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Boys and Girls Club gets new home

BY MILES LAYTON AND REGGIE PONDER
Cooke Communications

The Chowan County Commission unanimously approved plans to bring the Boys & Girls Club of the Albemarle to the old D.F. Walker High School.

During Monday's meeting, Commission Chairman Jeff Smith praised the agreement between the county, the Edenton-Chowan unit of the club and the College of the Albemarle. The amended lease will be sent to the club and COA for

their approval.

"I think this is probably one of the better things that Chowan County has done in a long time," Smith said. "I think it is a new day for the campus over there and a new day for the relationship between the county and the youth of our county. This will be a win-win for everybody."

Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan said the agreement will make Chowan County a better place to live.

"What really gives me a lot of pleasure as a community leader is first, the move

is to a better location where it can serve the children of Chowan county. Second, the county has a tenant for the vacant Walker School building," said Vaughan, chairman of the club's Board of Directors. "Third, D.F. Walker alumni will now know that their former high school is serving the needs of children through the structure of the Boys & Girls Club. Fourth, COA is no longer concerned about a vacant building on their campus and they are very excited about the future use of that building. To get

all those parts satisfied — that's big time for a building that has been search of love for a long time."

County officials have expressed hope that the new agreement with the Boys & Girls Club will lead to a revitalization of the campus as well as an overall improvement in the neighborhood.

"We feel that locating the Boys and Girls club in the D.F. Walker building is an important piece in improving the COA campus," said Chowan County Manager Kevin Howard. "It will allow us to renovate the biggest

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Commission discusses 'imminent need' and ERA - 7A

eyesore on the campus if not the neighborhood. We appreciate the Boys and Girls Club being willing to partner with us and make this happen."

D.F. Walker High School educated generations of black students in the Edenton community in the years before the local schools were integrated.

County officials for more

than two years had been talking about finding a suitable use for the building that would be self-sustaining financially and that preferably would keep the building in use for educational purposes.

County officials have estimated it will cost between \$2.5 million and \$4 million to repair the structure. The most critical structural issues at this point are to get the building sealed, the windows repaired and the roof fixed.

See CLUB, 7A

Two men killed in wrecks

From staff reports

Two men have been killed in traffic accidents that happened within about a week's time in Chowan County.

A 26-year-old Chowan County man was killed Sunday evening when his car overturned on N.C. Highway 94 southeast of Edenton, the N.C. Highway Patrol reported Monday.

Trooper K.R. Briggs of the N.C. Highway Patrol identified the motorist as Brandon Squires, of the 800 block of North Broad St., Edenton.

According to Briggs, Squires was driving a 2016 Ford Fusion northwest on N.C. 94 shortly before 11 p.m. when his car went off the highway on the right near the Colony Drive intersection, just past Albemarle Baptist Church. Squires overcorrected and the car crossed the center line and went off the left shoulder of the road and struck a ditch, Briggs said. The car then overturned, ejecting Squires from the vehicle, he said.

Squires was pronounced dead at the scene, Briggs said.

Briggs said his investigation shows Squires was not wearing a seat belt and was driving at an excessive rate of speed prior to the accident. The posted speed limit for that section of N.C. 94 is 55 mph.

A Chowan Emergency-911 operator received a call reporting the wreck at 11:03 p.m.

About a week ago on Oct. 8, a Chowan County man died Saturday night following a single-vehicle accident on N.C. Highway 37, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Thomas Allen Dail, 31, of Montpelier Drive, was driving south on N.C. 37 around 10:17 p.m. when he lost control of his vehicle, the patrol said. The vehicle hit a ditch, flipped over and overturned in a field.

See WRECKS, 2A



PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

U.S. Senator Richard Burr, R-N.C., recently spoke to Rotarians in Edenton and Elizabeth City about affairs in Washington, D.C. Leading Edenton Rotarians (left to right) Secretary John Morhead, President Bud Powell, Sen. Burr, Assistant District Governor Charles Gregg and Mayor Roland Vaughan.

Senator Burr comes to town

BY MILES LAYTON AND JON HAWLEY
Cooke Communications

U.S. Senator Richard Burr, R-N.C., recently visited Rotary clubs in Edenton and Elizabeth City to talk about the issues facing Washington DC.

After having lunch with Rotary Club of Edenton on Thursday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church's parish hall, Burr spoke to the Chowan Herald. The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program is not included in the proposed federal budget — a loss of which would impact the development of historical properties.

