



Bye week helps Aces — 6B

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Steinburg arrested, charged with assault

Incident occurred at Hertford political forum

By PETER WILLIAMS AND REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writers

Bob Steinburg, an Edenton resident and Republican candidate for state House, was arrested last week for allegedly assaulting the campaign manager of Democratic challenger Bill Luton.

The misdemeanor criminal summons signed by Magistrate

C.A. Woodard indicates probable cause that Steinburg "unlawfully and willfully did assault Russell Haddad by grabbing him on back of the neck, trying to take a camera away from him."

Steinburg, 64, of Edenton, was charged with simple physical assault and released, according to Officer Terrence E. Farley of the



Steinburg

Hertford Police Department. The incident happened during a political forum at Perquimans County High School in Hertford.

Steinburg said Monday that he was having a private conversation with Luton after the forum ended, "trying to get him to focus on the issues. I did admonish him in a spirited way."

Steinburg said that he looked up and saw that Haddad had walked over and was taping their conversation with a camera phone.

"I said, 'Look, I don't want you taping this, it's a private con-

versation,'" Steinburg said. He said that Haddad put the camera phone down briefly but then began taping again as he and Luton continued to talk. "I then said to him, I asked you to stop. The third time I asked him, I again said, this is a private conversation."

Steinburg said that he swatted at the camera phone several times to try and get it out of Haddad's hands. He said that at that point, Haddad left the forum.

"I don't recall grabbing at his neck," Steinburg said. "I do recall trying to push the camera phone

away."

Steinburg said that about 20 minutes later he was still at the forum talking with people when he was approached by a Perquimans law enforcement officer and asked to step outside so that they could talk. It was at that point, Steinburg said, that he learned Haddad planned to file a complaint and that he was being charged in connection with the incident.

Steinburg said that reaction to the incident had been posi-

See STEINBURG, 3A

Board mulls shorter terms

Members would serve four years

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Edenton-Chowan school board plans to discuss a resolution at its Nov. 5 meeting that could lead to 4-year terms for its members. Currently, board members serve 6-year terms.

Should the school board approve the resolution, the next step would be for the resolution to be put before the county commissioners for a vote.

Once the commissioners approved the resolution, a bill would have to be introduced in the next legislative session of the North Carolina General Assembly to make the change. The bill would pass through the education committee prior to being voted on by both members of the state House and Senate.

Several members of the school board expressed support for the idea at their Oct. 1 board meeting on Monday night including outgoing board member Win Dale.

"I think the 6-year terms discourage people from running for office," Dale said.

Dale recently announced that he would not seek re-election after completing his first six years on the board. He said at the time that he favored term limits and wanted to give others a chance to serve.

Three board seats are up for re-election this year — the District 1 seat currently held by Jean Bunch, Ricky Browder's District 2 seat, and the at-large board seat being vacated by Dale.

Dale noted that since he announced he would not seek re-election two candidates had registered to run for his seat but he wondered aloud if anyone would have challenged him had he chosen to seek

See BOARD, 2A

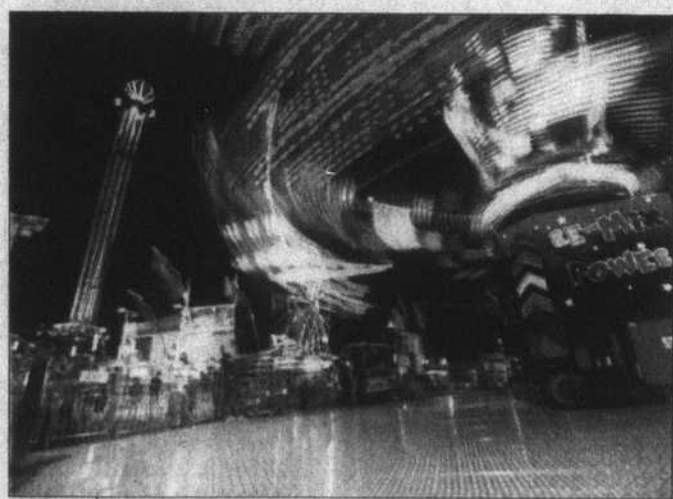
FAIR DAYS



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Jami Sanderlin and her daughter Alyssa, 5, play one of the games at the Chowan County Fair, Wednesday.

Thousands attend Chowan County fair



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

A spinning ride leaves colorful streaks while people ride at the Chowan County Fair, Wednesday.

Numbers down from years past

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Organizers say they are pleased that just over 13,600 people attended this year's Chowan County Regional Fair.

But they acknowledge that in a good year attendance is typically much higher. Results of the recession and the community's high unemployment continue to be felt in the numbers.

"In a good year we will have about 20,000 people come to the fair," said Brenda Toppin, secretary to the fair board.

This year paid attendance totaled 9,705 with seniors and children who were admitted free of charge at special times during the weeklong fair accounted for another 3,900 visitors.

Toppin said that weather also played a role. Saturday's rainfall kept attendance down, she said, which hurt business.

"Friday and Saturday are the days that re-

ally make or break us," agreed her husband, E.C., who is president of the fair. "The rain on Saturday really hurt us."

He added that offering \$10 walk-around tickets for those who wanted to just enjoy the attractions and educational exhibits without riding any rides had not drawn the response that fair officials had hoped.

"For all the requests we had to offer those, I expected a lot more people to take advantage of that," Toppin said.

See FAIR, 3A

Town of Edenton responds to developer's suit

Court will not hear case until next year

By PETER WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Town of Edenton contends owning rental property doesn't disqualify an elected official from voting on developments that provide rental property.

The town was responding last

week to a lawsuit by Evergreen Construction. The company wanted to build a 50-unit multi-family housing complex on Coke Avenue.

At least four councilmen own rental properties, but Sambo Dixon and Bob Quinn were the most vocal about questioning the project. Dixon has 25 rental properties and Quinn has two. After the project was rejected, Evergreen sued the town and said Dixon and Quinn should have refrained from

voting.

Tim Morgan, Evergreen vice president, could not be reached for comment. In a previous interview he compared the situation to a new grocery store coming to town and having representatives from Food Lion and Lowes Food sitting on the board that decides the application.

Attorney Hood Ellis, who represents the town, said the two men owned property prior to the Ever-

green's first application to develop the land. Ellis maintains it was clearly a matter of public record.

The town originally approved a plan for 45 units, but later came back with a plan for 50 on a larger lot. The second request was denied and the original building permit has since expired.

Ellis said the next civil session of Civil Superior Court in Chowan County isn't scheduled until sometime in 2013.

HEALTH FAIR

Thursday | October 4 | 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Edenton United Methodist Church
225 Virginia Road, Edenton - Next to Vidant Chowan Hospital



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