

Nurse faces possible retrial

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Prosecutors appear ready to retry a male nurse on charges of groping a female patient while under sedation after a jury failed to reach a verdict.

Court records show that new charges were filed March 22 against Mardonia Sapalicio, 48, for the

Sept. 28, 2007 sexual assault of a Chowan County woman while she was a patient in a mobile medical unit. On Sept. 30, 2009, Chowan County jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict, resulting in a mistrial.

Defense attorney Mike Sanders said the hung jury voted 9-3 to acquit Sapalicio. Sanders said no new

evidence has come forth, despite the new charges of second degree sexual assault and sex offense in a medical facility.

"I can only assume they'll retry him on the same evidence in an effort for a different result," Sanders said.

Assistant District Attorney Linda Shields did not immediately return a tele-

phone message.

The 37-year-old victim is the sister of sheriff's deputy Tim Brabble, current Republican candidate for sheriff, Sanders said.

Sapalicio said it's because of the victim's law enforcement kin that prosecutors are doggedly pursuing his conviction. He has since sought the intervention of N.C. Attorney

General Roy Cooper.

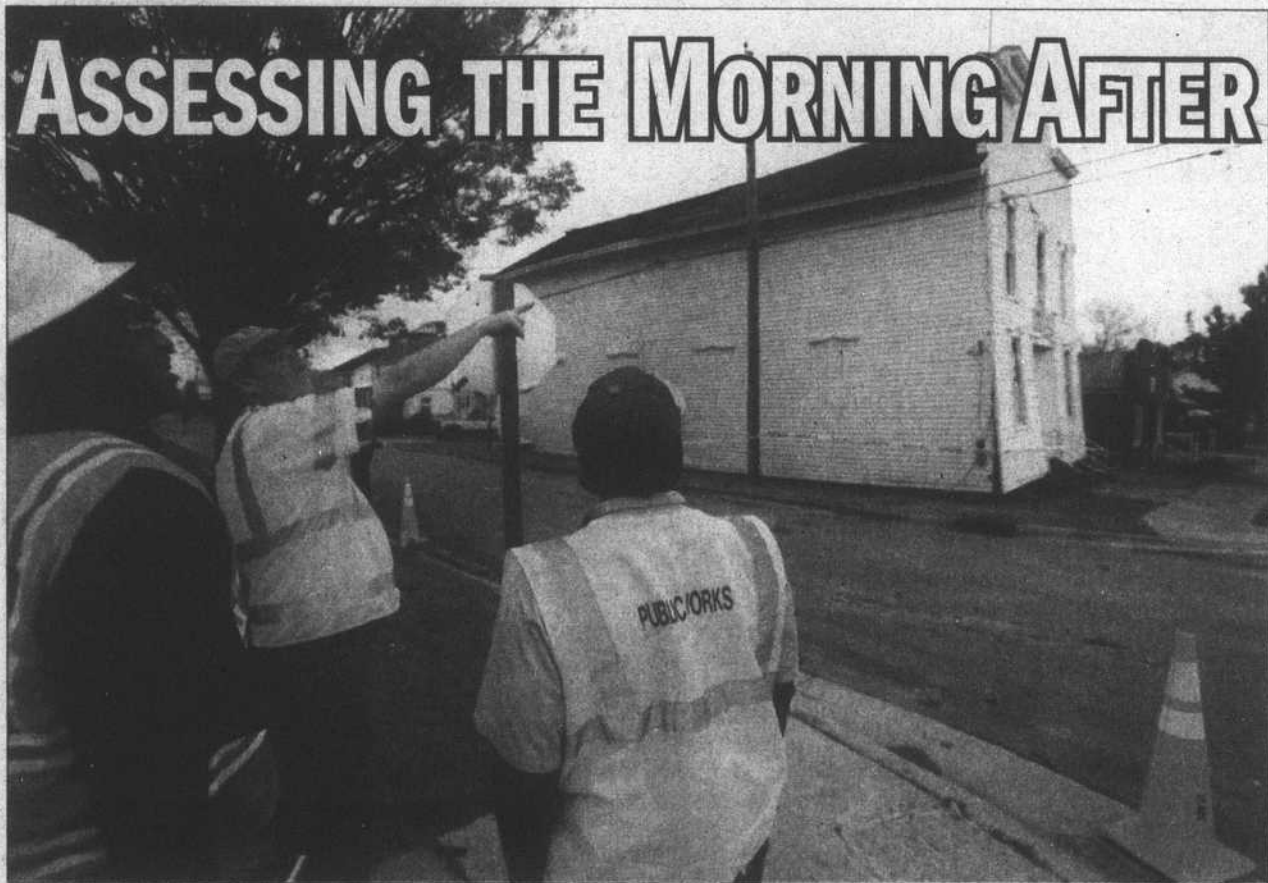
Sapalicio, who has been a RN for more than 10 years, had his nursing license suspended after he was first charged two and half years ago. Because of the new charges, Sapalicio still cannot apply for reinstatement.

"He's been without the ability to earn a living since he was charged,"

Sanders said.

The victim alleges that Sapalicio, a Filipino-American who resides in Chesapeake, Va., groped her while she was physically helpless due to medicinal sedation, court records show. The incident occurred in a mobile medical unit similar to a

See **RETRIAL, 4A**



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT A. CLARK

Glenn Anderson, Director of the Electricity Department for the town of Edenton, assess damage at the John R. Page Masonic Lodge No. 13, Friday after early morning storms swept through the area caused damage to buildings around Edenton.

