

CHOWAN HERALD



All-Stars bring home championship — 5A

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482-4418

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Shift in Elizabeth City will not affect local hospital

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

An official with Greenville-based Vidant Health said last week that Vidant Chowan Hospital won't be affected by Albemarle Hospital's decision to sign a long-term lease with Norfolk, Va.-based Sentara

Healthcare.

Vidant, based in Greenville, was vying for the Albemarle Hospital lease with Sentara and Brentwood, Tenn.-based Duke-Life-Point.

Vidant operates Vidant Chowan Hospital as well as community hospitals in Windsor, Ahoskie and other

small towns across eastern North Carolina.

The flagship hospital of Vidant Health is Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, which is the teaching hospital for the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners

last week voted unanimously to enter into a 40-year lease with Sentara.

"While we are disappointed in the outcome of the vote by the Pasquotank County Commissioners, their decision has no impact on our commitment to provide quality health care services to the population

we serve," said Roger Robertson, president of Vidant Community Hospitals. "Vidant Health has established deep roots in Chowan and the surrounding counties and will continue to build upon and enhance these relationships."

Albemarle Hospital's search for a long-term part-

nership lasted about a year. The county commissioners and Albemarle Hospital Authority Board of Commissioners announced in May 2012 their intention to seek a long-term partnership with a larger health system.

County and hospital

See HOSPITAL, 2A

Town to consider tour boat lease

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Edenton could become home to a waterfront-based tour boat in the future, if a proposed lease agreement between Connecticut resident Mark Thesier and the town meets with the approval of the town council.

The proposal would allow Thesier, who currently calls Mystic, Conn., home, to relocate to Edenton and establish a tour boat business out of Edenton Harbor, according to Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

"I look forward to him coming," Knighton said. "I hope he can make it work."

Knighton said that the proposed agreement would allow Thesier, a retired U.S. Navy captain, to base his boat at the harbor and utilize a slip as well as be able to utilize a passenger loading and unloading area along the harbor near the Barker House.

Under the terms of the agreement, Knighton said, Thesier would pay the town an annual fee of \$2,000 for the boat slip.

Council Administrative Committee Chair Steve Biggs said that the proposed agreement covering the electric Duffy boat Thesier would use to give his tours, would cover a five-year period.

Biggs noted that Thesier hoped to reach more than 15 percent of the walking traffic in the years to come.

Biggs said that in reviewing the terms of the proposed lease, he was left wondering about the implications of town staff ever having to tie off Thesier's boat in case of an emergency and what effect that might have on the town's insurance coverage. He also asked who would be collecting the money for the tour boat rides.

"He plans to do that himself," Knighton said.

Knighton added that she would ask the town's attorney, Hood Ellis, to review the proposed lease agreement before the next council meeting, which is scheduled for Aug. 13.

"Hood has not blessed the agreement yet," Knighton said.

Knighton said that should the lease be approved, Thesier and his wife planned to relocate to Edenton this winter. He would begin giving tours of Edenton Bay next summer, she said.

FARMERS MARKET



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Visitors to the Farmers Market in Edenton talk tomatoes with vendor Frederick Inglis, Saturday morning.

Farmers market considers new site

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Edenton Farmers Market is considering relocating.

Vero Brentjens, manager of the Edenton Farmers Market, said the Chowan County Board of Commissioners may offer the Farmers Market a spot behind the N.C. Cooperative Extension Center at the

corner of Granville Street and Virginia Road.

The market currently is located at North Oakum Street and Dicks Street on the grounds of the former D.F. Walker School.

Market organizers and vendors actually have been happy with the current site.

"We love it there," Brentjens said.

The site has grass and trees, and plenty of parking, she said. There's also an overhang for rain protection, she said.

"It's such a nice place," Brentjens said.

But because the market is not located on a major thoroughfare, some potential customers may forget about the market, she said.

Some people also have said they

feel uncomfortable shopping at that location. Brentjens said there is a perception that the site is "on the wrong side of the tracks," but she added she has no personal feeling about that.

Indeed, Brentjens said her personal preference would be to stay

See MARKET, 2A

Market ready to begin accepting EBT cards

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Customers take a look at produce at the Farmers Market.

After a couple years of dashed hopes and false starts, the Edenton Farmers Market is finally ready to begin accepting EBT (debit) cards issued through the local Department of Social Services.

Vero Brentjens, who co-founded the market along with other members of the Chowan-Edenton Environmental Group, said that this Saturday would mark the first opportunity for those shopping at the market to use the cards.

"The delays were mostly administrative," Brentjens said. "I'm glad they are behind us and we can move forward."

Brentjens said that those using the cards — many of whom are experiencing long-term unemployment — will be able to purchase fresh vegetables and fruit, some of it organic, as well as jams and jellies, cheeses, baked goods and more.

Whatever they get in food stamps each month is put on their card as a credit, Brentjens explained. They will receive tokens equal to the amount that they spend,

she said.

There are a few things at the market that the cards can't be used to purchase such as plants and cut flowers. The burgers and hot-dogs grilled at the site are also off-limits, she said.

Brentjens said that once the EBT cards are swiped, those using them to shop would be issued tokens that they can present to the vendors. At the end of the market, the vendors will present the tokens to Brentjens who will then reimburse them the amount of money that

See EBT, 2A

Tyner couple killed in Gates County accident

From staff reports

Two Tyner residents were killed July 23 after their car collided with a tractor-trailer on N.C. Highway 32 in Gates County, the N.C. Highway Patrol said.

Julian Hendrix, 63, of Cannon's Ferry Road, and Karen Reeves, 56, also of the same address, died in the wreck, which happened at 6:15 p.m., about half a

mile south of Muddy Cross Road, the patrol said.

Hendrix was driving a 2000 Nissan Maxima south on N.C. 32 when his vehicle slammed into the back of the trailer to a 2007 Kenworth truck driven by Michael Odom, the patrol said.

Odom, 58, of Hobbsville, had stopped the truck in the roadway and was in the process of backing it into a

residential driveway when the collision occurred.

According to the patrol, Hendrix apparently neither reduced his speed nor applied the car's breaks. The patrol said it could not find any tire impressions on the pavement showing an intention to stop.

The 2007 Kenworth tractor-trailer is owned by C.A. Perry & Son Transit Company, according to the high-

way patrol report filed by Trooper G.P. Bowman.

Bowman's report showed that the car, a 2000 Nissan Maxima owned by Reeves, struck the 18-wheeler slightly rear of the cab.

No charges were filed in the accident.

According to information from a co-worker of the two victims, they were employed at BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair. Hen-

drix had worked in the welding shop, first joining the company in 1978. Reeves, hired in 2006, was employed in the pipe shop.

A witness to the collision began performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on Reeves, who was a passenger in the Maxima. She died later at Vidant Chowan Hospital

See ACCIDENT, 2A



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