



482-4418

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

Town Council Election results
 in today's Daily Advance, and
DailyAdvance.com 50¢

Chowan man dies in boating accident

Incident happens on Albemarle Sound

From staff reports

The initial investigation indicates a Chowan County man's death in the Albemarle Sound was apparently an accidental drowning.

Divers recovered the body of Jimmy Dwight McKinney Jr., 42, of 908 Indian Trail Road, Edenton, around 12:25 p.m. Monday, according to Washington County Chief Deputy Elizabeth C. Floyd.

The search for McKinney began Sunday after a motorist on the bridge across the Albemarle Sound on Highway 32 reported seeing a man fall overboard from a boat around 11:15 a.m.

McKinney reportedly left on his 39-foot wooden Cambridge around 7 or 7:30 a.m. Sunday with the intention of going fishing for rockfish.

Although officers from the Washington County Sheriff's Department said McKinney's death appeared to be an accidental drowning, a full investigation into

the accident is being conducted by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

The body was taken to Vidant Chowan Hospital by Chowan County Emergency Medical Services and Chowan authorities were expected to contact the medical examiner.

Washington County officials reported that at one point there were as many as 14 boats on the sound helping with the search, including numerous private volunteers.

See BOATER, 3A

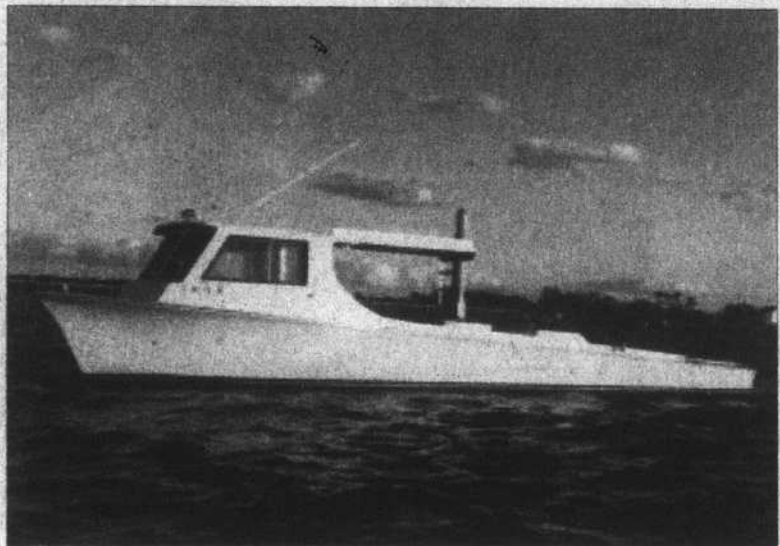


PHOTO COURTESY U.S. COAST GUARD

In this photo released by the U.S. Coast Guard, the boat from which Jimmy Dwight McKinney is believed to have fallen overboard is shown on the Albemarle Sound, Sunday. McKinney's body was recovered from the sound on Monday.

Police seek shooting suspect

From staff reports

Arrest warrants have been issued for an Edenton man police are seeking in connection with a weekend shooting incident that wounded two people at a convenience store.

Thomas Edward White Jr., 27, of the 300 block of Boswell Street, is wanted for the shootings at the Crown Food Mart on Saturday that wounded both Maurice Mabine and Trenita Jackson, according to a press release from the Edenton Police Department.



WHITE

Mabine, 35, and Jackson, 29, both of Edenton, were in good condition Monday at Vidant Chowan Medical Center where they were being treated for gunshot wounds, the press release said.

White is charged with attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury and assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, the release states.

White is described as a black male, 6-feet tall and weighing 160 pounds.

The shootings at the Crown Food Mart, located at 309 North Oakum Street, Edenton, were reported at 2:10 p.m. Saturday. Edenton police have declined to release further details of the incident, citing the ongoing investigation.

Anyone with information on White's whereabouts is urged to call the Edenton Police Department at 482-4444.

Your information will be kept confidential, according to police.

LOCAL AMBITIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Attorney Meader Harriss III (left) has announced his candidacy for District Court judge. Here, Harriss who is the outgoing president of the 1st Judicial District Bar, is shown with incoming president Robin Ames (right) and incoming Vice President Kim Pellini (center) before the start of the fall meeting of the 1st Judicial District Bar last Friday at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse.

