

# CRIMEWATCH

## EDENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ARRESTS

■ Feb. 16 - Christopher Jordan Brabble, 23, of East Eden Street, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of possession of less than ½ ounce of marijuana, one misdemeanor count of possession of marijuana drug paraphernalia and one mis-

demeanor count of resisting arrest.

■ Feb. 16 - Cynthia Howard Bond, 55, of Cabarrus Street, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of larceny.

■ Feb. 12 - Darryl Stephen Goodman-Grant, 25, of Cypress Drive, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of probation violation and one

misdemeanor count of driving while license revoked.

■ Feb. 10 - Curtis Leon Shambley, 51, of Center Hill Road, was issued a citation for driving while impaired.

■ Feb. 10 - Michanda Brendaya Felton, 25, of Greenhall Road, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of larceny and two misdemeanor counts of driv-

ing while license revoked.

■ Feb. 10 - Allen Donald Jones, 37, of Emperor Landing Road, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of driving while license revoked.

■ Feb. 10 - Dondae Regional Taylor Jr., 49, of North Broad Street, was charged with one count of simple physical assault.

## INCIDENTS

■ None reported.

## CHOWAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ARRESTS

■ Feb. 15 - Brandon Christopher Harrison, 24, of Whitemon Lane, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of injury to personal property and one misdemeanor count of discharging a firearm in-

side the town limits.

■ Feb. 15 - DyBene Kenyi Roulac, 20, of Paradise Road, was arrested on one felony count of breaking and entering, one felony count of larceny after breaking and entering, and one felony count of possession of stolen goods/property.

## INCIDENTS

■ None reported.

# Director updates officials on Food Pantry

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The executive director of the Chowan County Food Pantry updated the Chowan County Board of Commissioners Monday on the Food Pantry's efforts to help food-insecure people in the community.

Roger Coleman introduced himself as the Food Pantry's new executive director and assured the commissioners that the

Food Pantry's commitment to serving food-insecure residents in Chowan County has not changed.

The efforts include food distribution Monday and Thursday to an average of 300 families a month, and the Book Bag Buddies program through the local schools.

Coleman said the Food Pantry soon would be announcing a new initiative focused on serving elderly residents of Chowan County.

The county has resources to help those who are food-insecure, Coleman said. The resources include being located in one of the most bountiful agricultural areas in the world, and a climate of care and compassion created by churches and community groups.

The Food Pantry distributes more than 20,000 pounds of food a month. The Food Pantry has a monthly cost of \$12 per family served. The program

serves about 600 families - about 300 in any given month, Coleman said.

Coleman pointed out that Les Kersey, the husband of Commissioner Patti Kersey, is one of the volunteers at the Food Pantry, carrying food out to clients' cars.

Even though Chowan County is in the bottom third of the state's counties in income, it's one of the top counties in generosity and compassion, Coleman said.

Coleman said the Food Pantry is looking for farmers who might help with gleaning projects. The Food Pantry takes the resources that are available and tries to multiply them to meet the needs in the community.

Commissioner Greg Bonner asked about what could be done to help people be able to better take care of themselves.

Coleman said he didn't know what the answer was

to that. He said the Food Pantry does what it can to get food to people.

Coleman said seeing so much need can take a toll on the emotions.

"I cry a lot," Coleman said.

Commissioner Ellis Lawrence thanked Coleman for the Food Pantry's work to help people.

"I just want to say 'thank you,'" Lawrence said.

# School board seeks continued repairs to facilities

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The Edenton-Chowan County Board of Education discussed at its quarterly meeting Monday the need to continue working with county officials to make necessary repairs and improvements to local school buildings.

School buildings are important to student learning, said Superintendent Rob Jackson.

A new plan for mechanical systems - based on the original three-year plan but now extended to six years - would cost an estimated \$2,087,000.

The plan assumes no renovation or replacement of buildings at the high school.

