



IN THE TROPICS ALBEMARLE LIFE MURALIST BRIGHTENS COINJOCK APARTMENTS 7A

100TH ANNIVERSARY 1911-2011

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVING ELIZABETH CITY AND THE ALBEMARLE

THE DAILY ADVANCE

Friday, October 21, 2011

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WEATHER



Brandon Bratton/Grandy Primary School

SUNNY

Today: 66
Tonight: 46
Complete forecast on 2A

Sports



ACC seeks national title spot

The season's first BCS standings left the ACC again wondering just how the conference can become relevant in national championship discussions. — 2B

Albemarle

Subdivision decision delayed

Currituck commissioners will wait until December to decide whether to lift age limits at Waterside Villages — a request that has put the county in the middle of a dispute between residents and owners of the bankrupt subdivision. — 3A

Thieves strike Earth 383

A downtown comic books store owner is disheartened that someone apparently stole some \$7,200 worth of merchandise from his business this week. — 3A

Sheriff: Sex offender charged

A 31-year-old man was charged with failing to register with the Currituck County Sheriff's Department as a sex offender. — 3A

Heath named interim manager

Perquimans County Tax Administrator Frank Heath has been named the county's interim county manager. — 3A

Tall grass an issue again

The perennial issue of overgrown grass has popped back up in Pasquotank County. — 3A

State

Study: NC business friendly

A nonpartisan group focused upon improving North Carolina's business climate says the General Assembly became more business friendly this year as the Republicans took control and pushed through several changes. — 3A

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TODAY'S INDEX

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Obituaries	4B	TV Guide	8B



OFFERING HOPE, PUSHING CHANGE



STAFF PHOTOS BY THOMAS J. TURNER

Albemarle Hopeline counsellor Athena Chasteen lights a candle during a vigil for domestic violence awareness at the Currituck Courthouse, Thursday.

Albemarle Hopeline turns 30

Victims advocate: Don't give up hope

By WILLIAM F. WEST
Staff Writer

Despite the deaths of 75 North Carolinians last year at the hands of spouses, parents and domestic partners, Peter Romary says there are still plenty of people who don't consider domestic violence to be a serious problem.

Romary, speaker at Albemarle Hopeline's 30th anniversary banquet Wednesday night, says these skeptics see domestic violence as a private matter, and those who advocate on behalf of domestic violence victims as cuddlers, hand-holders and soft, touchy-feely folks.

Such talk doesn't faze Romary, a 43-year-old former British



Peter Romary, director of student legal services at East Carolina University, talks at Albemarle Hopeline's 30th anniversary dinner, Wednesday.

soldier who now works with domestic violence victims as director of Student Legal Services at East Carolina University in

Greenville.

If anything, it emboldens him to push even harder to protect victims, he said.

"My friends, I've heard far worse," Romary told nearly 80 fellow advocates for domestic violence victims who gathered for the Hopeline banquet at the K.E. White Center.

Romary suggested that skepticism about the enormity of the problem seems to be born of ignorance.

Skeptics, for example, have never sat in a room with a child whose head was stomped on by his father. Nor have they met anyone like the woman who he says lost half her hearing after her husband fired a .45-caliber pistol near her ear.

Romary suggested the defense proffered by the attorney for the

See HOPELINE, 8A

Student OK after leaving school

Child was found wandering street

By PETER WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Top school officials acknowledged Thursday that a kindergartner managed to slip away from Sheep-Harney Elementary School Wednesday without teachers or administrators noticing he was gone.

By the time Sheep-Harney officials discovered that the 6-year-old boy was missing and notified police, he been located four blocks away by two citizens and was in the process of being turned over to law enforcement officials.

Officials with the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools said the incident will be fully investigated.

"We made a mistake, no question about it," said Mark Small, chairman of the school board.

Small wasn't aware of the incident until contacted by a reporter about it Thursday morning. He said Superintendent Linwood Williams plans to address the incident.

"We don't deny there was wrongdoing; we're really not trying to hide this," Small said.

In an e-mail to school board members Wednesday afternoon, Williams described what happened:

"Earlier today, a Sheep-Harney Elementary School teacher sent a student to

See STUDENT, 5A

Boone will not seek runoff election

Decision 2011 Spence, Stallings, Brooks square off Nov. 8

By REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Only three candidates' names will be on the ballot for next month's city council runoff election in Elizabeth City's 3rd

Ward.

David Boone, who finished fourth in the Oct. 11 election for one of the ward's two council seats, had been eligible to join Dennis Stallings, the third-place finisher, in calling for a runoff election on Nov. 8.



Boone

But on Thursday, just minutes after the noon deadline for requesting a runoff came and went, Boone said he had decided against calling for the election.

Boone said he had gone to his church and prayed about whether to ask for a runoff, and left with the confidence that there are three good candidates left in the race and that the ward will be well represented however the election turns out.

The three candidates who will participate in next month's runoff election are Kem Spence and incumbent Councilman Michael Brooks, who finished first and second in the Oct. 11 election, and Stallings, who requested a runoff with the top two finishers on Wednesday.

Boone said Thursday that voters need to remember that the

See RUNOFF, 5A

COA seeks ways to speed up evacuations

2 access roads slow emergency exits

By PETER WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

How do you quickly evacuate 1,000 motorists when all you have are two exit lanes?

You don't — as College

of The Albemarle officials discovered earlier this month.

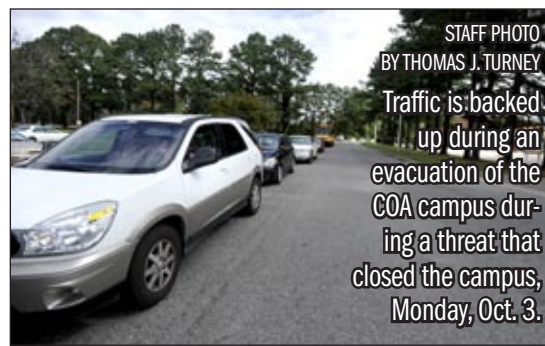
When a threat was made to the COA campus on Oct. 3, college officials ordered the school closed and sent students and virtually all staff home for the day.

While officials quickly responded to the threat, the process of moving

students and staff off the campus went much slower than campus officials would have liked.

The primary reason for the traffic backup was that there are only two, two-lane roads connecting the campus to U.S. Highway 17 North. Moreover, neither

See SPEED UP, 5A

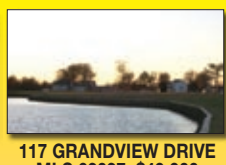


STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNER
Traffic is backed up during an evacuation of the COA campus during a threat that closed the campus, Monday, Oct. 3.

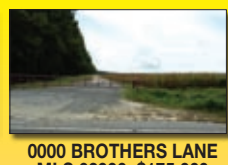
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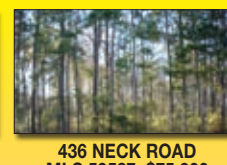
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