



THE CHOWAN HERALD



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ELECTRONIC MONITORING--Chowan Probation and Parole Officer Bob Roberson demonstrates the placement of the ankle sensor for the EHA system. The monitoring unit sits on the desk, connected to a push button telephone.

Electronics Used In Justice System

By JACK GROVE

A new tool in the North Carolina criminal justice system was put into effect in Chowan County this month for the first time. That tool is Electronic House Arrest (EHA).

The system allows judges an alternative to incarceration in less serious cases. The program is designed for misdemeanants, those convicted of DWI and some felons, based on suitability for the program.

Probation and parole officers supervise and monitor the system for those sentenced to house arrest.

In an interview this week Chowan County Probation and Parole Officer Bob Roberson described the system and outlined its advantages.

As an alternative to incarceration, it is intended to ease overcrowding of local jails and the prison system.

It also saves the justice system a lot of money. Figures from the Dept. of Crime Control and Public Safety show that imprisonment in state

institutions costs \$47.50 a day per inmate. Chowan Chief Jailer Walt Linhardt said the local cost per day per prisoner is \$37.

Cost per day for EHA is \$4.60 for the first year and less than \$2 a day thereafter.

The system consists of a monitor, hooked by telephone line from the home to a computer in Raleigh, and a small sensor strapped to the leg of the probation office's "client."

If the person moves a certain distance (kept confidential) away from the monitor, an automatic signal is sent to Raleigh. The computer there immediately notifies Roberson's field supervisor in Windsor and Roberson is in turn notified.

The Chowan officer said that if the client left the premises, it would be considered a probation violation, an arrest warrant would be obtained and a court probation violation hearing would be held.

There are several checks built into the system. The client must first provide a voice sample via telephone to the

Raleigh computer. In subsequent phone checks, the computer would be able to recognize his voice. "The voice is as accurate as a fingerprint," Roberson noted.

The computer automatically makes these voice checks during the day. If the phone is busy, the caller is notified to get off the line immediately in order for the check to take place.

Clients are allowed to hold jobs and the computer is programmed accordingly for the

periods of authorized absence.

Roberson makes weekly checks to the home to ensure the equipment has not been tampered with. He also must make a weekly check with the employer to verify the client has been on the job.

The ankle sensor is worn 24 hours a day and is attached so that it cannot be easily removed. It is completely waterproof, Roberson said.

Each EHA unit costs about \$2,000. However, "the unit can

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Man Caught At Scene

Break-In Cases Solved

Edenton Police caught a would-be thief in the act last Wednesday night during a break-in at George Chevrolet after receiving a telephone call from someone in the neighborhood.

Police Chief C.H. Williams said that Officers Wayne Forehand, Chris Joyner and Sgt. Joe Norman responded to the call and arrested Gerald Williams, 26, of Edenton, inside the building.

Williams had gained entry by breaking a window into a restroom, then crossed the repair shop and broke another window to gain access to the showroom.

According to the police chief, Williams then went to the second floor and walked a beam across the repair area to a floor above the parts department. It was there that he was taken into custody. The suspect hadn't had time to take anything of value and was charged with breaking and entering. He is in the Chowan

County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond.

Two other break-ins occurred early Friday morning. An officer on routine patrol discovered a broken side window at Golden Corral around 3 a.m. Chief Williams said

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POW Flag Is Donated

A special ceremony will be held at noon Monday in front of the new courthouse for a presentation of a POW flag to the county, Nancy Morgan of the County Manager's office announced yesterday.

The flag will be presented by Tom Hall, a pilot in Vietnam, who was a POW there for seven years. Hall is a resident of Center Hill.

The flag will fly under the American flag at the courthouse.

Banquet Plans Set

The public is invited to join the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce at its annual banquet Saturday, February 16.

The theme for the banquet will be "Keep the Troops in

Your Heart," in honor of the servicemen and women serving in Operation Desert Storm.

Tickets are available at the Chamber office or from any Chamber board member.

Citizens Concerns Are Quickly Acted On

Town officials wasted no time in taking action on concerns voiced by citizens at the first Town Meeting held last week at Swain Auditorium.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Kelly provided a list of things done as a result of the meeting. They included:

- Harry Smith had asked about a street light promised at the intersection of Fish Hatchery Road and West Queen St. extended. The light was installed Friday.

