

Board mulls use of drones at schools

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Edenton-Chowan school system may soon have an official policy regarding the presence of drones on school property.

Superintendent Rob Jackson said Monday that the decision to develop a policy was prompted by two separate incidents where drones were flown over the football field at John A. Holmes High School during football games.

"It seems that the operators were attempting to video or take photos of the team and/or game," he said.

Jackson told school board members at their monthly meeting on Oct. 6 that he had reached out to state officials for guidance only to learn that there was no existing policy in place.

"Our Board of Education is working to develop what will become the first local policy on the use of drones in a school system," he said.

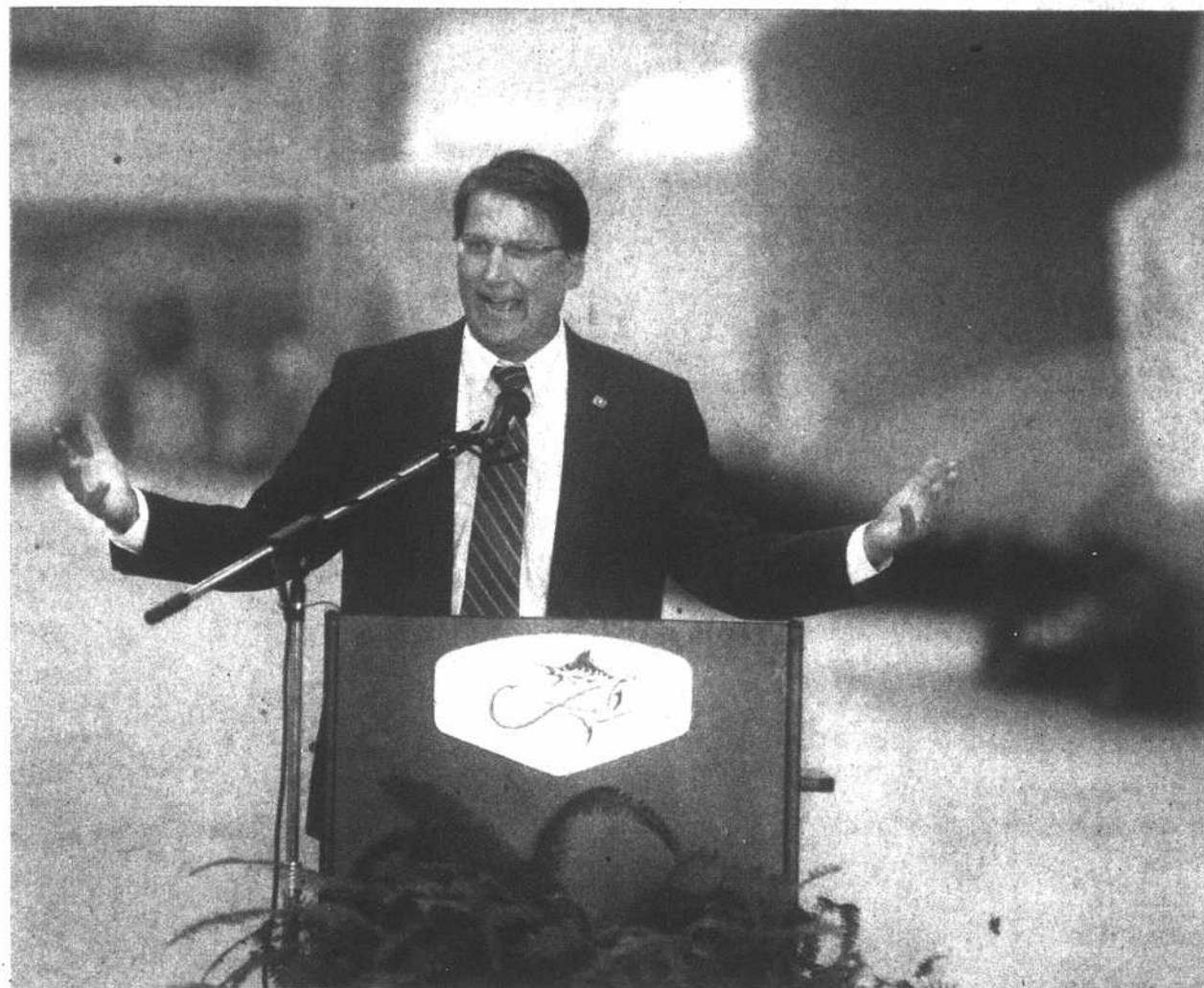
"The draft policy has been reviewed by attorneys for the North Carolina School Boards Association and has been shared with Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin and Police Chief Fortenbery for their input as well," Jackson added.

According to the draft policy, school district staff would be responsible for monitoring for inappropriate use. Violators could be subject to a number of penalties.

"Violators may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion for students; disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or termination for employees; or revocation of UAV privileges over school district property and/or any legal recourse available to the district for community members or other non-representatives of Edenton-Chowan Schools," the proposed policy reads.

Jackson added that the school district currently has no drones and no plans for their use.

McCrory hails boat builder



Gov. Pat McCrory speaks at an event at Albemarle Boats, the Carolina Classic in Edenton, Tuesday, celebrating the grand opening of the newly merged company.

