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Schools seek savings on critical facilities work

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Edenton-Chowan Schools officials reported to the county commissioners last week that they had found ways to save a net \$40,550 so far on school capital projects – and continue to look for additional savings. Superintendent Rob Jack-

son and Maintenance Director Brad Bass presented an update on school capital spending at the Aug. 8 meeting of the Chowan Board of Commissioners.

Jackson opened the presentation with what he called a "statement of assurance" regarding financial stewardship by the school system.

"The dedicated employees of Edenton-Chowan Schools are committed to using the resources provided to our school district wisely and effectively in order to provide the highest quality educational services possible," Jackson said. "We have been, and we will continue to be, fiscally conservative because we fully ap-

preciate our responsibility to be excellent stewards of public resources directed to our schools."

Jackson noted that the county had provided \$600,000 this year for capital outlay, which would allow the school system to accomplish the first six of its top priority items.

The seventh priority,

which is an energy management control system at White Oak Elementary School, is partly funded out of the \$600,000, Jackson said.

So school officials are trying to save money on other projects in order to be able to have enough available to address the energy management control system, he

said. If that doesn't work out, though, the maintenance department will use any available funds to work on the next highest priority.

Jackson told the commissioners he understood that resources are finite. He said he also understands that

See FACILITIES, 4A

Chowan Regional Fair next week at fairgrounds

From staff reports

The Chowan County Regional Fire opens Tuesday.

The fair will be held Sept. 22-26 at the American Legion Fairgrounds. A highlight of this year's fair will be Hansen's Spectacular Acrobatics. Other entertainment will include the Pork Chop Revue and the Barn Yard Review.

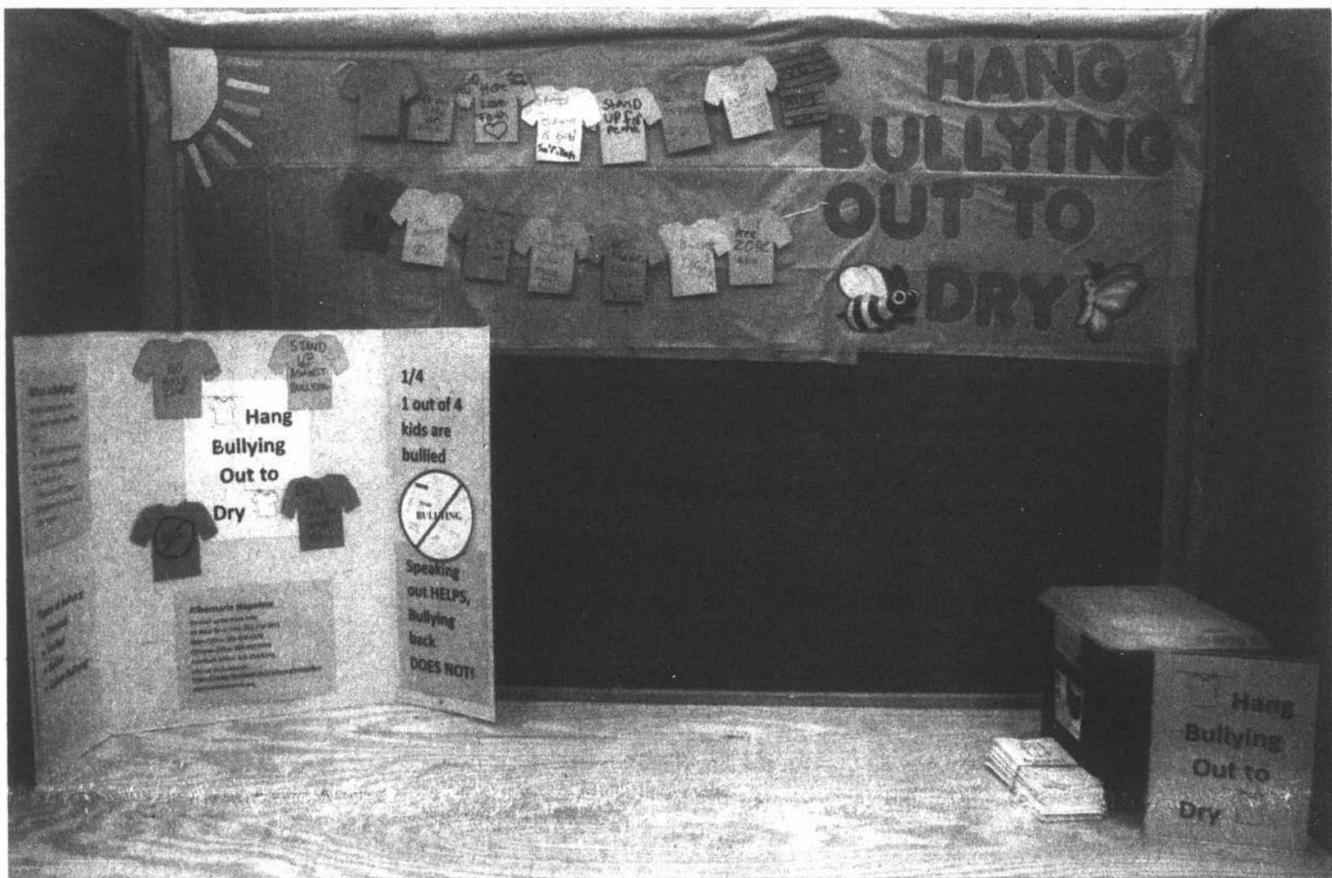
Also, a hypnotist will perform both Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Advance tickets, available at select Colony Tire and Duck Thru locations, are available for \$6. Tickets at the gate will be \$8.