If the new construction at the high school is going to take place, the board

likely will hold off on replacing heating and cooling units at the high school.

Jackson noted that capital funding for local schools dipped to under \$100,000 a year for a couple of years when the recession hit.

In the last two years there has been a significant spike from the county commissioners in capital outlay, Jackson said.

But even with that spike, the Edenton-Chowan Schools are ranked 115th out of the state's 115 school systems in per-pupil capital outlay spending, Jackson said.

"We are dead last in what has been extended in capital outlay," Jackson said.

Jackson said he appreciates the higher level of funding but added the schools are "still playing catch-up."

Jackson said he was not

*"Of course there are always people saying you should do more, and you always need to do more, but we take a look at what the needs are and what we can do and try to do as much as we can every year. We will do the same thing this year. We will look closely at the needs and do as much as we can do."*

Jeff Smith  
Board of Commissioners

pointing fingers but just wanted board members to understand where the schools are and how they got there.

He said he knew he was preaching to the choir "but it is important for us to understand where we are."

Chowan Board of Commissioners Jeff Smith said Tuesday that he believes the county commissioners

have been responsible in meeting school needs.

"I think that we have been very responsible," Smith said.

"Of course there are always people saying you should do more, and you always need to do more, but we take a look at what the needs are and what we can do and try to do as much as we can every year. We will

do the same thing this year. We will look closely at the needs and do as much as we can do."

Brad Bass, the schools' maintenance director, said he was able to put in the energy management system at White Oak Elementary School using cost savings from other 2015-2016 projects.

"We're doing everything we can" to save money, Bass said.

The school system now is working on getting the same energy management system at Chowan Middle School that is now in place at the elementary school.

Bass and Jackson said it will be good if natural gas service can be obtained for HVAC units because it could save money on energy.

Jackson said at some time there needs to be a

longterm solution for the central services office, since paying \$41,000 a year in rent doesn't make sense.

Burroughs asked why the board should not ask for \$1.4 million in capital outlay - a figure based on identified needs - given the growth in the county's fund balance.

"We're not in trouble now, folks," Burroughs said, referring to the fiscal crisis of a few years ago.

"At what point do we as a board that are charged by statute to present our needs, do we present our needs" and let the county commissioners decide how to pay for it? Burroughs asked.

Jackson said that once the school board comes together and decides what the needs are, that is what the board will present to the county commissioners.

# Alumni continue push for building preservation

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Citizens continued to push for the preservation of the former D.F. Walker School Building on North Oakum Street in comments to the Chowan County Board of Commissioners Monday night.

During the public com-

ment period at the county commissioners' meeting Monday, Carolyn Anthony of the D.F. Walker Alumni Association said the two-story Walker Building means a lot to a great many people in the community.

Anthony said she believes the building could be an asset to the community. She asked

that more research be done on the prospects for the building becoming a designated historic structure.

The alumni want the building preserved, she said.

Lois Thompson also addressed the commissioners regarding the two-story Walker Building.

She said it was the first

high school serving black students in Edenton and she would like the building to be restored and be an asset to the community.

Joyce Wrighton said she just wanted to stand in honor of what the first two speakers were saying.

"I just support that 100 percent," Wrighton said.

# Citizens Police Academy begins April 6

From staff reports

Come learn about the Edenton Police Department and how you can become a partner in mak-

ing our town the best it can be by joining us for the spring session of the Citizens Police Academy, April 6 through June 8.

The class will meet

every Thursday evening from 6-7:30 p.m.

Class sessions will focus on a variety of topics such as an overview of the police department and its organizational structure, patrol techniques, investigation and narcotics, use of force, crime prevention, legal procedures, juvenile laws and more.

You must be at least 18 years of age and reside or work in Edenton or Chowan County. This program is free, but registration is required and seats are limited.

For more information or to obtain an application, please call 482-5144 or send an email to Brenda.Parks@edenton.nc.gov.

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