Attorney to seek election to district bench

Judge Bean will not seek re-election

From staff reports

Edenton resident Meader Harriss plans to seek election to a District Court judge seat in 2014.

Harriss filed a campaign committee, "Meader Harriss for District Court Judge," with the State Board of Elections in September.

"I have been thinking about a run for District Court judge for several years now," Harriss said this week. "My first serious consideration to run was brought on by a judge who approached me after court one day in Gates County. He asked about my career

plan, said that I had the presence and demeanor and that I should consider a run for District Court judge in the future."

"I'm supporting him," said Sambo Dixon, a local attorney and town council member. "He worked for me for a few years, he's an honest guy and will be fair, and a good judge."

Filings with the State Board of Elections indicate William Reid Nixon of 2042 Rivershore Road, Elizabeth City, is the treasurer for Harriss' campaign committee.

Harriss started the committee with \$200 of his own money.

Judge Chris Bean, who is the chief district court judge in the 1st Judicial

District, has indicated he will retire after completing his term in December 2014.

Harriss said he intends to run for the seat in the November 2014 General Election.

Bean said last week he plans to serve out the remainder of his term. He said being a judge has been a remarkable experience.

"I have been doing this for 20-some years," Bean said. "It has been a fascinating career."

Harriss, who originally is from Rocky Mount, earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Charleston and a law degree from Campbell University under the trial advocacy track. He is in his ninth year prac-

ting law.

He began in private practice with the Dixon and Thompson firm in Edenton.

At Dixon and Thompson he had a general practice that included drafting wills, representing people accused of crimes, traffic tickets, civil plaintiff and defendant litigation, and representing indigent clients.

"I love being in the courtroom," Harriss said. "I found that representing indigent juvenile clients was my love."

Harriss has been with the Public Defender's Office since December 2008 and represents children

See ATTORNEY, 3A

EMS upgrading to higher level

From staff reports

Chowan County Emergency Medical Services is upgrading to paramedic level.

The county commissioners approved the upgrade at a meeting last month.

Colin Ryan, director of Chowan EMS, said the plan is to have a paramedic responding on every call by Dec. 1.

Eight local emergency medical technicians currently are enrolled in a paramedic class and four more will enroll in January, Ryan said.

There will be an additional cost associated with the upgrade, but the cost will be covered by increased revenues from reimbursements as a result of having paramedics on the ambulances, Ryan said.

There will be training costs and the paramedics will be paid \$3,100 a year more than EMTs currently are being paid, he said.

The main benefit to citizens will be a higher level of care, Ryan said.

"We want to provide a better service to the citizens — provide a better level of care," Ryan said.

As an example, Ryan said that with paramedics on an ambulance, EMS could provide interventions to get a cardiac patient's heart to the appropriate number of beats per minute and then transport that patient to the nearest appropriate hospital for cardiac care.

Chowan EMS is the primary emergency and non-emergency medical service provider for Chowan County, including the town of Edenton, according to information provided by EMS.

Currently, EMS is provided at the EMT-Intermediate level, which includes round-the-clock advanced life support.

The county operates a fleet of six type-III advanced life support ambulances and one state-licensed ALS quick response vehicle.

EMS operates out of three stations located throughout the county.

Chowan EMS has 21 full-time employees, 15 part-time employees and 12 local volunteers — all operating on 12-hour shifts.

The staffing level is based on an annual call volume of roughly 5,800.

County commissioners mull redistricting process

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County



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Board of Commissioners voted Monday to have a small group of county and school district officials discuss a process for drawing new districts for county commissioners and school board members.

Board of Commissioners Chairman Keith Nixon told his fellow commissioners during the board's regular

meeting Monday night that the board needed to discuss how to address redistricting in Chowan County.

County Manager Zee Lamb explained that the redistricting is needed because of population changes reflected in the 2010 census.

Under a '5 percent rule' used by federal officials,

population of electoral districts for local officials are not supposed to deviate more than 5 percent. In other words, no district is supposed to be more than 5 percent bigger — or 5 percent smaller — in population than any other district.

Since the population of Chowan's three districts are roughly 3,900; 5,000;

and 5,900, Chowan needs to add about 1,000 people to the smallest district and reduce the largest district by about the same number of people.

The board unanimously approved Commissioner Jeff Smith's motion to have the school board liaison,

See REDISTRICTING, 3A

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