



Photog depicts town in black & white — 1B
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Teacher treated for bacterial meningitis

Parks: Law precludes public confirmation

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

As of Friday afternoon neither health nor school officials had learned whether a Chowan Middle School teacher had positively contracted bacterial meningitis. Even if they had state law precludes a public confirmation.

A relative of the sickened victim confirmed Monday that the male teacher has been hospitalized and undergoing treatment for bacterial meningitis. The victim's immediate family has received antibiotics for the infection, the relative added.

Other than the confirmation from the victim's kin, health professionals remain mum on

the issue because state law protecting patient confidentiality prevents the public release of such information. It was the social media — Facebook — that alerted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about this specific case, the relative said.

Jerry Parks, director of Albemarle Regional Health Services, said Friday that neither Albemarle Hospital nor Vidant Medical Center had confirmed a suspected case of bacterial meningitis. But, Parks added that state laws related to patient confidentiality preclude public confirmation.

A signed consent waiver by the patient is required before

See TREATED, 4A

WHITE OAK SET ABLAZE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Firefighters from Edenton, Center Hill Crossroads and Belvidere Chappell Hill battle Monday night's blaze of the former White Oak School on Dillard's Mill Road. Flames were visible shooting high above the roof as firefighters battled the blaze. While firefighters were on the scene a second fire was set at the Tri-County Animal Shelter, according to Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin. An animal control truck was set afire, destroying the vehicle.

County seeks board changes

Commissioners want shorter terms

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners voted to approve a resolution to ask the state legislature to end six-year term lengths on the Edenton Chowan Schools Board of Education and replace with the conventional four years.

In view of several school board members attending Monday night's commissioners' meeting, the county approved in a 5-2 vote to make the request. In December, the non-partisan Board of Education voted 6-1 to keep the terms at six years — a move Commissioners' Chairman Keith Nixon called a "conflict of interest," since the vote benefits sitting board members.

Immediately following its own scheduled board meeting, school board members raced to the commissioners' debate on the issue to offer their input as to why the schools best operate as an autonomous authority.

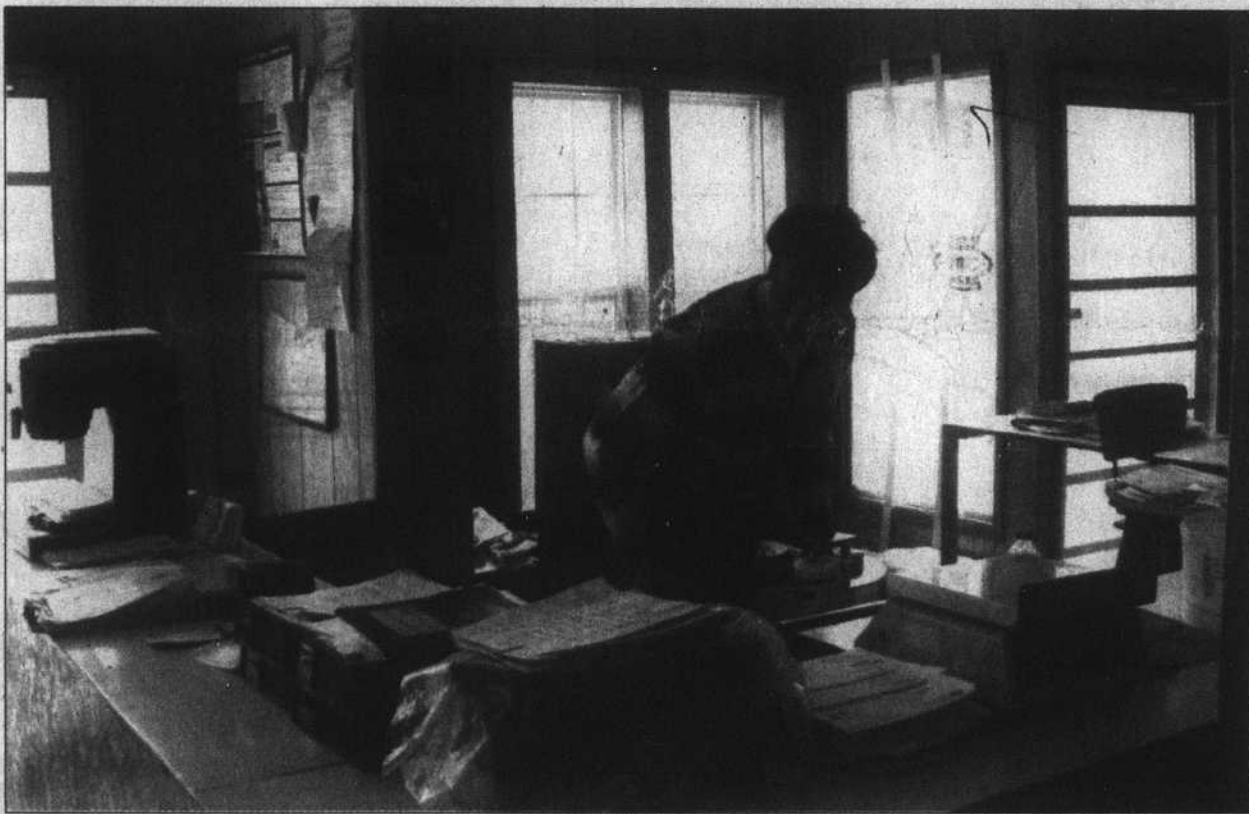
But, the majority of the commissioners agreed that the school board's six year terms were self-serving and not in the best interest of public education. Although the school board reiterated its contention that the public has never demanded the switch in terms, commissioners

