



County nets \$1.85M for Riversound owners

Agreement will allow completion of infrastructure

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

County Manager Kevin Howard announced at the Oct. 19 meeting of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners that the county, the bonding company and the property owners

association had settled on \$1.85 million as the amount that would go to the property owners association to complete the work on the wastewater treatment facility for the Riversound I residential development.

The settlement relieves the county and the bonding company of any further liability, according to Howard.

Lee Quick, president of the

Riversound Property Owners Association, said the POA was pleased that the long negotiation had resulted in a settlement sufficient to complete the infrastructure.

At this point the POA is in charge of the work and has hired its own contractor, Quick said.

The subdivision was in the development stage in 2007 but a year or so after that the develop-

er had fallen prey to the Recession and was unable to complete the required improvements for the subdivision. That has left property owners unable to build on their lots.

The county called the performance bond in 2012 in order to get the streets and wastewater treatment plant completed. Since then the county and the bonding company had been ne-

gotiating the amount necessary to complete the work.

Quick said the wastewater treatment plant should be finished in a few months, and building would be able to start once state officials certify the plant.

Quick said he appreciated the work that Chowan County Manager Kevin Howard had done to help get an adequate settlement in the case.

HARVEST PORCH



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

This display of pumpkins and other autumn decorations adorns the porch of Keith and Nancy Sorensen's home at 209 E. King St.

Board OKs improvement plan for DF Walker

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

School board members are counting on Superintendent Rob Jackson and Principal Michelle White to move D.F. Walker Elementary School beyond its current state classification as a low-performing school.

Meanwhile, school leaders are looking for parents and the community to come alongside the school in working for student success.

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education recently got its first look at the proposed plan of action required by the state after the elementary school was

classified as a low-performing school.

During its quarterly meeting on Oct. 20 the board unanimously voted to approve the plan so that it could be forwarded to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Board member Ricky Browder was not at the meeting.

"They (D.F. Walker) have come up with a plan that we feel will address their grade," said Chairman John Guard.

Guard said that the board was also asked to reaffirm its faith in White, who began her first full year as D.F. Walker's principal in



GUARD

September, as well as Jackson, who is now in his second year of leading the school system.

"We did that," Guard said.

State officials gave Walker the low-performing designation after it earned a "D" for the second consecutive year based on School Report Card ratings.

Guard said that he felt the rating was misleading because 80 percent of the rating was based on performance while only 20 percent of the rating considered growth. He noted that current statistics show 85 percent of students enter-

ing the Edenton-Chowan school system do not meet expected entrance requirements and said that requires teachers at White Oak and Walker to spend valuable time trying to help those children catch up with their peers.

For that reason, he said, he believes student performance and growth should be considered equally when the letter grades are assigned.

While the School Report Card ratings won't be officially released until December school systems were notified of grades assigned to the various schools in mid-October. John A. Holmes High School and Chowan

Middle School each earned a "C" rating. Since ratings are not assigned to schools until third grade, White Oak Elementary — which consists of students in pre-K through 2nd grade — was not assigned a rating.

White praised the performance of teachers at Walker and said the rating doesn't accurately reflect their professionalism and commitment to teaching.

"I want everyone in our community to know that our school is about so much more than a letter grade," White said. "We have an outstanding school with an amazing staff who come in early, stay late, and go above and beyond for children ev-

ery day. We are determined to make this 2015-2015 school year representative of tremendous growth for D.F. Walker."

The plan for improving school performance — developed this fall by Walker's school improvement team — contains a clear, concise mission statement that reads simply, "D.F. Walker's mission is to encourage success by meeting individual needs."

And a belief system hammered out by the team makes it clear they support the idea that all children can learn given the right environment and resources as

See IMPROVEMENT, 7A

2 men arrested for Oct. 17 shooting

BY BECKY BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Two Chowan County men wanted for a shooting that sent two other men to the hospital earlier this month have been arrested in Bertie County, the Edenton police chief said Wednesday.

Jabazz Long, 20, formerly of the 100 block of Paxton Lane, Edenton, and Linward Bailey III,



BAILEY



LONG

Bailey were found in an unmarked trailer on Tiffany Lane outside the town of Windsor. He said the

arrests resulted from an anonymous tip.

"We got a tip on where they were and that's where we found them," he said.

Fortenbery said that to the best of his knowledge no one else was at the trail-

er at the time Long and Bailey were arrested.

Both suspects are charged with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury. Both are being held at the Chowan County Jail in lieu of \$650,000 secured bonds.

Edenton police say Long and Bailey are responsible for a shooting incident in the 200 block of East Freemason Street on Saturday, Oct. 17, that resulted in two

See 2 ARRESTED, 7A

Town responds to power outage

From staff reports

Town of Edenton utility customers east from Village Creek to Sandy Point experienced a power failure Monday afternoon.

Utilities Director Glenn Andersen said an insulator failure prompted by a burning power line caused the outage. He said that arcs of blue flame could be seen by town linemen as they responded to the scene and that flickering lights were experienced as far away as the downtown area.

The outage was reported about 11:15 a.m. near Pelikan and power was restored at about 1:30 p.m., Andersen said.



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ROCKY HOCK OPRY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 7:00PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 7:00PM
 RELAY FOR LIFE Christmas Show Sponsored by the Rocky Hock Ruritan's Relay for Life Team Tickets \$10.00 E.A. SWAIN AUDITORIUM EDENTON, NC
 Tickets Available at various locations or call 252-221-4875 or 252-340-3438. Email rockyhock opry@live.com