

CHOWAN HERALD

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Storm recovery continues across the county

From staff reports

Chowan County residents are continuing to deal with some effects from Hurricane Matthew.

Although water service has returned to normal for most people in Chowan County, some water customers in the Morristown Road area remained under a boil-water advisory at presstime.

Most roads in Chowan County were expected to be passable by today but the N.C.

Department of Transportation has reported that some roads will be closed for a few weeks as repairs continue.

At presstime, Highway 32 North, Yellowhammer Road, Chambers Ferry Road and Tynchtown Road all remained closed.

The Chowan County Senior Center sustained extensive damage in the storm, including major damage to the heating and cooling system.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has an-

nounced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the state of North Carolina to supplement state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the area affected by Hurricane Matthew beginning Oct. 4. The president's action makes federal funding available to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work in Chowan and a number of other

See STORM, 6A



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

This carpet was removed from Chowan Chiropractic Clinic because of flooding.

Residents recall flood waters, help from firefighters

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

When Edenton Housing Authority Director Deborah Davis recently visited her hometown in Charleston, South Carolina, she had not idea she'd be ordered to evacuate because of a coming storm.

She also couldn't know that Hurricane Matthew would follow her north or that the place she'd evacuate to - her apartment on North Broad Street - would be so engulfed by floodwaters she would have to be rescued by firefighters.

Davis, who's lived and worked in Edenton for six years, recalled her experiences during Hurricane Matthew in a recent interview.

Davis said about 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, she noticed water was beginning to come up into her bathroom. It was not a lot of water and it was clear. Plus, the same thing had happened in her apartment just weeks earlier when heavy rains from a tropical storm had resulted in minor flooding in the apartment complex where she lives.

So Davis did the same thing she had done the last time. She gathered up towels, blankets and comforters and spread them out in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ruined furniture from the apartment that Edenton firefighters rescued resident Deborah Davis from during Hurricane Matthew is seen outside awaiting pickup.

her bathroom to soak up the water.

But unlike the previous storm, the rainfall didn't stop. It just kept coming.

Davis, who was sitting on her bed watching TV, said she looked down and the items she had put on the floor to soak up water were

now floating. And the water was no longer clear but had turned dark and muddy.

"Then I went to the front door and opened it," she said. "Water started gushing in. I slammed the door shut and called 911 for help."

As she waited for help to arrive, Davis said, she did

what she advises her tenants at the Housing Authority to do in an emergency. She gathered up some clothes, her laptop and charger, and prepared to leave.

Davis said members of the nearby Edenton Fire Department came to her door to escort her to safety.

By the time they arrived, water in her apartment had risen to her waist, said Davis, who stands about 5 foot, 4 inches tall.

Davis recalls it being difficult getting her door to open. She would find out why when she got outside - the water was chest-level

deep. Davis said the firefighters took special care getting her out of her building.

"They told me, 'you might want to turn your head and not look down. Don't worry, we've got you and we're not

See RESCUE, 7A

Chowan County approves bulletproof vests for officers

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to approve the purchase of supplemental bulletproof vests for officers of the Chowan Sheriff's Office.

The request from Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin called for the vests to be paid for by revenue generated by escorting transports of wind turbine parts from the Northeast Regional Airport to the Amazon Wind Proj-

ect area near Elizabeth City.

The county commissioners had postponed a decision on the request at their Oct. 3 meeting.

Goodwin told the commissioners Monday that just about a year ago the N.C. Department of Transportation had approached sheriffs in the area about transporting wind turbine parts from the airport to the Amazon Wind Project area.

So far Chowan has conducted 23 escorts and traveled 5,450 miles, Goodwin said. He said that fuel expenditures based on 15

miles per gallon in the patrol cars had been \$653.99. Tire wear has been calculated at \$118 and the cost of one oil change at \$30, he said.

Goodwin added that the deputies are paid directly by the transport company for assisting with the transports. The county is paid \$375 per trip in addition to what the deputy is paid, he said.

The amount paid to the county so far for the escorts is \$10,169, according to Goodwin.

The bulletproof vests of the type the

county is purchasing range in cost from \$250 to \$900 each, Goodwin told the commissioners. The vests he has selected are in the middle of that price range and the total cost is \$6,800 for 17 vests, he said.

Goodwin said he had never brought a request to the commissioners without a way to pay for it, had never paid top dollar for anything, and in the case of the vests chose what he believed was the best equipment for this department at this time.

See VESTS, 6A

Kersey, Wadsworth vie for 2nd District

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The starkest difference between the candidates for county commissioner in the 2nd District is on the question of whether to enact stricter standards for wind energy facilities in the county.

The race for the 2nd District seat currently held by Commissioner Alex Kehayes pits Republican Patti Kersey, 62, against Democrat Derek Wadsworth, also

62.

Kersey was a principal supporter of the effort last year to make the county's wind energy ordinance significantly stricter, including increasing the minimum setback for utility-scale wind energy projects to one mile.

She said she would support efforts to revisit the ordinance and pursue the proposed changes.



WADSWORTH



KERSEY

Decision 2016

ilities in the county but believes a one-mile minimum setback would protect residents from health impacts related to the turbines.

"I just don't believe they should be close," Kersey

"These setbacks aren't right," Kersey said, referring to standards in the county's current wind energy ordinance.

Kersey said she doesn't oppose wind energy but believes a one-mile minimum setback would protect residents from health impacts related to the turbines.

MORE INSIDE

- Early voting begins Thursday in Chowan County - 2A
- Take a look at ample ballots on 8A

said. Wadsworth is in no hurry to re-write the county's wind energy rules.

He didn't rule out revisiting the wind energy ordinance but said he would have to hear a lot more from constituents before deciding to move in that direction.

"I think before you would do that you should hear all the sides and listen to the

See COMMISSIONER, 2A

Deliberation on Apex permit Nov. 4

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners will meet Nov. 4 to begin its deliberations on the conditional use permit application for the proposed Timbermill Wind Project.

Charlottesville, Va.-based Apex Clean Energy Inc. has proposed a 300-megawatt wind energy generation facility in the Bear Swamp and Center Hill areas of Chowan and Perquimans

counties. The project calls for 105 wind turbines, 48 of which are expected to be located in Chowan County. The turbines are expected to be nearly 600 feet high at maximum blade tip height.

The project requires permits in both counties and also is subject to state and federal permitting processes.

The county commissioners decided Monday night to meet Nov.

See WIND PERMIT, 6A



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Trick or Treat Downtown Edenton

Monday, October 31st

5:30pm

Safe Trick or Treating

Ages 12 & Under

Sponsored by Downtown Businesses