



Watercolors headline new
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Industrial accident kills worker

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

An Edenton man was killed Thursday morning in an industrial accident at Seabrook Ingredients, according to police Chief Jay Fortenbery.

Steven Lamar Phelps, 25, of 304 N. Granville Street was fatally injured at 11:39 a.m. after his safety harness became entangled in

an auger, Fortenbery said. The machine then pulled Phelps into the auger. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Chowan Hospital, Fortenbery said.

The accident occurred in an area of the plant where shipping and loading take place, Fortenbery said.

A visibly shaken Larry Hughes, general manager of the plant, expressed his sympathy to Phelps' family,

adding that the incident remains under investigation.

"We're terribly saddened by what has happened and our sympathy goes out to Steven Phelps' family at this time," Hughes said from the plant Thursday afternoon.

"We're cooperating with authorities and going through our inspection about what happened," Hughes added.

Friends and family members gathered at Phelps' home to console his mother, Kesha Cooper. "He had a 6-year-old daughter that he loved with all his heart," Cooper said. "He cherished his family and friends."

Phelps had only been working at Seabrook as a technician for about four weeks, Hughes said. Prior to that Phelps had been unemployed, Cooper said. Be-

fore then, he had worked at Edenton House, she added.

Company officials have met with the N.C. Department of Labor's OSHA Enforcement.

On Monday, Delores Quesenberry, of the Department of Labor, confirmed that the work-related fatality is under investigation and will take three to four months to complete. If the agency finds that the com-

pany committed any safety violations, the Department of Labor could issue fines and citations, Quesenberry said.

Seabrook's Edenton plant, located at 115 Peanut Drive, houses the company's peanut dry roasting and peanut butter facility, according to a company website.

Staff Writer Rebecca Bunch contributed to this story.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

The Color Guard, US Army JROTC Aces Battalion John A. Holmes High School present the colors during the Veterans Day Ceremony, Thursday.

Hundreds pay homage to local veterans

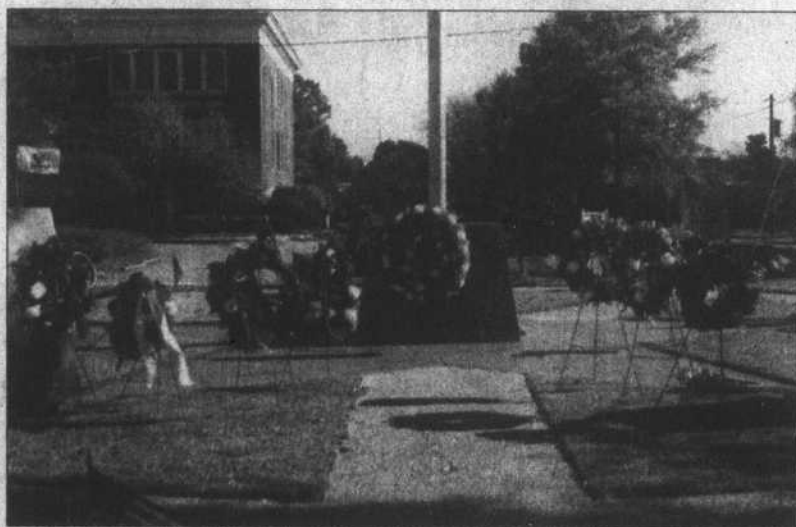
By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Hundreds endured a brisk morning and a stiff wind to honor Veterans Day at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial, marking the 20th anniversary at the site.

"Veterans Day is set aside to remember all the men and women who have taken up arms to defend our country," said Earl Soper, a former Cpl. in the U.S. Marines. "We honor every soldier, sailor, airman, marine and coast guardsman who gave some of the best years of their lives to the service of the United States and who stood by to sacrifice their all on our behalf."

Soper and his wife, Marge, of Edenton served as alternate guests speakers, substituting for the their daughter, Col. Martha P. Soper, U.S. Air Force, who was unable to keep Thursday's date due to an emergency that kept her on duty.

"I am sad to share with you that Col. Martha Soper could not be with us today," Marge Soper



Service and memorial wreaths adorn the Chowan County Veterans Memorial held Thursday, marking the 20th anniversary of the memorial.

said. "She sends her regrets and we too are disappointed that she is not here with us. As parents it would have pleased us to see our daughter share her thoughts about Veterans Day and what it means to her."

Earl Soper issued a poignant reminder that Americans have a historic history in regards to mili-

tary sacrifice for their country's protection and preservation of freedom. Some 25 million veterans walk among us today, Earl Soper said. Each generation has yielded men and women dedicated to the defense of their country, regardless of the war's public

See **VETERANS**, 4A

Health Department to switch buildings

DSS may recoup \$1M in 35 years

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

After a year and a half of failed attempts to find a tenant for the former Albemarle Mental Health Center facility, county leaders hope to move another agency into the county-owned building.

Plans include moving Chowan County's office for Albemarle Health Regional Services (AHRS) into the empty building that formerly housed the defunct Albemarle Mental Health. The county would then move the Department of Social Services from the county office building to the existing health department facility, which could then reap federal and state reimbursements for housing the operation. Those proceeds could then be used to pay for the building's debt service.

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"It's a ripple effect. To move DSS out of the county office building, I've got to move the health department into the Albemarle Mental Health building."

Paul Parker
County manager

Mental Health building," said County Manager Paul Parker.

At its Nov. 1 board meeting, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners voted to allocate the more than \$44,000 collected from the recent sale of the

See **BUILDINGS**, 9A

West Edenton records highest voter turnout

East Edenton carries all Dems

Decision 2010

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Chowan's West Edenton precinct led the county in the number of ballots cast and voting percentage on Election Day, according to the final tally released Monday by the Board of Elections.

Voters in West Edenton cast 1,730 votes at slightly more than 54 percent of its total registered voters, according to the data. Most of those votes were cast during early voting, also tops

in the county. Despite the heavy one-stop voter turnout at 955, West Edenton still managed to lead the most votes on Election Day with 714. It was there that voters were still in line at 7:50 p.m., 20 minutes after the polls closed elsewhere in the county.

Statistics show Rocky Hock and Yeopim precincts cast the same number of votes at 869 with the latter garnering a higher percentage at

See **VOTING**, 8B

Hunters find remains in Winfall

ID of Currituck man found at the scene

By **CATHY WILSON**
The Perquimans Weekly

WINFALL — Two hunters backtracking a deer

Friday morning found human skeletal remains instead in a wooded area behind Miller Street in Winfall.

Chief David Shaffer with the Winfall Police Department said the remains were discovered 300 feet inside a wood line adjacent to a cell phone tower, about 500 feet from U.S. Highway 17.

A Bible, driver's license, passport and wallet containing money were also found.

"I sure didn't expect to find that," said Jared Stanton of Hertford, one of the two hunters who found the remains. "I was looking for the big buck I shot yesterday, and nearly stepped over the bones on my way out."

Chief Shaffer said the identification cards found with the remains were that of a 39-year-old white Currituck County man.

Chief Shaffer would

not release any names until next of kin is notified.

"The preliminary evidence doesn't appear to be foul play," said Shaffer, "but, that is still being investigated."

No vehicle was found in the area, he added.

Shaffer said the remains may have been there for several months. The remains were taken to Greenville for examination by the state medical examiner.



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SATURDAY, NOV. 20, 7:30 PM **E.A. SWAIN AUDITORIUM** EDENTON, NC

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