Gov. touts Albemarle Boats merger

■ He says Albemarle Boats embodies 'marriage' of tourism, manufacturing

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Gov. Pat McCrory Tuesday hailed not only the merger of Albemarle Boats and Carolina Classic boats, but also what he called the "marriage" of the tourism and manufacturing industries.

The governor was in town for the grand opening of the newly merged company, known as "Albemarle Boats, the Carolina Classic."

Dell Murphy, the company's president, said his family is passionate about fishing and brings that passion

to the boatbuilding industry, just as the company's founders did. He said that once the company grows its sales through marketing at upcoming boat shows and the addition of top dealerships on the East Coast, it will be able to add jobs.

Even now, he said, the company is expanding its sales force.

McCrory said the company's boats are world-class sportfishing boats - and sportfishing is a vital part of the state's tourism economy.

But nothing is more vital to the state's economic growth than manufacturing, he said.

"Our state must continue to promote manufacturing," McCrory said. The future of North Carolina is in

those businesses that make things, build things and grow things, he said.

"Without these industries we don't thrive in this country," McCrory said.

Tuesday's event shows the perfect marriage in the state between the tourism industry and manufacturing, McCrory said.

The governor celebrated a new slogan for the state: "North Carolina - Nothing Compares."

He said that slogan was embodied at the event at Albemarle Boats, the Carolina Classic.

"Nothing compares to the talent of the men and women in white shirts, McCrory said, referring to the company's workers.

Police seek 2 in weekend shooting

From staff reports

Edenton Police are seeking two men wanted in connection with a Saturday evening shooting that seriously wounded two local men.

Around 6 p.m. Saturday, officers responded to a shooting that occurred in the 200 block of East Freeman Street. The victims were identified as Shandez Williams, 18, and Christopher



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Cohen, 17, of Edenton. Both victims were airlifted to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville.

Williams was reported in critical condition and Cohen in stable condition.

The shooting does not appear to be random but the motive is unknown at this time.

As a result of the investigation, warrants for attempted murder have been obtained on the following individuals: Jabazz Long, 20, formerly of 120 Paxton Lane, Edenton; and Linward Bailey III, 21, of 2011 Perry Gordan Lane, Tyner.

The Edenton Police Department is asking anyone with information about this crime or the location of the suspects to call. Your information will be kept confidential.

Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery said Williams and Cohen were on the porch when they were shot. The shots appear to have been fired from a passing vehicle, Fortenbery said.

Shell casings from a 9mm handgun were recovered at the scene, he said. It appears that eight or nine shots were fired, he said.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Sgt. Laura Wilkins of the Edenton Police Department at (252) 482-9884 or (252) 482-5144.

Woman charged with vandalism, threats

From staff reports

A local woman has been charged with vandalizing a downtown business.

Denise Lannette Robinson, 51, of 122 Colony Drive, Edenton, was charged with communicating threats, damage to real property and damage to personal property in connection with a Friday evening incident in which a mailbox was thrown through a window at John Gay Studio on Broad Street, according to

the Edenton Police Department. The incident was reported around 7 p.m. Friday.

Robinson was released on \$2,500 unsecured bond, police reported.

A sign containing threats was taped to the window, according to the police.

The sign expressed anger regarding the recent death of Robinson's son, Jesse Wood, according to police. Wood died at Gay's home, police said.

Wood's death is being investigat-

ed as an unexplained death, according to the Chowan County Sheriff's Office.

Gay has not been charged with any crime in connection with Wood's death, Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said.

Reached Tuesday, Gay declined comment on Robinson's arrest.

The cause of Wood's death is still undetermined, Goodwin said. Investigators are awaiting a toxicology report from the Medical Examiner's Office, he said.

Early voting for town elections gets underway Thursday

Grother: Council erred in changing course

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

George Grother believes town officials have bungled the proposed sale of the former Northeast Commission building.

Grother, 72, a retired contractor, is challenging incumbent Councilman Sambo Dixon for a 2nd Ward seat on



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the Edenton Town Council. Early voting in the election begins Thursday at the Chowan County Board of Elections office.

Election Day is Nov. 3.

Grother's take on the situation surrounding the Northeast Commission building, which also is known as the old ice plant, differs sharply from Dixon's. Dixon has cited the decision to consider a lease,

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Dixon: Council taking care with decision on building

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Edenton Town Councilman Sambo Dixon cites the council's handling of the former Northeast Commission building as an example of the care town officials take with important decisions.

Dixon noted the council has had lively discussions and a great deal of citizens' input into the decision regarding the future use of the former Northeast Commission building, also known as the old ice plant.

That point of view from Dixon, 53, an attorney who is an Edenton native, is very different from challenger George Grother's opinion that the council has made a mistake by shifting its attention toward a possible lease rather than sticking with its original plan to sell the building.

Dixon and Grother are vying for a 2nd Ward seat on the town council. Early voting in the municipal election begins Thursday at the Chowan Coun-



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ty Board of Elections office.

Election Day is Nov. 3.

Dixon noted the town has received one proposal for a restaurant and retail space, and another for a brewpub and restaurant. The council is currently evaluating the feasibility of these two proposals, he said.

"The building needs to be

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Friday, October 30th
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5:30pm
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