit. Therefore, we didn't have magistrates as such, but (did) have night commissioners."

While contemplating his initial awareness of the position, he added, "I had to do some research...and probably read about the position in the General Statutes during the course of teaching."

Not long after that first awareness of the position, it was a pretty straightforward application process, as was the move from Nashville to Chowan County.

However, he does acknowledge that there are some differences.

"In Nashville you have about 550 thousand people...and obviously, in Edenton you don't have that many," Badger said while comparing, and simultaneously contrasting the two areas. "Similarities are that they are interesting towns. Nashville has music and Edenton has historic homes, but there's also more to Nashville than music and more to Edenton than old homes."

Prior to his present position, Badger had retired from the Air Force as a Lt. Colonel and served as a night court judge following graduation from law school.

And for a man who begins his third career, the urge to keep going pushes him forward.

"I try to bring fairness and impartiality into the law and I try to treat everybody with respect, but they must also show respect in the courtroom," said Badger. "And I'm looking forward to it (magistrate position), because for what I want to do in life, this is the ideal job for me."

Fatal fire is ruled accidental

From Cox NC Publications
Staff reports

Investigators weren't able to determine what caused the fire that killed a Chowan County man and his daughter on Sunday, Jan. 7, but they did conclude it was accidental, according to Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill.

A preliminary report from the medical examiner's office also in-

dicates that Brian Taylor, 28, and TreChonda Taylor, 2, died as a result of smoke inhalation caused by the fire, the sheriff said in a prepared statement.

"There was no indication of foul play," Spruill said.

Taylor and his daughter died when their home at 2231 Rocky Hock Road was completely gutted by fire. Both were buried Jan. 13. Spruill said a week-long probe

by his office, the SBI and two fire departments had determined that the fire began in the right-front corner of the home's living room.

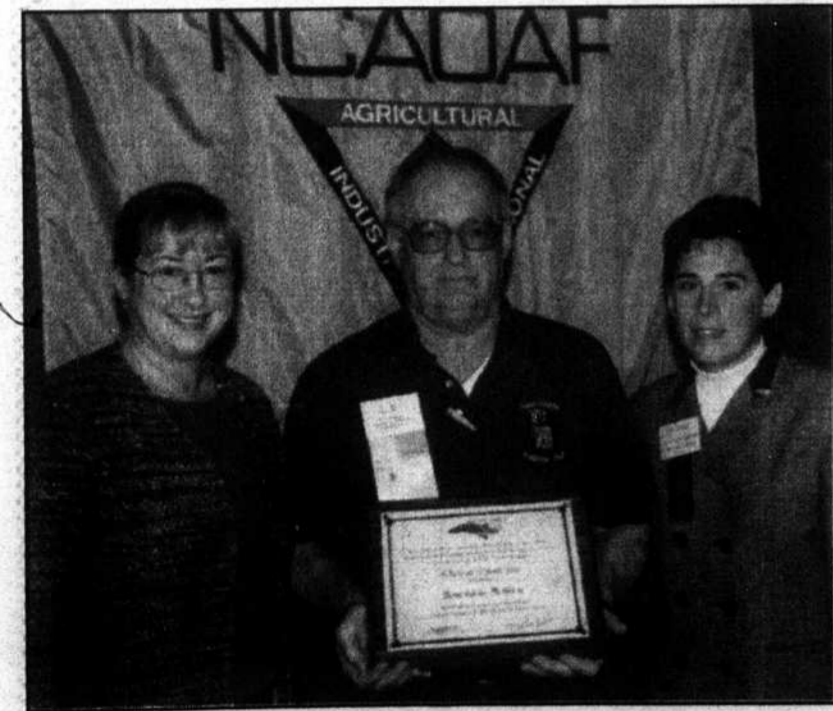
"However, due to the extent of damage, investigators are unable to determine the exact cause of (the fire's) origin," he said.

TreChonda Taylor's mother did not live in the home, and no one else was in the home at the time of the fire, officials said.



Guest of honor

The Edenton chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution's (DAR) recent meeting included special guest, Norman Matthews (center), survivor of the WWII Bataan Death March. Following the war, Matthews was given a life expectancy of only 15 years, but was able to continue a military career until his retirement from the U.S. Air Force after 27 years of service. Matthews was also a descendant of Moses Hobbs, an ancestor of many of the DAR's current members. Talking with him here are Dorothy Bangert, left, and Beth Taylor.



NC Agriculture Commissioner Meg Scott Phipps, Chowan County Fair representative E.C. Toppin, and Teresa Brannon, "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" program manager, show off the 2000 Goodness Grows in North Carolina display contest award, which was presented at the NC and SC Association of Agricultural Fairs banquet on Jan. 12.

Instruments Needed

The Chowan Middle School Band is in need of donated instruments or cash donations to purchase new instruments.

Anyone having the following instruments that are in good condition and no longer being used is urged to donate them: Piccolo; Flutes; Clarinets; Alto Clarinets; Bass; Clarinets; Alto Saxophones; Tenor Saxophones; Baritone Saxophones; Trumpets;

Coronets; E♭ Alto Horns; French Horns; Trombones; Tubas.

"Also welcome would be any percussion instruments, such as drums, that are in playable, or repairable condition," said CMS Band Director Jaraun Ransome.

Donations or inquiries can be made by contacting Mr. Ransome during school hours at 221-4131 or by calling Tom Davis anytime at 221-8414.