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Chowan loses tax administrator

Ordered to repay two-year earnings

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Chowan County's tax administrator is out of a job after the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System concluded that he has been working

as an employee and not an independent contractor.

While county officials were at work inking Gene Rountree a new service contract similar to his previous deal, the retirement system nixed those plans amid a call for him to repay the retirement body for the last two years of compensation. It's also asking the county to contribute \$5,000

toward Rountree's retirement benefits.

At issue is whether Rountree's role as tax administrator was that of employee or contractor. Officials with the retirement system notified the county that because Rountree had worked for more than 1,000 hours per year it considered him an employee, according to County Man-

ager Paul Parker.

"Their position of a regular employee is different from ours," Parker said.

Rountree said he adhered to the system's requirement that he was free to work as long as he didn't earn more than 50 percent of his annual retirement compensation.

"I read the state's handbook page 23 and I fit the

bill to a T," Rountree said.

That was the same description that former County Manager Peter Rascoe, also an attorney, used when he penned Rountree's original contract in July 2009 and subsequently approved by the then Board of County Commissioners. And it was that same contract that Parker planned to

use to extend Rountree's services for another two years.

Chowan paid Rountree a maximum annual pay of \$46,800 with an hourly rate of \$30 with a target workweek of 30 hours. Rountree was also afforded an expense allowance of \$14,000 for travel and

See ROUNTREE, 2A

No challengers file against incumbents

From staff reports

The four incumbents seeking re-election for the Edenton Town Council will face no opposition in November's municipal election, barring any write-in candidates.

Mayor pro tem Steve Biggs filed for re-election Friday



Biggs

man Jimmy Stallings, an insurance agent for Farm Bureau, was the first to file for re-election as he seeks a fourth term as the representative of the 1st ward. After he was first appointed to fill an unexpired term, attorney Sam Dixon was first elected as councilman in 1999 to represent the



Vaughan

2nd ward.

Biggs, economic development director for Bertie County, represents the Council's at-large seat. He will be seeking a fifth term.

There was no incumbent opposition in the 2005 and 2003 municipal elections.

Lions deny women members

Rocky Hock offers option

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Because women are welcome at the Rocky Hock Lions Club, some believe that alternative excuses gender discrimination at the Edenton Lions Club.

It was the failure of Edenton Lions to admit female members that forced internal club dissension and led to the 2002 start of the Rocky Hock Lions. The club splintered when talk arose about inviting women to join.

"There were some heated discussions. A lot of members were about to quit," said Mike Dean, cur-

rent Edenton Lions Club president.

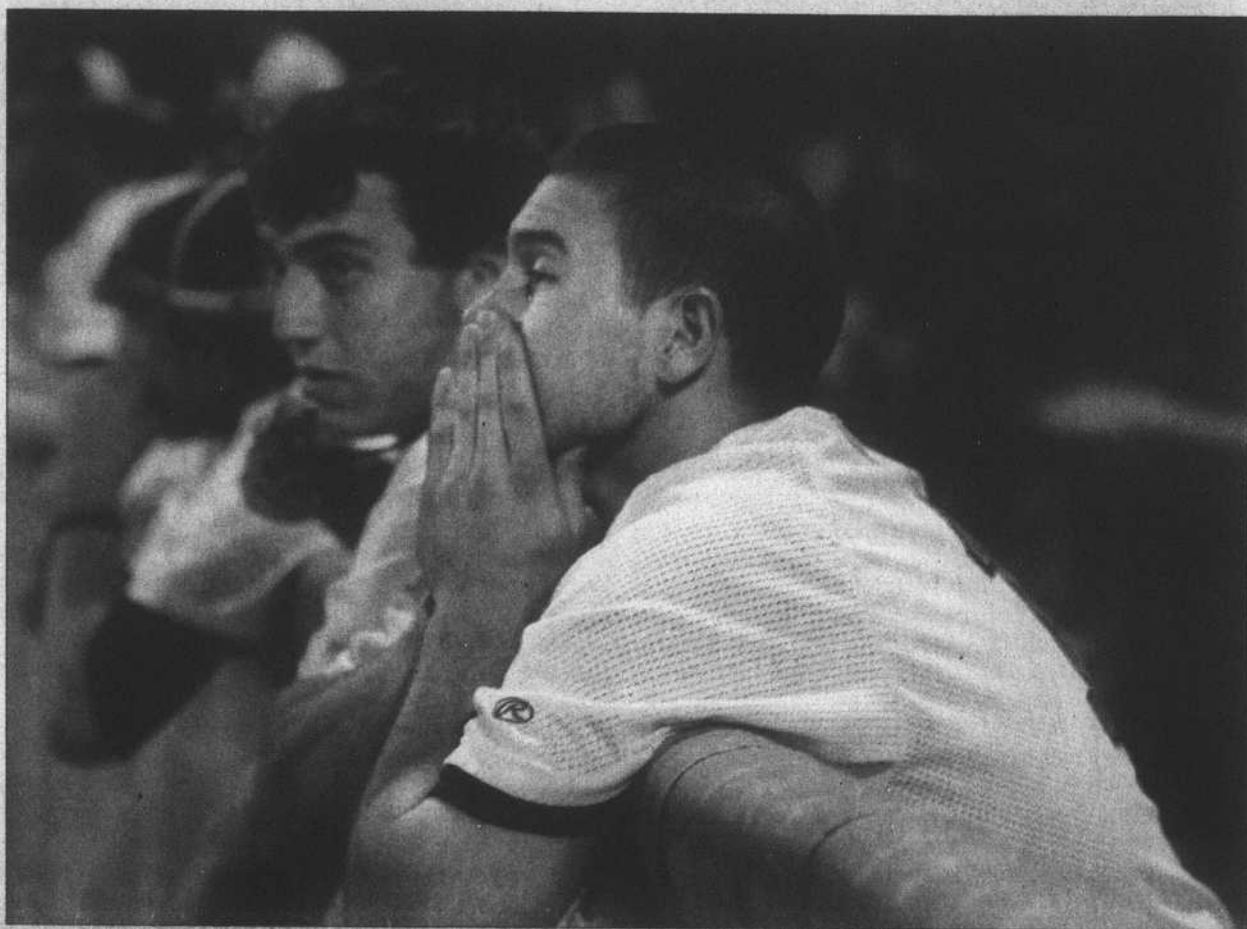
Instead, the Rocky Hock Lions Club was formed while Edenton's club remained all male. It remains male only while more than half of Rocky Hock's 23-member club is women, or 13 to 10.