Winds damage downtown sites

By **CATHY WILSON**
The Perquimans Weekly

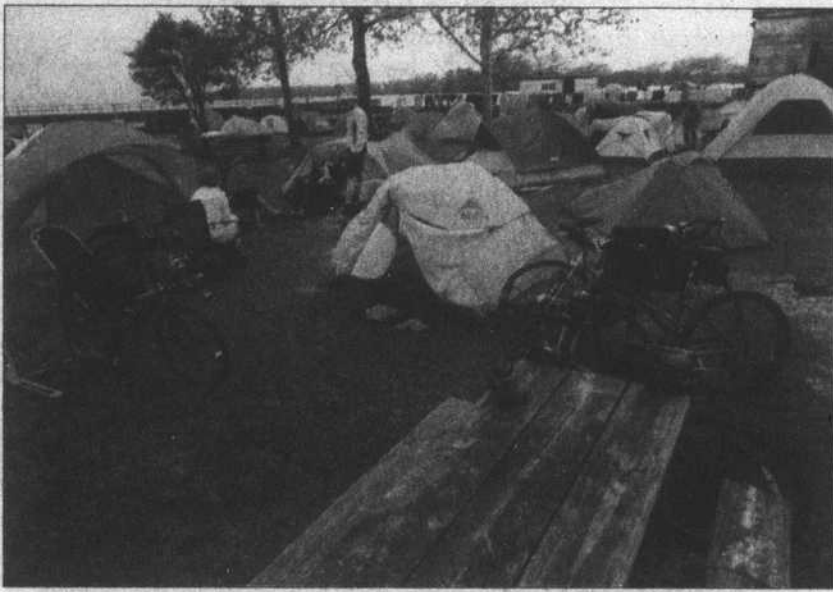
EDENTON — Strong winds early Friday morning damaged at least two historic buildings in downtown Edenton and sent a group of visiting bicyclists literally flying around in their tents.

The damaged structures include the John R. Page Lodge, the oldest African-American Masonic Lodge in North Carolina, and the building containing the offices of the Chowan Herald newspaper.

The strong wind gusts, reported around 4:30 a.m., also downed several trees and blew debris into homes and yards but resulted in no injuries, officials said.

Among those feeling the storm's wrath was Julie White, of Black Mountain, one of 1,000 bicycling enthusiasts expected to visit Edenton this weekend as part of Cycle North Carolina.

White was camped out with other Cycle North Carolina participants at the Edenton waterfront when a



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT A. CLARK

A tree fell in the middle of campers at the waterfront in Edenton, Friday after early morning storms swept through.

sudden wind gust picked up both her and her 3-person tent and sent them hurtling into another tent, rolling her up in the wreckage.

"It just happened too quickly,"

White said.

White said she gathered up her gear and huddled under a nearby

See **STORM, 4A**

CAC parts with director

Three board members resign

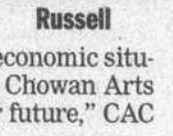
By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

The Chowan Arts Council Board of Directors cites financial woes for its reason not to retain the agency's executive director. Three board members followed with their resignations.

Brenda Russell, who has been credited with reviving the CAC over the last two years, became a financial casualty last week when the board announced it would not renew her contract set to expire April 14.

"In keeping with our mission and taking into consideration our economic situation and fiscal accountability, the Chowan Arts Council has made a change for our future," CAC said in an April 6 press release.

Lyn Castellani, board president, Lin Wanner Hogan, treasurer, and Jennifer Harriss, all resigned last week. Mysi Fortenbery, Russell's administrative assistant, also resigned. But, the board later announced that Fortenbery would serve as interim director for CAC.



Russell

See **CAC, 4A**

COA trustees welcome Deitemeyer

New president: She's not coming in with a plan

By **KRISTIN PITTS**
Staff Writer

In her first Board of Trustees meeting since being named College of The Albemarle's incoming president, Kandi Deitemeyer listened Monday to trustees' concerns over budget constraints and potential facility issues at the Edenton-Chowan campus in Edenton.

Although she doesn't officially start until Friday, Deitemeyer said she was grateful for the chance to learn a little bit more about the college she'll soon be running.

See **COA, 2A**

Storm-damaged John R. Page Masonic Lodge to be saved

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

Members of the John R. Page Masonic Lodge in Edenton are hopeful that the historic structure can be saved. Several professionals believe that it can.

Built about 1890, it is the oldest African-American

Masonic Lodge still in use in North Carolina.

The lodge sustained heavy damage during a storm that struck Edenton early Friday morning. Straight-line winds are being blamed for the apparent collapse of the lodge's foundation, which left the building leaning dangerously to one side and making safe entry into the building impossible.

Worshipful Master Johnny Bond, spokesman for the lodge, said he had received a letter from an engineer, David Fischetti of



DCF Engineering in Cary, suggesting that the lodge could be saved.

"This (saving the lodge)

is what they're looking at," Bond said.

Also of concern is the fate of documents belong-

STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

The John R. Page Masonic Lodge No. 13 was torn from its foundation, Friday after early morning storms that swept through the area caused damage to buildings around Edenton.

ing to the lodge that remain inside the building.

Fischetti, who is experienced at saving historic structures such as lighthouses and covered bridges, was asked to consult in the effort by Reid Thomas of North Carolina

Archives and History's regional office in Greenville.

In a letter to Bond, Thomas wrote that he asked for Fischetti's input because "he was very helpful with Kadesh AME Zion Church (in Edenton) and several other damaged structures after Hurricane Isabel."

Fischetti wrote to Bond that he believes the building can be stabilized and ultimately saved.

In his letter, Fischetti suggested a method utilizing transverse steel

See **LODGE, 2A**



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Friday, April 16th, 7:30 PM
Tickets \$10.00

Rocky Hock Opry

Saturday, April 17th, 7:30 PM
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