

Continued

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

Algae

From A1
fied as Anabaena, a member of the blue-green family of algae. She said algal blooms of Anabaena usually appear bright green. However, when a bloom starts to decay, the color can change to a milky blue. The decaying algae produce a strong, foul odor that can affect a large area, she said.

According to a recent report from the N.C. Division of Water Resources, some blue-green algae, such as dolichospermum, may produce cyanotoxins. These blooms are commonly referred to as potentially harmful algal blooms and can cause illnesses in humans and have been attributed to the death of pets and livestock. Fortunately, no human or animal illnesses have been attributed to the blooms in North Carolina.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services reports that there are no documented reports of people getting sick from blue-green algae in the state.

The Hertford-based Albemarle Commission recently gave a presentation to Edenton Town Council regarding algal blooms. Edenton councilors are currently forming a round-table group of concerned citizens and local leaders to address the situation.

"Of course, we're all concerned," said Anne Marie Knighton, Edenton's town manager. "We want to know what are the causes, what



MILES LAYTON / Chowan Herald

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality is urging the public to avoid contact with green or blue water in the Chowan River due to an algal bloom. Green water and a pungent smell made Harris Landing a lonely place this week by the Chowan River. Notice the dead fish on the river bank.

are the effects."

Chowan County Manager Kevin Howard said several groups are trying to gather data to determine the cause of the algae blooms. Howard mentioned the Albemarle Commission's work, the state DEQ's testing, and the research by private organizations such as the Chowan-Edenton Environmental Group.

According to a county document, County Clerk Susanne Stallings notified commissioners via email on Friday that Chowan Emergency Management Coor-

dinator Cord Palmer began communicating with state officials on Thursday regarding the potential for more algal blooms as the weather warms.

"As you may recall there is little that can be done to prevent or stop the bloom," Stallings wrote. "Our role in these events is public education especially, if there is an advisory for use of water that is impacted. The lead role is the health department ... and we distribute their information as it becomes available. I do not believe we are at the advisory level at this time."

The algal bloom on the Chowan River was first reported on June 11 at the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission boat ramp off U.S. 17, according to the Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council.

The DEQ's Water Resources estuarine monitoring team collected water samples on June 12 from the Chowan River, Edenton Bay and Pembroke Creek.

County managers for Washington, Bertie and Gates counties all said they have received no reports of algae in their counties.

Martha Prinsloo of Washington County Soil and Water Conservation said she has seen no algae in the Albemarle Sound, but she will continue to closely monitor the situation.

Chowan County Commissioner John Mitchener recalled algal blooms in the Chowan River from June 2015 and 2016.

"Algae blooms are more than a nuisance," he said. "They are a systemic threat to the unique beauty of Chowan County and our potential to be a most attractive place in which to live and work."

Health officials encourage the public to avoid contact with large accumulations of algae and to prevent children and pets from swimming or ingesting water in an algal bloom. They also suggest keeping children and pets away from water that appears bright green, blue, discolored or scummy. They advise people not to handle or touch large mats of algae, and if they come into contact with an algal bloom, to wash thoroughly.

*Use clean water to rinse off pets that may have come into contact with an algal bloom.

*If your child appears ill after being in waters containing an algal bloom, seek medical care immediately.

*If your pet appears to stumble, stagger or collapse after being in a pond, lake or river, seek veterinary care immediately.

Filing

From A1
by Bill Harrell, Duncan Hughes and Bob Kaylor.

Kelford will see the entire board up for re-election this year. The five commissioner seats are currently held

by James Bland Jr., Wayne Bland, Tim Emory, Timmy Eaton and Jim Thomas Harrell. In addition to the

mayoral seat, the town of Lewiston Woodville will have a commissioner from each district up for re-election. The seat in the Lewiston District is currently held by DiAnne Bazemore (Lewiston District) and June Jernigan (Woodville District).

In Powellville, the mayor's seat will be on the ballot under unusual circumstances. Asbell has been removed from power by the town board following accusations of misconduct, but has not resigned the seat. He has likewise not announced intentions as to whether or not he will seek re-election.

The mayor's seat will be on the ballot in November, along with that of all three commissioners - Carlyle Hoggard, James Peele and J.T. Watford.

Roxobel will have four commissioners up for re-election. They include David Baisey Sr., Carolyn Bracy, Manuel Joyner Sr. and Sammy Pruden.

In Windsor, the town will have three leaders on the regular ballot, plus a special election.

In addition to the mayor's seat, Windsor Commissioners David Overton and Jon Powell are up for re-election to four-year terms.

There will also be a

special election to fill the unexpired term of the late Bob Brown. Amy Williford was appointed to fill the seat earlier this year, but state law dictates the seat be filled for the final two years in a special election. Williford is an eligible candidate for the race.

Those wishing to file can do so at the Bertie County Board of Elections office on the corner of Watson Street and Winston Lane. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily.

Filing will continue from July 7 through noon on Friday, July 21.

Assault

From A1
conclusions. "We have fully cooperated with law enforcement in this matter," said HCLA Executive

Director Dr. Kashi Bazemore-Hall. "I have determined that reasonable force was used to protect this child from injuring our school official, bus driver, the

student and other students on the bus." Information on Bazemore's first appearance was not available as of press time Tuesday.

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