

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXX, No. 20

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Hail damages homes, vehicles in community

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

"It was the worst storm I've ever seen." That's the way more than one Edenton resident described the hailstorm that swept through Chowan County and other parts of northeast North Carolina on Friday.

According to Emergency Management Director Doug Belch, Chowan County residents suffered extensive property damage from the storm. Property damage included vinyl siding damage, vehicle damage, crop damage and trees blown down. Vehicle damage included busted windshields, headlights and dented bodywork. "The hardest hit areas were Rocky Hock, Tynch Town area and in Macedonia," Belch added.

Fortunately no one was injured but between 200 to 300 people had to take temporary refuge in local schools, primarily due to people listening when officials called for them to take immediate shelter. The people were involved in school baseball games and the Chowan-Perquimans Relay for Life which began in Edenton Friday afternoon.

Electricity was also temporarily affected by the hailstorm. Tree limbs landing on power lines and blown down lines caused electric service to be out in different areas of Chowan County. "Nothing major happened and overall we (Chowan County) did not have a lot of utility problems," said Bill Potts, line supervisor. "We were extremely lucky."

Some homeowners weren't as fortunate. Charles and Joy Busby received quite a bit of damage to their home and yard. Fifteen windows were either broken or completely gone in the Busby home. The hail also caused vinyl siding and vehicle damage on the property. "We have a lot of debris in our yard where the trees were whipped to pieces," said Joy Busby.

Homeowners Mike and Sarah Jackson of Chambers Ferry Road also suffered extensive storm damage. Glass was splattered all over the



These photos shot at the home of Mike and Sarah Jackson on Chambers Ferry Road show some of the property damage, including broken windows in the house, and exterior damage to the residence, that occurred as hail pelted their neighborhood Friday evening. Their son, Chris, was cut by flying glass during the incident. Many vehicle owners, including the Jacksons, sustained damage to their cars and trucks as well. (Contributed photos courtesy of Mia Noble)

bed and carpet when a hail ball shattered one of the bedroom windows. Their home's siding, roof and gutters were also banged up by hail. The Jacksons' yard was dented with holes from the force of the hail balls. Hail measured up to four inches in their yard and one piece of hail was the size of a tuna can.

Vehicle damage estimates for local car owners ran from \$50,000-\$65,000 at James & Son Body



Shop in Edenton. On Monday the shop had provided thirty estimates and was booked solid for Tuesday. "The damage ranged from busted out windshields to headlight damage," reported Nadine James, secretary for the business.

The aftermath of the storm has also been a busy time for local insurance agencies. Jim Elliott of Nationwide Insurance in Edenton said he began receiving calls Friday evening immediately following the storm.

"The combination of the hail and the wind caused major damage to both homes and vehicles," said Elliott. "This was one of the worst storms we've seen in a long while; in the northern part of the county, we've had reports of hail having the circumference of softballs."

(Chowan Herald contributing writer David Taylor assisted with this story.)

Despite some challenging weather, Relay is a success

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

"It's about a community that takes up a fight" is one of the mottos used during Relay for Life. This was evident as survivors, friends and community showed up for food, music and fundraising in the spirit of togetherness for the 9th annual Relay for Life Event.

The Chowan-Perquimans Relay for Life was held Friday and Saturday, May 9-10 at John A. Holmes High School. Teams held fundraisers prior to the event to raise money for

cancer research and finding a cure.

The Survivor Reception was held at 5 p.m. with the opening ceremonies starting at 9 p.m. instead of six due to inclement weather. The Survivors Walk was then held. Survivors, who wore white sashes, walked laps around the track in a spirit of unity against cancer. The lap was emotional and unifying.

"It's a very emotional time that makes you think about hope, life and gratitude," said 26-year survivor Vivian Pearson. "It's still good to have

people in the giving mode despite the tight economy."

Iris Mills, another survivor who celebrated her twentieth year of survival at the Relay, shared that sentiment. "It's a gathering that brings all of us together with the understanding that we all have survived cancer. It draws us closer to each other in hopes that the money raised will help find a cure," she said.

The Relay for Life Teams did just that. The grand total raised was \$89,247.69 with the Rocky Hock Ruritans Team winning the award for "Most



Cancer survivors walk the first lap around the track at Holmes High School in Edenton as the Chowan-Perquimans Relay for Life gets underway. The opening ceremony was delayed for several hours due to a hailstorm that hit the area but the challenge posed by the weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants. (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)

Money Raised by a Team" with the amount of \$21,000. The team accepted the award "For every team in the battle to fight cancer." Other traditional award recipients included: Countryside Care with the "Most Original Tent Theme" and the D.F. Walker Bees with "Best Tent Decoration." The "Most Team Spirit" award

went to all teams for sticking it out through the storm. Due to the hail and thunderstorm that occurred during the Relay Event several "non-traditional awards" were given. American Legion Post 40 won the "Wizard of Oz" award because their tent was moved by storm winds and landed in front of the stage. "Growth Park Inn

Award" was given to the ZT Evans' Family Tent because their tent was rock solid during the storm.

At the closing ceremony event co-chair Shannon Ray thanked everyone for their participation despite the storm and reminded the crowd that "together we can find a cure."



Little League opens play

Sound Home Builders' pitcher, Joe Andronowitz, shows his form on the opening night of the 9-10 year old Little League games played at Fisher Field. The Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department has approximately 450 kids ages 5-18 playing on 34 youth softball and baseball teams this season. (Photo by Robbie Laughton)

State award nominees sought

Chowan County nominations are now being accepted for the 2003 North Carolina Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

This marks the 25th anniversary of the program that showcases North Carolina's most dedicated residents. Through the years, North Carolinians have proven their

concern and compassion for their neighbors by volunteering in their local communities. Last year 373 awards were presented to recipients statewide.

Each county may select five individuals, businesses, and/or groups to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to their communities. A local committee evaluates the

nominations.

Nomination forms are available in Chowan County at the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce office, 116 East King Street, Edenton. Please return the completed forms to the Edenton-Chowan Chamber office or fax to (252) 482-7093 no later than Friday, May 23.

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