



Delays, costs confront office moves

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Plans to relocate county departments by year's end could be in jeopardy and at greater costs than first projected.

Efforts to save taxpayer money by vacating a deteriorating county office building has led to county

leaders scrambling amid delays and excessive cost estimates. Just weeks after receiving an estimate that it would cost roughly \$800,000, or \$600,000 more than anticipated, to relocate the Department of Social Services to the former adult daycare building that currently houses the local provider of Albemarle

Regional Health Services, county officials learned that estimates to move ARHS' to the former Mental Health building have eclipsed \$300,000. Chowan County has only budgeted \$44,700 for the latter relocation. DSS cannot begin its move until ARHS relocates.

Concerns that ARHS

has been too slow to move forward have become a frequent topic at county commissioner meetings.

But, Jerry Parks, ARHS director, said Chowan County has been void of direction.

"I'm waiting for direction from the county," Parks said. "I do not have a timeline or a budget."

As early as February Parks expressed concern about the county's lack of planning.

"In all of my years of elected and appointed service this has been the most unorthodox handling of a matter of great importance to the citizens of Chowan County that I have ever seen," Parks wrote in a Feb.

3 email to County Manager Paul Parker, obtained by the Chowan Herald. "To think that a project, personal or public, would proceed with arbitrary funding and absent proper planning and budget, is just not prudent management of the taxpayer's dollars. I believe this

See RELOCATION, 3A

Boy, 10, dies in SUV accident

Driver lost control of vehicle on US 17

From staff reports

A 10-year-old Hertford boy was killed last Wednesday when he was ejected from a vehicle in an accident on U.S. 17 Bypass north of Elizabeth City.

Miles Shipman of West Island Trail, Hertford, was pronounced dead at Albemarle Hospital, said Trooper J.N. Wood of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Six other people, including driver Kimberly Johnson, 39, of Virginia Beach, Va., were taken to area hospitals.

Johnson has been charged with misdemeanor death by vehicle, Wood said.

Wood said Johnson was heading south on U.S. 17 Bypass in a 2000 Ford Explorer about 5:30 p.m. when she encountered a farm tractor in a curve. Johnson swerved to miss the tractor, then overcorrected again, Wood said. The Explorer flipped over and came to rest upside down off the roadway.

Also injured in the accident were Holly Shipman, 40, of West Island Trail, Hertford; Caitlyn Ryan, 14, of Pirate Cove Road, Hertford; Lala Shipman, 12, of West Island Trail; Mason Sullivan, 2, of Keeter Barn Road, South Mills; and Dwayne Sullivan of Keeter Barn Road.

Holly Shipman, Caitlin Ryan and Lala Shipman were transported to Sentara

See SHIPMAN, 2A

BIG RIG/BIG WIND



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Suspected straight line winds lifted this big-rig's trailer off the roadway Thursday night while at the apex of the Sound Bridge. Winds turned the tractor over on its side while slamming the empty trailer against the cement guardrails where it dangled above the Albemarle Sound.

Winds lift truck trailer off Sound Bridge

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

A driver and his tractor-trailer narrowly avoided plunging into the Albemarle Sound Thursday night after suspected straight-line winds lifted the big-rig while traveling on the Sound Bridge.

Ray Wheeler, 66, of Edenton had reached the apex of the 3.5-mile long bridge when the winds scooped the trailer off the concrete around 7 p.m., according to N.C. Highway Patrolman D.C. Tanner.

"He was unloaded at the time and the trailer acted like a sail on a sailboat," Tanner said. "The wind just picked the trailer up and then turned the cab over. The trailer then slammed down on the guardrail."

Wheeler's empty trailer dangled off the eastside guard-

rail above the water with the overturned driver's side of the tractor against the concrete. Wheeler managed to climb out of the passenger side of the truck, said Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin.

"The straight-line winds hit at the right place at the right time," said Goodwin, explaining how the single-vehicle crash occurred.

Tanner said witnesses reported seeing a waterspout, but indications suggest straight-line winds were the likely cause.

While Wheeler declined to comment on the crash, he described the sounds of the storm as that of a "train."

Goodwin said straight-line winds caused a similar big-rig crash a couple of years ago on the bridge that spans the Chowan River.