An advance armband, good for unlimited rides, is available for \$17. The armband does not include admission and the admission tickets do not include rides.

The fair will be open from 4-11 p.m. on Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m.-midnight on Saturday.

Elementary and middle school students are admitted free with a paying adult on Tuesday.



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

See FAIR, 4A

This anti-bullying display is set up in the new educational exhibits hall at the fairgrounds. The Chowan County Regional Fair begins Sept. 22.

Tyner man, 31, dies in Sunday morning house fire

From staff reports

A 31-year-old man died early Sunday morning in a fire at his home in Tyner.

Haywood Johnson died in the fire at 510 Walton Lane in Tyner, according to Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin.

No one else was home at the time of the fire.

Johnson was treated on the scene by emergency medical personnel and transported by ambulance to Vidant Chowan Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The fire apparently started in the kitchen area, according to Goodwin.

The exact cause of the fire

had not been determined as of presstime Tuesday.

The Center Hill-Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department was called to the scene around 2:30 a.m. Sunday.

The fire department and sheriff's office are investigating the fire.

Investigators are awaiting results of an autopsy, Goodwin said.

The house sustained heavy smoky damage.

Chief Mike Hamilton of the Center Hill-Crossroads Fire Department said 15 firefighters from the department responded to the call.

The Edenton Fire Department also responded to the fire.



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Haywood Johnson, 31, who lived in this house on Walton Lane in Tyner, died after a fire burned the home, Sunday.

Commissioners back county planner

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

County commissioners defended the county's planning director last week against a widespread – but inaccurate, according to county officials – criticism that the planner exceeded the commissioners' authorization in drafting a wind

energy text amendment.

The county's planning board has recommended to the commissioners a text amendment that would make the wind energy ordinance somewhat stricter than it currently is – for instance, requiring noise levels to be measured from the nearest property line rather than the nearest occupied building.

Speakers in the public comment portion of the Sept. 8 meeting of the Chowan Board of Commissioners

Local musician Martin Parker dies

BY ROBERT KELLY – GOSS
The Daily Advance

Longtime Nashville musician and Chowan County native Martin Parker has died.

Parker, 63, who suffered a stroke last month, passed away at Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville early on the morning of Sept. 10.

According to his son Quinton Parker, the professional drummer had been recuperating in the hospital after the serious stroke. Family and friends had held constant vigil at Parker's side, encouraging him to recuperate.

Quinton Parker said in the end, however, his father seemed to be struggling.

"It got to the point where it didn't seem like he would improve," said Quinton Parker.



PARKER

Throughout the ordeal, scores of friends would come to Parker's aid, raising needed funds through online fundraisers and music ben-

efits.

Quinton Parker said that if there is a silver lining to his father's stroke and subsequent death, it is how amazed and "humbled" he is to see how many lives his father touched over the years. "There is so much love," said Quinton Parker. "It is a very beautiful thing to witness."

Growing up in Edenton, Parker was a musician whose reputation began to grow back in the late 1960s playing drums with high school bands, according to lifelong friend and Out 'n the Cold band mate Clarence Munden. Parker, said Munden, would eventually make his way to Nashville where he would play with country superstars such as Vince Gill and Patty

See PARKER, 4A



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