



Art camp begets confidence in girls — 1B
50¢

DOT: Expect delays with bridge replacement

Engineer predicts 4-6 week delay

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Concerns mount whether the contractor will meet deadline on the Queen Anne Creek bridge replacement.

A N.C. Department of Transportation engineer said Monday that it's not likely Palmetto Infrastructure will complete the \$1 million bridge replacement by Aug. 24, despite financial incentives to finish early. DOT engineer Shawn

Mebane said the South Carolina based contractor will most likely go weeks beyond the deadline.

"He'll (Palmetto) be four to six weeks late because that's his history," Mebane said. "I said it from the get-go. I hope he proves me wrong, but I don't see it happening."

Mebane estimates that Palmetto is 40 percent behind schedule after less than a month on site.

"The news is not good," Mebane added. "Hopefully, he can speed it up. But, that's not his history."

Palmetto's Gregg Canniff said that while the

company may not meet the incentive completion date that pays the contractor an extra \$1,500 for every day the project is finished early, the job will be done within the contract's 90-day window.

"We put together a really aggressive schedule to get that money, now they're (DOT) beating us over the head with it," Canniff said. "For them to say we're 40 percent behind, we've only been out there 20 days."

Construction was set to begin June 11, but that start was reportedly delayed. Palmetto failed to secure permits to run a

waterline whereas, which could have been done as early as February, Mebane said. Canniff argued that DOT could have supplied the permits to save the contractor time.

Since construction began, the project has been riddled with delays.

Mebane cites the delays as various mishaps due to poor workmanship. Portions of Palmetto's work has had to be done again due to construction mistakes, Mebane said.

Canniff counters that the delays have been due to



STAFF PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

A crew with Palmetto Infrastructure works to replace a bridge at Queen Anne Creek. Indications suggest the bridge replacement will not be completed by Aug. 24.

See BRIDGE, 3A

Decision 2012



Luton Steinburg

Steinburg outraises Luton

Candidate raised \$26K, spent \$18K

By REGGIE PONDER
The Daily Advance

Chowan Republican Bob Steinburg's campaign for the 1st District seat in the N.C. House of Representatives has raised \$10,000 more and spent more than twice as much as Pasquotank Democrat Bill Luton's campaign, according to reports filed with the N.C. State Board of Elections last week.

Luton is a member of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education. Steinburg is a former chairman of the Chowan County Republican Party.

The Friends of Bill Luton Committee has raised \$16,400 as of June 30, according to the report filed July 11. The campaign reported spending \$6,930 as of the June 30 close of the second quarter.

Steinburg's campaign has raised \$26,200 and spent \$18,000, according to the report.

Steinburg expressed appreciation for his fundraising so far.

"Obviously I'm pleased that I have been able to raise the amount of money that I have," Steinburg said.

Luton downplayed the significance of the fundraising gap at this point.

"I'm not concerned about the difference, especially since we actually have a little more cash on hand than my opponent," Luton said.

Steinburg reported cash on hand at \$8,200. Luton's cash on hand was reported at \$9,400.

The two candidates agreed that the crucial fundraising period is just

See OUTSPENT, 3A

SAILING AWAY



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY KERMIT LAYTON

A male youth participates in the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department's Sunfish sailing lessons last Wednesday morning. Open to boys and girls in grades 6-12 the class is taught by certified instructor Brian Donnelly of Edenton.

Council OKs waterfront camera

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Edenton Town Council approved the purchase of a camera to put downtown's Colonial Park under electronic surveillance, but not before questions were raised about other more high crime areas.

The camera is one of five being purchased as part of what will become a town-wide camera system. Others being purchased for the downtown area include one

paid for by Albemarle Bank and another by Destination Downtown Edenton. Two that are being paid for by Edenton Housing Authority will be installed along its property on Blade Street. Councilman Steve Biggs cast the lone dissenting vote.

Biggs questioned the need for surveillance cameras downtown saying he did not feel it could be considered "a high crime area."

"I just think we need to spend our money more prudently," Biggs said.

Councilman Sambo Dixon suggested that perhaps the town could look for a way to purchase additional cameras that could be placed in greater crime areas.

"I think we ought to (install cameras in) the areas that have the most crime now, not just these five," Dixon said.

Biggs said that he agreed the council should discuss ways to focus on the high crime areas, if the

See CAMERAS, 3A

Chowan voters lead runoff

More than half cast ballots here

By PETER WILLIAMS
The Daily Advance

More than half of the 594 Albemarle residents who voted early for Tuesday's state runoff election were in Chowan County, according to statistics released Saturday.

Early voting ended at 1 p.m., and by that time 315 Chowan voters had either stopped by the elections office to vote or mailed in a ballot. In Camden County, just 33 voted early. Pasquotank County had 130, Perquimans 74 and Currituck 42.

Chowan County had the only race involving a local candidate in the Albemarle. Ed Goodwin, the chairman of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, is facing Kenn Gardner for the Republican contest for secretary of state. In the May election, nearly 80 percent of Chowan voters backed Goodwin.

Out of the 315 ballots in Chowan, 295 were from people who came into the office to vote, said Rebecca Lowe, the elections supervisor. In all, 3 percent of Chowan's voters cast early ballots.

"Our county was very much aware of the second primary," Lowe said.

Still, she admits, 315 ballots out of 10,571 registered voters isn't going to set any records. She's seen turnout, including the actual vote on election day, as low as 2 percent.

Lowe figures taxpayers will spend between \$10,000 and \$11,000 on the runoff. Lowe said She said Pitt County is looking at a bill

See EARLY, 3A

District leader seeks more diverse Rotary

Morgan plans meeting with Edenton club

By WILLIAM F. WEST
The Daily Advance

HERTFORD — Rotary's leader for northeastern North Carolina says his priorities include creating a larger and more diverse membership, including at the currently woman-less Edenton Rotary Club.

Speaking to about 40 Hertford Ro-

tarians Tuesday morning, Rotary District 7720 Governor Skip Morgan said increasing diversity is part of his overall goal to boost the club's membership rolls in the region.

Worldwide, Rotary has about 1.2 million members, but Morgan told Hertford Rotarians that the organization's membership in North America has been on the decline.

To boost membership, Morgan plans to embark on a publicity campaign to



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Skip Morgan, governor for Rotary District 7720, speaks to Hertford Rotarians during a breakfast visit at Captain Bob's Seafood in Hertford, last Tuesday.

See ROTARY, 3A