Town Council adopted a resolution supporting the tax credit during its Oct. 10 meeting. Councilman Samuel Dixon said investors have applied more tax credits per capita than most anywhere in the state to restore Edenton's historical legacy. Destination Downtown Edenton also adopted similar resolution. Mayor Roland Vaughan presented the resolution to Burr last week when the senator was in town.

The tax credit makes restoring longtime downtown properties across the Tarheel state more attractive to investors.

"I believe America should do everything they can to restore older properties," Burr said. "The challenge is that



U.S. Senator Richard Burr talked about tax reform, fake news and President Trump during his recent visit to the Rotary Club of Edenton.

we have a finite amount of money that we deal with. As we get ready to discuss tax reform and appropriations this year, we are going to have to figure out what we can fund and what we can't fund. I think any way the federal government can create incentives for the preservation of historic buildings — that's a smart long term function."

During Burr's speeches to Rotar-

ians, he said Republicans are pursuing corporate tax reform as a means to that end. Democrats opposed to the GOP proposals have called them windfalls for wealthy Americans.

While not addressing those criticisms, Burr noted that Republicans are grappling with the issue of "pass-through income." Changing how pass-through income is taxed could help wealthy Americans reduce their tax burden by reclassifying personal income as business income.

Acknowledging the difficulty of reforming corporate taxes, Burr said Republicans will likely face a deadline to get a bill passed and signed by Trump.

"If we don't do it by the end of the year we'll never do it," he said.

Recent headlines suggest the mainstream media is being unfair to Trump. Most recently, Trump took aim at ABC News for reporting that he called for a tenfold increase to the nation's nuclear arsenal during a national security meeting this summer. Trump denied the claims as did Defense Secretary James Mattis. ABC News dialed back its story by later reporting that the Pentagon has no current plans to increase the size of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Coming on the heels of this latest incident that Trump

See BURR, 3A

New station poised to erase crime

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Oct. 11 dedication of the new headquarters for the Edenton Police Station was a time for celebration for the officers who work there and for those living in the North Oakum Street neighborhood where it is located.

Police Chief Jay Fortenberry said positive changes are already being seen as a result of the department's move from the local Public Safety Center.

"The new police station has positively impacted both the landscape and criminal activity in the North Oakum Street area," Fortenberry said. "The old Crown Mart that was demolished to make room for the new station was a 'hot spot' for alcohol, drugs and loitering violations that required many hours of police service. Several shootings also occurred at that location in recent years."

Officers, too, are benefiting from the amenities at the new site, the police chief said.

"The officers are enjoying the layout and design of the new station which was created with maximum efficiency and effectiveness in mind," Fortenberry said. "We have started using the new training room for our in-service training and officers are taking advantage of the new weight room. The new police station will serve the town well for many years to come."

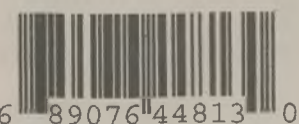
Mayor Roland Vaughan said many hands played a role in the planning and completion of the new police station, starting with the town council and encompassing architects and builders like Oakley Collier Architects, the A.R. Chesson Construction Company and the town's purchasing agent, Bud Powell.

But he said perhaps no one played a more pivotal role than the citizens committee that offered input and advice on the project

See STATION, 2A



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Woman dies in house fire

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

A house fire early Friday has claimed the life of a 29-year-old Edenton resident.

Police Chief Jay Fortenberry said Artrice L. Heckstall died in the fire that destroyed the home she shared with her mother at 104 Valentine Street.

"This is a terrible tragedy — terrible when we lose

someone like that," he said.

Fortenberry said there are no signs of foul play, but the fire is under investigation by the Edenton Fire Department, which along with the Center Hill-Crossroads Fire Department and Chowan County Emergency Medical Services, responded to the blaze.

No one else was injured in the fire which started around 12:40 a.m., Fortenberry said.

Neighbors said Heckstall's mother, Monica Bonner, was able to get out the house safely. Bonner tried to rescue her daughter, but was unable to, they said.

Sam Downing, who lives on nearby Shenita Lane in Edenton, also tried to rescue Heckstall.

Downing said he was returning home from work at

See FIRE, 2A



PHOTO BY MILES LAYTON

Fire consumed the home located at 104 Valentine St. in Edenton.