Bud Miller, a former Edenton Lions president and Rocky Hock's current president, was among those who championed for change in the town chapter. But calls for more club diversity fell on deaf ears, Miller said.

"I was upset with Edenton Lions when they wouldn't accept women," Miller said. "They (Edenton club) like being able to

See LIONS, 2A

WHAT A BUMMER



STAFF PHOTOS BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Steamers outfielder Brian Blasik (right) can hardly bear to watch the final moments of the Pettitt Cup championship game loss to the Gastonia Grizzlies at Hicks Field, Saturday.

Steamers' fabulous season ends in heartbreak

Fall one win short of Pettitt Cup crown

By CHIC RIEBEL
The Daily Advance

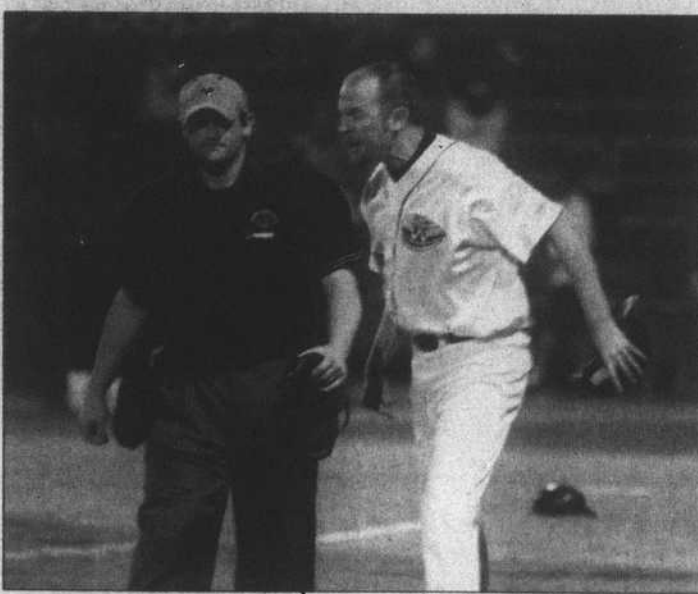
The season wasn't supposed to end this way.

Not with the Gastonia Grizzlies celebrating a Pettitt Cup championship on a Hicks Field turf on which the Edenton Steamers had been nearly invincible, winning 26 of 30 previous games.

Not with the Coastal Plain League's best-hitting, highest-scoring team trying to figure out how it batted just .135 and scored only three runs in the best-of-3 title round that went the distance.

Not with Steamers head coach Dirk Kinney angrily chasing down the home plate umpire and berating him for punching out the Steamers' final batter in the final game

See STEAMERS, 3A



Steamers coach Dirk Kinney yells at home plate umpire Randy Rosenberg for what he felt were bad calls when the Steamers' last batter of the night was called out on strikes.

COA Chowan set to open in old D.F. Walker campus

Move delayed until after classes start

By PETER WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The College of The Albemarle hopes to move into new quarters in Edenton in September or October and open a Currituck County

campus in early 2013, board members were told Monday night.

The college is renovating the old campus of D.F. Walker Elementary School in Chowan County and will relocate the administrative offices from a shopping center where it is housed now.

The shopping center houses all of the developmental education, office science, business administration and career readiness programs. It also holds the computer lab and learning center.

Chowan County is providing \$200,000 over two

years to do the work.

"We need to be out of there (the shopping center) by Oct. 30," COA President Kandi Deitemeyer told the board.

The consolidated campus will be at 824 N. Oakum Street near John A. Holmes High School.

Meanwhile, the Currituck aviation center is still on the drawing board, but Currituck County has agreed to provide the \$6 million to build it.

Deitemeyer updated the COA board on both projects, including showing a

See COA, 2A



PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

A crew with building contractor John Bassett Inc (JBI) of Edenton reels off electrical cable en route to underground installation as part of the renovations at the former D.F. Walker campus that will become the new Edenton-Chowan campus for the College of The Albemarle.



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MUSIC In The Park
Next Weeks Blues 3-5 pm
Guitarists, Phil Huey & Drew Armstrong 2-3 pm
Bunkies Ice Cream
COLONIAL PARK, EDENTON NC
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21 - 2-5PM
Bring your blanket or lawn chair and enjoy an afternoon of music!