"It's not unusual for straight-

line winds to pick up a trailer," Goodwin said.

Wheeler was traveling north on the bridge (N.C. 32), returning from taking a load of cucumbers to Engelhard on behalf of Smith Brothers' Farms, Goodwin said.

Troopers closed the bridge for nearly five hours to investigate and remove the wreckage.

Wheeler escaped serious injury, Tanner said. Only two small chunks of concrete fell from the bridge's guardrail, he added.

Built in 1990, the Sound Bridge was once the longest in the state before the construction of the 5.2-mile long Virginia Dare Memorial Bridge over the Croatan Sound. The concrete sides of the Sound Bridge are only one inch above the minimum guardrail height per federal guidelines, according to the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Chowan district remains intact

Map splits Pasquotank

By REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

AHOSKIE — A "corrected" version of a proposed state House redistricting map swaps Bertie County for Northampton County, but still continues to split Pasquotank County into two districts.

The new map was unveiled during a legislative redistricting hearing in Ahoskie on Thursday.

Pasquotank County Commissioner Joe Winslow was one of several local residents who attended the hearing to voice their objections to the proposal to split Pasquotank between two House districts.

"I just want to object to the splitting of Pasquotank County as far as voting," Winslow said during an interview outside the room at Roanoke-Chowan Community College where the hearing was held.

Winslow, who explained he had another meeting that he had to attend, was not able to address the actual hearing, which began at 3 p.m. and was slated to last until 9 p.m. Thursday. The public hearing was being held simultaneously across the state by video conference.

Winfall Mayor Fred Yates, Perquimans Republican Party Chairman Dianne Layden, and former Elizabeth City Councilman Bill Lehmann did speak at Thursday's hearing.

No one attended from Elizabeth City government.

State Sen. Bob Rucho, R-Mecklenburg, who chairs the Senate Redistricting Committee, hosted a hearing in Raleigh and also hosted the video conference, alternating among speakers at hearing sites in Raleigh, Charlotte, Greensboro, Fayetteville, Wilmington, Greenville and Ahoskie.

Winslow told anyone who would listen while he was in Ahoskie that he opposes a divided Pasquotank. He said he has talked to Democrats and Republicans, blacks and whites,

See REDISTRICKT, 3A

Workshop reveals human trafficking perils

NC seen as prime location

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Human trafficking is hiding in plain sight in North Carolina.

Charity Magnuson, director of NC Stop Human Trafficking, delivered the

harsh message to approximately 75-area churchwomen during a workshop Saturday morning at Edenton United Methodist Church. She said most remain unaware that human bondage plagues the state and few recognize the signs.

Magnuson, of Charlotte, said that in terms of awareness and action being taken to combat the issue, "We're at the level now where domestic violence was 30 years ago. This is a big idea that it's (trafficking) in every part of North Carolina."



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Charity Magnuson, director of NC STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING, speaks during a presentation at Edenton United Methodist Church on Saturday morning.

"Very rarely are we talking about somebody walking the streets," ally Magnuson added. Prostitution in such cases usually involves teenagers

that have been abducted or forced into virtual slavery and hidden from public view.

Human trafficking can also involve a migrant worker brought to this country illegally and forced to live in unsafe, unsanitary conditions. Or, an immigrant woman being forced to work long hours at a menial job for no pay while someone else profits.

And the number of victims is startling.

Each year between 14,000 and 18,000 people

See TRAFFICKING, 2A



©2009 The Chowan Herald
All Rights Reserved

Chowan Edenton Optimist Club
32ND ANNUAL
Fabulous 4th of July

COME TO EDENTON'S WATERFRONT
EAT DINNER AND ENJOY
NORTH CAROLINA'S LARGEST
"Over the water fireworks show"

STEVE HARDY'S
ORIGINAL BEACH PARTY
POPULAR AMONG ALL AUDIENCES
MECHANICAL BULL RIDING
AND PONY RIDES

LOTS OF FOOD,
FUN, CRAFTS,
RAFFLES AND
GAMES FOR
CHILDREN!!!

Please Support Our Fabulous 4th of July
WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL HELP!
Make checks payable to
CHOWAN EDENTON OPTIMIST CLUB
160 Cowpen Neck Rd., Edenton NC 27932
IRS Tax Exempt ID # available upon request