



COA wants control over Walker site

Vote expected March 7

From staff reports

With the future of College of The Albemarle's Edenton-Chowan campus uncertain, President Kandi Deitemeyer is asking the Chowan County Commissioners to grant COA the lease over the entire D.F. Walker site.

Currently, some COA programs are being offered at the former D.F. Walker High School. The D.F. Walker Alumni group, along with

the Information Technology department for Edenton Chowan schools, also have space on the site. In a letter to the county manager last week, Deitemeyer asked that COA become the leasee over the entire site, effectively making it the official Edenton-Chowan campus.

"The letter that went to the county manager today is asking the county commissioners to readress the lease that we have



Deitemeyer

at the D.F. Walker school site," Deitemeyer said, last Wednesday.

Deitemeyer says that COA would be willing to grant the D.F. Walker Alumni group access to some facilities. How the school district would be impacted could not be clarified, Thursday.

On Monday, a Chowan County Board of Commissioners meeting did not specifically address COA's request. The board, however, met

in a closed session afterward to discuss county leases. Commission Chairman Eddy Goodwin, and commissioners Ralph Cole and Ellis Lawrence were not present.

Douglas Stallings, alumni association president, addressed the commissioners and requested that the board reconsider the lease. He reiterated his earlier stance that the alumni group is trying to protect its heritage.

See WALKER, 3A

Seabrook penalized \$28K for fatality

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

An Edenton business has been fined \$28,000 for five "serious" violations that contributed to the death of a worker, according to the N.C. Department of Labor.

Seabrook Ingredients will meet with the state's Division of Occupational Safety and Health in an informal conference next Wednesday to discuss its findings, one of three options issued by the state, said Dolores Quesenberry, Department of Labor spokeswoman.

Steven Lamar Phelps, 25, of 304 N. Granville Street was fatally injured Nov. 11 after his safety harness became entangled in an auger.

On Jan. 24, the state ruled that Seabrook failed to have locking procedures for moving parts when Phelps' was "cleaning a 5,000 gallon stainless steel tank when his lanyard became wrapped around the unguarded shaft of a 125 horsepower agitator drive motor which was not turned off or turned out."

State reports show that only the company's sanitation department supervisor had the ability and authorization to lock out the equipment. None of the employees were trained or authorized to perform lockouts during the cleaning process.

Each violation resulted in a \$5,600 penalty.

Once citations are issued, the company has 15 working days from receipt of the citation to do one of the three following:

1. Request an informal conference with the Labor

See SEABROOK, 3A



FILE PHOTO

Organizers, headed by the county's recreation department, have begun raising funds for the storm-damaged Bennett's Millpond, seen here in this file photo. Leaders have opted to repair the millpond with private donations instead of seeking relief from taxpayers.

County seeks donations for millpond repairs

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Instead of taxpayers carrying the financial responsibility of repairing the storm-damaged and county-owned Bennett's Millpond, those costs will be absorbed by private donations.

The recent rejections by state and federal agencies to fix the broken levees caused by Tropical Storm Nicole has led to the deci-

sion to pursue fundraisers.

"The county would be the last resort. Whatever we don't get, we'll have to pay for out of the county's contingency fund," said Chowan County Manager Paul Parker.

Although the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimated the damages at Bennett's and Dillard's millponds to be about \$120,000, the county has narrowed its repair scope that is projected to

cost roughly \$30,000. Part of that streamlined scope includes only repairing Bennett's Millpond.

"That doesn't mean that we're not going to make repairs to Dillard's, we just had to prioritize," said Mary Sawyer, interim director of the Recreation Department.

Parker agreed. "We'll attack Dillard's after we finish Bennett's," he added. "We're going to one at a time."

Dillard's is privately owned, however, the public has access in exchange for the county maintaining the site.

Levees at both millponds collapsed to the pressure of Nicole's deluge in September.

FEMA informed the county that the damages did not qualify for funding. The state's Division of Water Quality and the Wildlife

See MILLPOND, 2A

Parker: County would be the last resort

Chowan Herald collects two awards

From staff reports

The Daily Advance captured 20 press awards in the North Carolina Press Association's 2010 News, Editorial & Photojournalism Contest, the group announced Thursday.

The Perquimans Weekly and Chowan Herald also picked up awards during a presentation ceremony held as part of the NCPA Winter Institute on the campus of University of



Balduf Beamon Bond Clark Day Eure Falls Harris

Hunley Kelly-Goss Pitts Riebel Starnes Thach Turney Wilson

North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The 20 total awards is the most won by The Daily Advance in a single year at NCPA. The awards include

nine for first place, four for second place and six for third place. The newspaper also took third place in the prestigious General Excellence category.

Among individual winners, Education Reporter Kristin Pitts won five awards, including first place for feature writing, investigative reporting

and serious columns; second place for lighter columns and third place for feature writing.

See AWARDS, 3A

Smoke to blame in Banks' death

From staff reports

The medical examiner ruled Wednesday that 101-year-old Flora Banks died as the result of smoking inhalation from an accidental fire.

Banks perished last Monday evening when her 207 E. Freemason Street house caught ablaze.

Authorities believe a kerosene heater in the bedroom caused the fatal blaze.

Edenton police chief Jay Fortenberry said Banks' body was found lying on the floor near the heater.

The bedroom of the house was completely burned, Fortenberry said.

Banks' pet dog, a terrier mix named Snowball, also died in the fire.

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EDENTON LIONS CLUB - "WE SERVE"
BREAKFAST FOR THE BLIND
 Edenton Baptist Church - March 19th | 7AM - 11 AM
 \$6.00 - all proceeds benefit the Lions Program For the Blind.