



## Fundraising campaign nets \$5K first week

### Supporters pack bleachers, pledge to support Steamers

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

One week after the Steamers announced an urgent need of \$50,000 by Labor Day to field a team next season, team supporters have responded by contributing slightly more than 10 percent of the fundraising goal.

If the Steamers are to stay alive in the Coastal Plain League next season, the team must raise enough the money to have a chance. Word of the emergency fundraising campaign netted more than \$5,000 in the first week of the drive as well as a significant spike in attendance, including more than 1,200 fans at

Saturday night's home game.

"We've had quite a bit of donations already. We've had two substantial donations, which is encouraging," said Katy Ebersole, Steamers' team president.

Despite the strong show of support, potential contributors have peppered team officers with questions. Some want to know

why the fixed figure?

Half of the fundraising goal is needed to secure a letter of credit, a requirement of the league. That comes first to ensure the 14-team CPL that the Steamers are fiscally able to endure a full season next summer and before next year's schedules are determined.

Plans include using the remaining \$25,000 to hire a general manager who can devote full-time employment to focusing on sales and marketing. The Steamers are the league's only team without a GM.

"For the last two years, we've

See STEAMERS, 2A

## Truck slams into car, kills woman

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

A Virginia woman was killed Friday afternoon after the car she was riding crossed into the path of pickup truck just north of the South Bridge in Chowan County, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Linda Miller Chapman, 65, of Norfolk, Va. became Chowan County's first fatality of 2010 when a truck slammed into a car she was riding, said the Highway Patrol on Monday. No additional information about the three other victims was available at the Patrol's district office in Elizabeth City.

Sgt. E. J. Forbes declined to reveal the identity of the deceased woman on Friday, pending notification of next to kin. Neither did he identify the three others involved in the 4:30 p.m. crash that sent them to Chowan Hospital with serious injuries.

Chapman was riding as a front seat passenger in a late model Chevrolet Aveo, a compact rental car with Ohio license plates, Forbes said. That car, driven by a female, was traveling northwest on Indian Trail Road when it crossed into the path of a southbound Toyota Tundra pickup, Forbes said.



STAFF PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

A Virginia woman was killed Friday afternoon after a pickup slammed into the passenger side of a rental car at the intersection of Haughton and Indian Trail roads in Chowan County, just north of the Sound Bridge.

Forbes said he was not prepared to conclude that the driver of the car failed to stop at the stop sign, an intersection that also has flashing lights.

"At the very least, she failed to yield the right of way," Forbes said.

The driver of the truck slammed into the passenger side of Chevrolet, crushing the right side of the car.

"Evidence shows that the truck rolled after impact," Forbes said.

Although the truck was traveling toward the Sound Bridge on Haughton Road (N.C. 37), it came to a rest facing northwest across a lane used for southbound merging onto N.C. 32 off Poplar Neck Road. The posted speed limit on that stretch of road is 55 miles per

hour.

Impact of the crash also spun the Chevrolet completely around before coming to a rest off the road. The car was heading northwest toward Edenton at the time of the crash, Forbes said.

Although Friday's crash marked the county's first of the year, Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said the intersec-

tion, which in addition to a diagonal crossroad has two merging lanes going in opposite directions, has a history of deadly wrecks.

"I can think of three right off the top of my head and I'm sure there are more," Goodwin said.

The crash site snarled traffic to a stop in several different directions at the intersection.

## Schools tap into reserves

By REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education adopted a local budget Monday night totaling just over \$4.3-million for fiscal year 2010-2011.

The budget contains an appropriation from the school system's fiscal reserves totaling \$800,000 — \$450,000 to meet current expense expenditures; \$100,000 for capital outlay projects; and \$250,000 in contingency (emergency) funds.

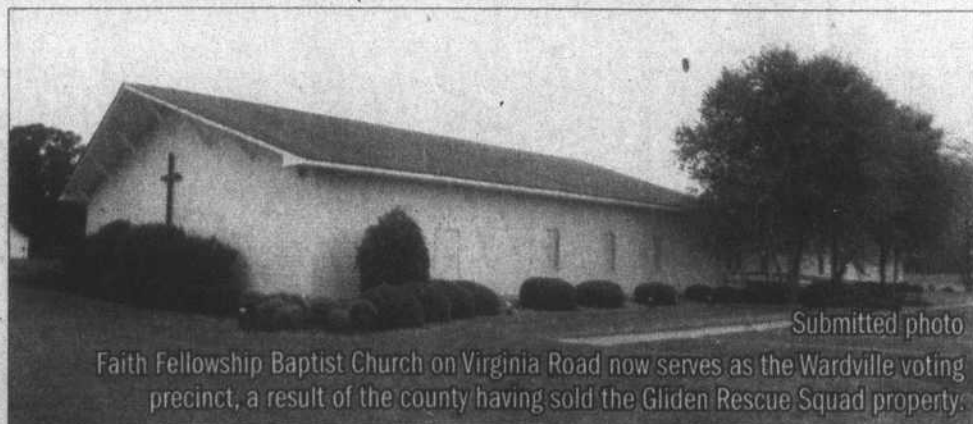
"The use of the fund balance to meet ongoing current expense costs is of particular concern," Superintendent Allan Smith noted in his budget message to the board. "The long-term effects of dependence upon fiscal reserves to meet recurring expenses cannot be sustained."

"However, considering the present financial situation it is recommended that the board of education draw upon the reserves once again for the coming school year."

Smith added, however, that this practice was one the school system could not continue indefinitely.

See RESERVES, 2A

## Wardville precinct moves to Faith Fellowship Baptist



Submitted photo

Faith Fellowship Baptist Church on Virginia Road now serves as the Wardville voting precinct, a result of the county having sold the Gliden Rescue Squad property.

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

Wardville voters used to polling at the former Gliden Rescue Squad will now cast ballots at Faith Fellowship Baptist Church

beginning in November's elections.

The Board of Elections was expected to approve Tuesday the new polling site, which marks the first time Chowan County voters will use a church to hold elections. Rebecca Lowe, director of elections, informed the Board of Commissioners of the plan at its Monday night meeting.

Lowe informed commissioners that other coun-

ties use churches as polling stations. Nonetheless, she was asked if she had a backup plan.

"I told them this is plan B," Lowe said.

Last month, commissioners approved the sale of the defunct Gliden Rescue Squad property, which had not been used as an emergency response station for about three years. Sale of the building prompted

See PRECINCT, 2A

## Laughton's time for recreation



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Robbie Laughton speaks with County Register of Deeds Sue Rountree during a retirement reception held in his Laughton's honor, Friday. Laughton retired as director of parks and recreation after 30 years of service, Sunday.



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