



COA, Walker Alumni spar over site

County prefers shared space

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Plans to consolidate the College of the Albemarle's Edenton-Chowan campus with the former D.F. Walker High School campus has reached an impasse.

COA officials and the D.F. Walker Alumni Association remain at odds over how to co-exist at the site. Although county officials previously instructed both

organizations to devise a plan whereby each could share use at the campus, neither want to budge on their position.

"We were here a long time before COA," said Douglas A. Stallings, president of the Alumni Association. "We're not against progress. We just want to preserve our heritage."

"We have fought for that building and we're not going to give it up," he added.

The Alumni Association's board of directors voted unanimously against

partnering with COA on sharing space. Kandi Deitemeyer, COA president, is scheduled to meet with the Alumni Association Feb. 9.

She too has been opposed to the partnership and initially balked at the county's request that the two groups share use. Deitemeyer still wants COA to have control over the building that houses the Alumni Association's gatherings and meetings that occur thrice monthly during the evenings. She

See **COA**, 3A



PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

College of the Albemarle officials want to use the D.F. Walker Alumni Association's meeting area, seen here behind the signage, as part of its future campus expansion.

BIRDS ON ICE



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY JEFF KNOX

Seagulls take a walk on an iced-over Edenton Bay at the town dock, Monday.

Regulator Marine set to add 15 jobs

Boat builders see improvement

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

After several years of flat sales, the economy is finally beginning to turn around for at least one local boat builder.

Joan Maxwell, president of Regulator Marine in Edenton, announced Monday that her company now has openings for 15 new employees.

"We're very fortunate to have weathered the worst of it (poor economy)," Maxwell said. "It's very exciting to be where we are."

Maxwell said during the worst of the economic downturn, sometimes the plant had no boat orders to work on. In recent months,

they have had enough orders to produce two boats a week with existing staff. Now, they are adding a third and need to start hiring.

"I was in New York (at a boat show) last week, and it was a great experience," Maxwell said. "What is exciting is that (customers) are coming back, and they're buying."

Keith Stevens, vice-president of operations, said the company is accepting applications for jobs in its lamination and assembly departments.

"These are not \$7.50 an hour jobs we're talking about," Stevens said. "These are 40-hour a week jobs that pay \$10 to \$11 and \$15-\$16 an hour, depending on the job."

The jobs also come with

See **MARINE**, 7A

Co-op lands outside Rec. Dept.

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

The Edenton Farmers Market Co-op has found a home at the old D.F. Walker School.

The co-op will occupy space for the remainder of the winter just outside the offices of the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department.

Dr. Vero Brentjens, who spearheaded the effort to start the market earlier this year, said that establishing the co-op was a way that growers and vendors who sell there could still make items available to locals during cold weather months.

"It just seemed to us like a logical thing to do," Brentjens said. "I'm very glad it has worked out this way."

Brentjens said she would be taking orders, effective immediately, on Tuesdays and would then be at the co-op location on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. until noon for people to pick up their items.

Items that will be available in-

"It just seemed to us like a logical thing to do. I'm very glad it has worked out this way."

Vero Brentjens

Doctor who spearheaded the effort to start the Edenton Farmers Market earlier this year

clude honey, peanuts, lamb, baked goods and other items familiar to those who shopped at the market during warmer weather.

Provided there is a solid response from the public, Brentjens said, she expects the co-op will operate through April.

Brentjens expressed her appreciation to Mary Sawyer of the Recreation Department and to County Manager Paul Parker for their support.

"I am very grateful to them for letting us do this," Brentjens said.

The Edenton Town Council had also offered to make space available for the co-op at the former

Municipal Building where the Chowan Arts Council currently occupies half of the building.

At Monday night's Council meeting, several councilors voiced strong support for the idea.

"I think it's great," said Councilman Sambo Dixon. "I'm all in favor of it."

But moving there, even temporarily, would have required the co-op to purchase liability insurance. At the county site, that will not be a requirement and a savings to the Farmers Market.

Parker said that because the general public is involved in so

See **MARKET**, 3A

Residents could see more cable options

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

The town's franchise agreement with local cable provider Mediacom won't expire until 2014, however, there could soon be more options for local users.

But at Monday night's Town Council meeting, several council members made it clear they would not mind seeing the company face some competition for customers in the community.

Mayor pro tem Steve Biggs pointed out that the cable company had just raised its rates again and

that right now satellite is the only other option for local customers.

Biggs said he recently contacted Mediacom to ask why they were raising their rates again but kept getting bounced around to various people who were unable to provide him with a satisfactory answer.

"What I would like to do is invite other companies to do a feasibility study and see if it can happen (interest other cable providers in doing business here)," Biggs said.

Under FCC regulations,

See **CABLE**, 7A

Butterfield: Health care repeal effects to be huge

Report shows effects in 1st District

By **WILLIAM F. WEST**
Staff Writer

Congress' expected vote today to repeal the year-old federal health care law — should it be repeated in the U.S. Senate — would have a major impact on northeast-

ern North Carolina, negatively affecting thousands of residents who are just beginning to reap the benefits of the legislation, U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield said.

Citing a report prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Butterfield, D-N.C., said repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act would



Butterfield

allow health insurance companies to again deny coverage to as many as 261,000 constituents in the 1st District who suffer pre-existing conditions such as cancer, diabetes or heart disease. That number includes as many as 34,000 children, Butterfield said.

The health care legislation, approved by the then-Democratic controlled House and Senate and signed into law by President Obama in March 2010, banned insurers from denying health care coverage based on pre-existing conditions. The law, which isn't scheduled to be fully

implemented until several years from now, expands health care coverage to more than 30 million uninsured Americans, and would, for the first time, require most Americans to carry health insurance.

Debate on repealing the law started Wednesday in the House, where Republicans, who have vowed to repeal the measure, now hold the majority as a result of the November elections. The GOP repeal effort is expected to stall, however, because Democrats still hold the majority in the Senate. In addition, Obama has promised

to veto any bill that seeks repeal of the historic legislation.

Despite those roadblocks, Democratic members of Congress aren't taking any chances. They're focusing on what the effects of repeal would mean for their constituents.

In the 1st District, the effects of repeal would be dire, Butterfield said in a press release.

"Last year's passage of the Affordable Care Act was truly historic with roots tracing back almost 100 years," he said. "This full repeal would force that process, to start all over,

and take away many of the new health care protections and freedoms people are only just beginning to enjoy."

Butterfield said a report about the repeal's effect in the 1st District is based on data taken from the U.S. Census, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Congressional Budget Office.

According to that report, repeal would remove consumer protections for 295,000 1st District resi-

See **BUTTERFIELD**, 2A

