

Council to vote on CAC

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Come Tuesday the Chowan Arts Council could move closer to securing a lease with the town of Edenton en route to moving its gallery to the Municipal Building.

The Town Council is expected to vote on the proposed lease that would call for the CAC to move from its current location at the county's Swain Building to the town's down-

town site. "I think it would benefit us greatly because people would be able to find us," said Mysi Fortenbery, CAC executive director. "We're enough off the beaten path that visitors aren't sure where we are."

CAC officials hope to be able to move as soon as October.

"I know it's optimistic, but we're going to push to be in the building then," said Wanda Rossman, CAC president. "If we could be downtown

for the Christmas season, that would be fabulous."

If approved, the move would signal another of several significant changes made within the CAC. Most recently, the CAC board of directors named Fortenbery as its new executive director. She had been serving as interim director after first working as an assistant to former director Brenda Russell. The CAC board

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Steamers campaign forges ahead

Team passes self-imposed deadline

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Although the Labor Day target date has come and gone, Edenton Steamers officials vow to continue its fundraising goal of \$50,000.

So far the Steamers have collected \$30,000 toward the goal as donations continue to arrive via the mail and other fundraising events are slated throughout September.

"Everyday we're opening envelopes from the post office," said Katy Ebersole, team president. "It's not just local residents giving, it's former players and their families."

Many of those donations stem from a recent mass mailing of 500 letters to former players and their respective families. Organizers hope the experiences of Steamers alumni lead to more pledges.

Despite the \$20,000 shortfall, momentum suggests the Steamers could still meet their goal if given more time — an opportunity they're already taking. Ebersole

had initially cited Labor Day as a deadline, but later softened her stance amid additional fundraising opportunities.

Plans include a talk this week with the Coastal Plain League president.

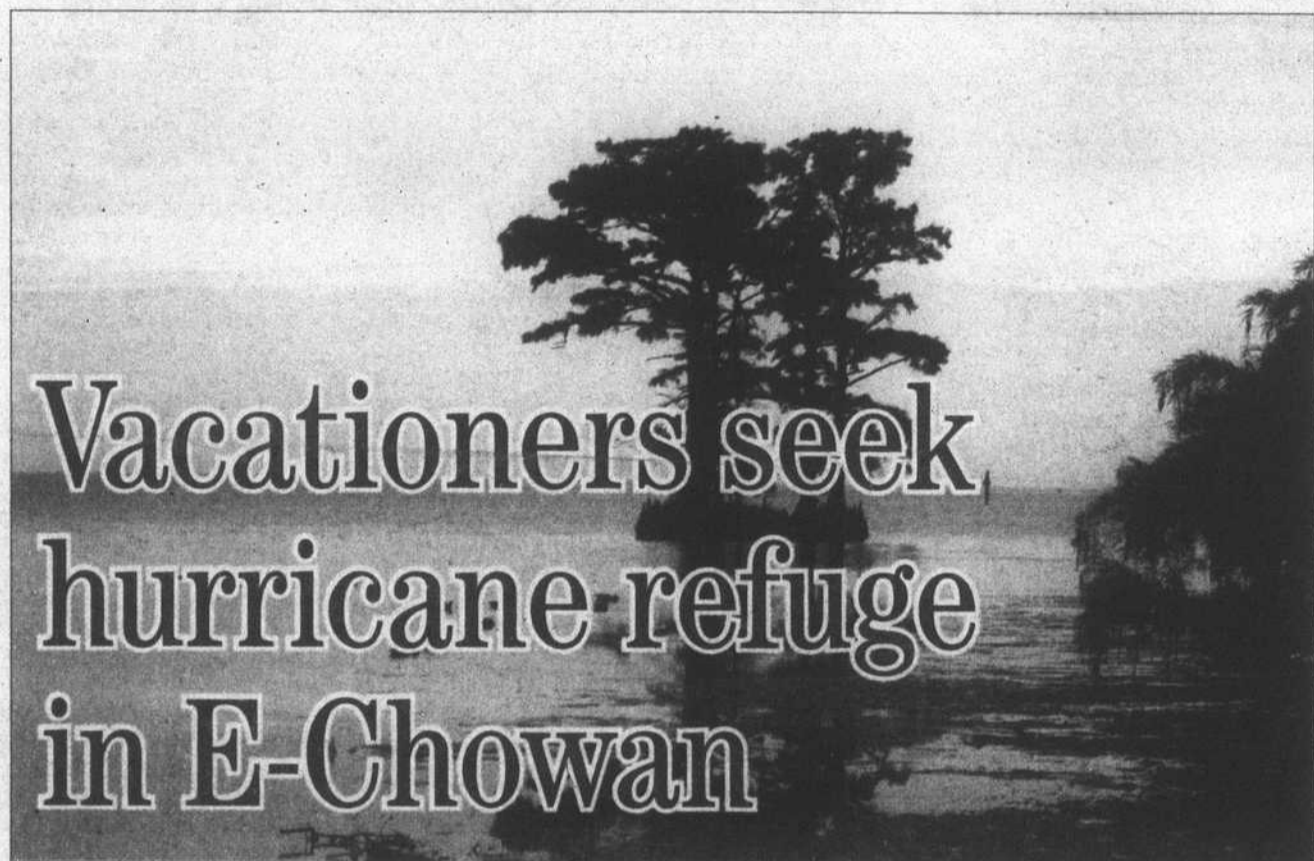
"He's (Pete Bock) willing to give us an extension, we just don't know exactly how long," Ebersole said.