See CHANGES, 2A



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ARMED ROBBERS STRIKE AGAIN



STAFF PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

Doris McLean, owner of the Convenient Mart on North Oakum Street, mans the store Tuesday morning. She was working Friday night when two men robbed the store at gunpoint.

Two men rob Convenient Mart at gunpoint

Fourth armed robbery since Thanksgiving

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Two masked men robbed McLean's Convenient Mart at gunpoint Friday night, marking Edenton's fourth armed robbery since Thanksgiving.

Around 7:20 p.m. two black males wearing ski masks and dark clothing entered the store at 101 N. Oakum Street and demanded money,

according to Edenton police. One of the suspects brandished a small silver-colored handgun before the pair fled on foot with an undisclosed sum of cash, a pocketbook and a small box of cigarillos, police say. The suspects were last seen heading north along N. Oakum Street.

Store owner Doris McLean was working with a customer inside when the robbers entered, according to Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery. The customer managed to slip out of the store during the hold-up.

Police describe the suspects as slender with one about 6-foot tall and the other about 5 feet 6 inches tall. The taller suspect used the handgun, police said.

The handbag stolen was black patent leather with a silver buckle and cigarillos were in a red box, police said.

McLean said the box contained coins.

Police are offering a reward up to \$1,000 for information in the robbery that leads to an arrest.

See ROBBERY, 2A

Missed funding poses COA setback

Dental program, renovations halted

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Plans to add a dental hygiene curriculum at College of The Albemarle's Edenton-Chowan campus appear to have hit a blockade after the school failed to make the first cut for Golden LEAF's Community Assistance Initiative.

Also on hold is the jumpstart rehabilitation of the two-story D.F. Walker building that now serves as COA's local campus. Efforts to launch the renovations and the expanded curriculum stalled after COA's \$2.5 million grant application failed to be chosen as a top priority among the Initiative's review team, which was comprised of local stakeholders. Not only did COA's requested amount exceed Golden LEAF's \$2 million total allotment, but also approval would have likely threatened the other 16 applications seeking financial help.

Because stakeholders decided the county's top priorities, Kandi Deitemeyer,

See SETBACK, 3A

Assault charge against Steinburg dismissed

By REGGIE PONDER
The Daily Advance

The District Attorney's Office has dismissed a misdemeanor assault charge against state Rep. Bob Steinburg following the alleged victim's decision to drop his complaint. Russell Haddad, former campaign manager for Steinburg's opponent in last year's

state 1st House District race, announced Monday that he was dropping the charge because he wanted to put the incident that produced it behind him.

"I have spent a lot of time and effort to help better the quality of life for residents in North Carolina, primarily northeastern North Carolina," Haddad, a former legislative

aide to U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, said in a statement Monday. "That continues to be my goal. Therefore, after much thought I have made the tough decision to extend an olive branch to Rep. Steinburg and drop the simple assault charges against him."

While Haddad says he still believes Steinburg "should take responsibility

for his actions" he believes dropping the charge against the new legislator is "the most productive solution to the situation."

"It would have been nice for him to have picked up a phone and made a simple phone call and said 'I'm sorry for what I did,'" Haddad said. "But dropping the charges 'will allow the both of us to continue our

efforts without distraction, hopefully in some cases jointly."

Haddad said he contacted District Attorney Frank Parrish Friday and that Parrish replied by e-mail Saturday that he would respect Haddad's wish not to proceed with the case.

Steinburg, R-Chowan,

See HADDAD, 4A

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