



REGION Academy aims to be 'model' STEM school in 3 years **3A**

NATION Pope arrives in US, to address Congress during DC visit **6A**

DOWNEAST CLASSIC **SPORTS** ECSU'S WELLS TO FACE HOMETOWN RAMS **1B**

THE DAILY ADVANCE

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

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75 cents

WEATHER



Marista Cardenas/Sheep-Harney

RAIN

Today: 78
Tonight: 70

Complete forecast on 2A

REGION



Shelter board to be named

Currituck commissioners have agreed to create a new animal shelter board to advise the county after it takes control of Currituck's new animal facility this fall. — 5A

Housing units may spur rentals

Two plans for mixed housing in lower Currituck that may open the chance for vacationer rentals on the mainland won county approvals this month. — 5A

STATE

Feds: No offshore wind impacts

A federal government review says there will be no significant environmental or socioeconomic impacts in leasing tracts off the N.C. coast for wind energy development. — 3A

Medicaid bill heads to McCrory

Far-reaching legislation designed to change how North Carolina government bills Medicaid patient treatment is going to Gov. Pat McCrory now that the General Assembly has approved a final compromise measure. — 3A

WEB POLL RESULTS

www.DailyAdvance.com poll from Monday, Sept. 21

Are you or someone you know making a trip to Philadelphia or New York to try to see the Pope in person?

| | | |
|-----|--------------|--|
| | VOTES | |
| Yes | 2 | |
| No | 57 | |
| | TOTAL | |
| | 59 | |

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TODAY'S INDEX

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| Classified | 4B-5B | Opinions | 4A |
| Comics | 7B | Region | 3A |
| Lifestyles | 9A-10A | Nation/World | 6A |
| Lottery | 2A | Sports | 1B-3B |
| Obituaries | 8A | TV Guide | 8B |



EC's 2nd, 4th ward hopefuls square off



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Johnnie Walton (right), an incumbent 4th Ward city councilor seeking re-election in next month's city election, answers a question during The Daily Advance's candidates forum at the Pasquotank Courthouse, Tuesday. **See more photos from the candidates forum online at WWW.DAILYADVANCE.COM.**

Candidates debate tax hike, Olson

■ Candidates also debate weatherization budget increase

BY JON HAWLEY
Staff Writer

Seven City Council candidates debated tax increases, electrical spending and the future of the city manager during The Daily Advance's first candidates forum Tuesday night.

Over the two-hour event, the city's three 2nd Ward candidates and four 4th Ward candidates staked out their positions on key city issues. The 2nd Ward candidates included incumbents Anita Hummer and Tony Stimatz and challenger Selma White-Kyles. The 4th Ward candidates included incumbents Johnnie Walton and Darius Horton and challengers Lena Hill-Lawrence and Jason Gillis.

Local attorney Mark Maland moderated the debate, posing questions from The Daily Advance's editorial staff plus the audience of nearly 100.

Divided on the city's spending, the candidates debated whether



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Anita Hummer, an incumbent 2nd Ward city councilor seeking re-election, answers a question during the candidates forum, Tuesday.

the city needed to raise property tax rates 2.5 cents this budget year, something that would cost someone with a house valued at \$100,000 another \$25 a year.

"None of them came up with any alternative" to the tax increase, said Hummer, a retired medical administrative assistant with nearly 20 years of council experience, referring to the three councilors who

voted against the city budget.

Hummer claimed she asked other city councilors for ways to shore up the \$280,000 in lost revenue that spurred the need for the tax increase during council's months-long budget process, but none did until after the fact.

Walton, a retired educator and

See FORUM, 8A

Attorney: No support for allegation against councilor

BY JON HAWLEY
Staff Writer

An outside investigator has found no support for a city employee's complaint of mistreatment by an Elizabeth City city councilor, the city's labor attorney said Tuesday.

John Leidy, of Hornthal, Riley, Ellis and Maland,

said the city has looked into all four complaints that city employees now have pending before the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Leidy declined to detail the allegations or who's involved, citing workplace confidentiality laws. However, he said all were separate, unrelated allegations

still under EEOC review. The complaints include allegations of discrimination, retaliation and, in one case, sexual harassment, according to city officials.

Three of the complaints involve employees alleging misconduct by supervisors, which the city denies occurred.

One complaint, however, includes a current city councilor that city staff and Leidy haven't identified. City councilors have either denied their involvement or declined comment on the complaint.

Leidy said the city brought in an outside attorney to review the allegation against a city councilor, investigating the rest internally. He declined to identify the outside attorney, but said the inquiry started in July and ended this month.

Leidy said the investigator found no support for the allegation, but the EEOC could be months away from reaching its own findings.

Roanoke Rapids police Chief Chuck Hasty said SBI agents arrested Ingram at his residence in Henrico, a community near Lake Gaston, early Thursday morning. Ingram was released after

Ingram, senator's husband, charged

■ State probation officer charged with attempted rape

BY WILLIAM F. WEST
Staff Writer

The husband of the state senator who represents Chowan County in the Legislature is due in court today on charges of attempted rape.

Maude Edwin Elliott Ingram, 49, a probation officer with N.C. Probation, was arrested last week after allegations surfaced that he had had inappropriate relationships with his probationers, the State Bureau of Investigation said in a prepared statement.

Ingram, husband of state Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram, D-Northampton, has been charged with one felony count of attempted second-degree rape, one felony count of obstruction of justice and one misdemeanor count of failing to make reports and discharge other duties, the SBI said in a statement issued Friday.

Smith-Ingram, who is in her first Senate term, couldn't immediately be reached for comment on Tuesday. In a statement issued to media outlets in Raleigh, however, Smith-Ingram said she had no knowledge of the basis for the claims against her husband. She trusts the judicial process, she said.

"At this time, I am not able to respond to media requests for information in regard to this ongoing investigation," Smith-Ingram said. "My family and I appreciate your prayers."

Roanoke Rapids police Chief Chuck Hasty said SBI agents arrested Ingram at his residence in Henrico, a community near Lake Gaston, early Thursday morning. Ingram was released after

See INGRAM, 8A



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