The Steamers are first required to give the CPL a verbal commitment for next season's play, but do not have to provide the \$25,000 letter of credit until May 1, 2011. Team officials want to use fundraising proceeds to hire a general manager by Nov. 1. Ebersole previously said the Steamers would give no such commitments unless it had enough capital to proceed.

Last Friday, Ebersole sounded cautiously optimistic about raising enough money to keep playing.

In addition to the fundraising, area companies have pledged advertising commitments for next season with about 75 percent those representing

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STAFF PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

The effects of Hurricane Earl's northeastern spiral left Edenton Bay depleted of water. Depths at the bay to the Cypress trees shown here were wading levels.

Earl spares area, nets commerce boon

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Instead of Hurricane Earl wreaking havoc in Edenton-Chowan, forecast of the impending storm prompted Outer Banks' vacationers to seek refuge here, resulting in an overnight economic boon.

Earlier in the week local residents were storming grocery stores, gas stations, and retailers for food, fuel, and supplies in the event Earl caused power outages and storm-related damages. Town and county officials were meeting daily to plan and prepare for the storm's worst, however, by 5 a.m. Friday the imposed Hurricane Warning had

See EARL, 3A

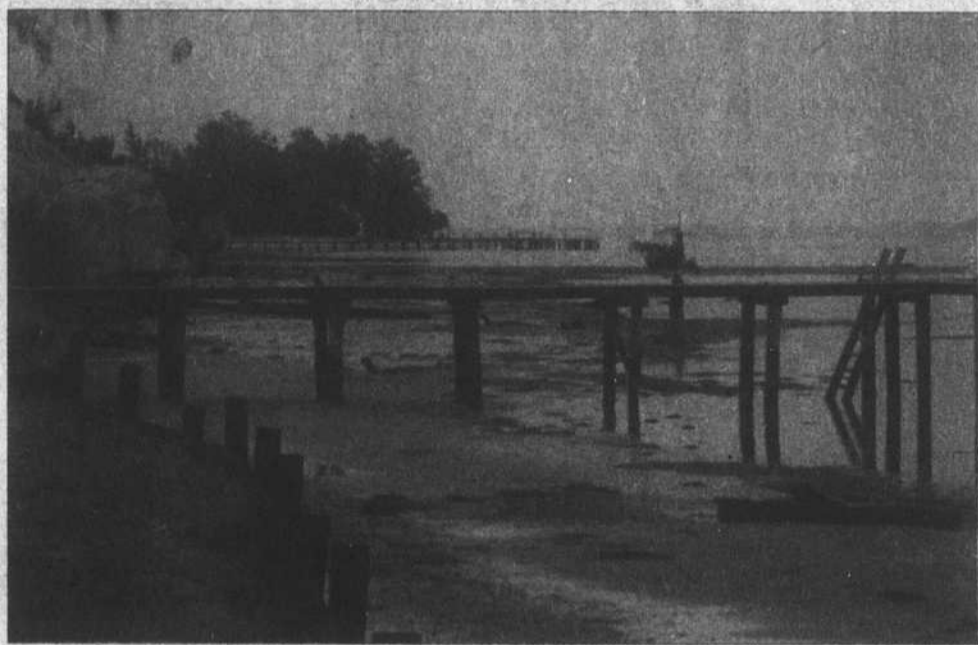


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY REBECCA LOWE

Instead of Hurricane Earl causing a storm surge that could have resulted in local flooding, the storm moved water from the Chowan River as seen here on Friday at Perry's Beach toward the Outer Banks. This area shown is usually under water.

Local AARP chapter to be dissolved

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Edenton chapter of AARP may soon be dissolved.

Lack of interest, an inability to keep strong leadership in place and the loss of members who objected to the AARP's position on healthcare reform are being cited as contributing factors.

A meeting to decide the chapter's fate has been scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 1:30 p.m. at the



Miller

Haley

Chowan Senior Center in Edenton. Anyone with an interest in the future of the chapter is welcome to attend.

Kathy Hynes, who has served as president of the local chapter since it began in early 2008, said, "We, as a community of many retirees, just could not seem to attract seniors who were willing to step up to the plate to join us."

Bill Haley, the chapter's

vice-president, echoed the sentiment. Haley said that local retirees are involved in so many other causes that it was hard to compete with those organizations for their time.

Haley added that a number of seniors, including himself, also take advantage of travel opportunities now that they no longer hold jobs. Haley said that because he travels so frequently he did not feel he could make the commitment to move up from vice president to president of the local chapter.

Haley added that an effort to come up with a new slate of officers so the existing ones could take a break from serving had not met with success.

Haley said that while the

chapter had started with a core group of about 25 active members, less than half of them remain. He said he believed some of them had left the chapter because of AARP's support of President Barack Obama's healthcare reform plan.

"I guess they let their feet do the talking," Haley said.

Bill Miller, who represents northeast North Carolina on the state AARP board, agreed with that assessment. Miller said, though, that he felt there were other factors at work as well.

Miller noted that the core group that the chapter started with never

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Broadband is an asset to region

Albemarle area to benefit from \$115M federal grant

By WILLIAM F. WEST
Staff Writer

Albemarle Economic Development Director Wayne Harris says new dollars marked to help bring high-speed Internet service to under-served areas are going to greatly assist the region.

"It will increase competition," Harris said. "It should also benefit businesses."

Gov. Beverly Perdue last month announced \$115 million in federal grants to help 69 counties obtain broadband service. The counties include Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, Perquimans, Chowan and Gates.

Harris said the lack of competition in the broadband market for commercial and residential users is somewhat driven by the cost of wholesale access to what is called the "middle-mile connection to the Internet backbone."

The Internet backbone

is the main pipe carrying data worldwide, with middle miles being loops tying into the backbone. The last mile is what CenturyLink, Time Warner Cable or other providers run to users, Harris said.

"And the money for this plan is going to create a huge middle-mile connection that anybody can tie into," Harris said.

"So, any company that wants to try to provide last-mile connections in this region now will have access to the wholesale pipe at a greatly reduced rate, which should enable them to offer profitable service to commercial and residential customers at a reduced rate," he said.

Additionally, Harris said anchor institutions in Pasquotank County, such as Elizabeth City's government, Pasquotank's government, Elizabeth City State University, the College of the Albemarle

See BROADBAND, 2A

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