- Jesse Badham had pointed out a misspelling on a street sign at the intersection of Freemason and Oakum Sts. The sign read "Freemanson." The town manager commented, "We took that down immediately." Since a replacement sign in stock was also misspelled, she said a new one had to be ordered.

- Snooky Bond pointed to a traffic hazard on Dickinson St. where cars entering the street from parking lots of S&R and M.G. Brown were not stopping. Police Capt. G.K. Bonner obtained agreement from both companies to allow the street department to install stop signs on their property. The signs have been installed.

- Jeannette Dowd had indicated the need for trash receptacles on Broad Street from Hardees to the Post Office. Ms. Kelly said that permanent enclosures for trash cans had been ordered and that

some of the downtown receptacles would be replaced as well.

- Several people at the meeting expressed concern about speed limits on various

Fourth Defendant Released On Bond

By JACK GROVE

After 17 months in prison awaiting trial in the Little Rascals Day Care case, Kathryn Dawn Wilson, 24, was released on bond Thursday.

She joins three other defendants in the case out on bond: Shelley Alyce Stone, Robin Boles Byrum and Darlene Harris.

Mrs. Wilson, the mother of a three-year-old, is charged with sexually abusing 11 small children at the day care.

At a hearing in December, Mrs. Wilson's bond was reduced from \$800,000 to \$200,000. The lesser bond was met by surety bonds on property owned by family members.

At the December hearing, her attorney, Edward B. Simmons, asked Superior Court Judge D. Marsh McLelland to set a "reasonable bond" of from \$50,000 to \$100,000. He told the judge that it would "obviously be a year or more before my client can be tried." He said there was no evidence that she wouldn't appear for trial.

In arguing against the bond reduction, prosecutor Nancy Lamb said that alleged child victims, currently in therapy, felt safe while she was locked up. Mrs. Wilson, "poses a threat of intimidation to them" if they saw the defendant on the street.

As a special condition of the reduced bond, the judge ordered that, if released, she remain out of Chowan County.

Three other defendants remain jailed. They are Robert F. Kelly, Jr., his wife, Elizabeth T. Kelly, and Willard Scott Privott.

Robert Kelly is scheduled to be tried first in Farmville on April 8. No trial dates have been set for the others.

Court records indicate that District Attorney H.P. Willi-

ams has filed a motion for a hearing on whether attorney Jeffery L. Miller should be allowed to assist Robert Kelly's attorney, W. Michael Spivey, in his defense. Judge McLelland assigned Miller to Kelly's defense last month in a court order.

Miller is also the attorney for Robin Boles Byrum.

In his motion, Williams asks the court to determine if

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streets. In conjunction with Bill Skinner, street department director, a street survey was done by the police department and a map posted in the Town Hall lobby indicating suggested speed limits. These will be discussed at the Public Works Committee meeting on Monday, February 25 at 7 p.m. in the council chamber.

- Louise Smith said that piles of tree limbs and dead flower arrangements had been left at the cemetery and that some tombstones were lying on the ground. Ms. Kelly said that town officials met with the contractor responsible for cemetery maintenance and he removed the piles of material and promised to remove any trash collected in

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Public Hearings Lead Council Agenda

Town council led off its Tuesday evening meeting with four public hearings. No public comments were received. After each hearing was closed, council promptly passed the measure.

The first consisted of amendments to the town's 1988 Albemarle St. Community Development Block Grant program. It was explained that three houses, originally scheduled for demolition, would be transferred to rehabilitation status.

Also, surplus funds are available from the program which will be used to rehabilitate ten additional homes of families that qualify financially. One of the criteria to be used is proximity to the Albemarle St. target area.

Planning Board Chairwoman Gail Gieseke reported on refinements to the town's zoning map. She said that the "downtown commercial" zoning line would be moved to exclude two residences.

Concerning the Unified Development Ordinance, Mrs. Gieseke explained that minor changes and adjustments were made and in some sections the ordinance was "maybe too wordy." She said that the UDO committee

was meeting at least three times a month to ensure the ordinance was current and applicable.

After the final hearing, Chowan Hospital was given a green light to temporarily place a trailer on its property

to house the oncology clinic. The clinic has been located in a section of hospital rooms for two years. Hospital Administrator Barbara Cale told the council, "We need the patient rooms."

Mrs. Gieseke said the

Planning Board approved the placement for two years with the option of an additional six months.

Mayor John Dowd brought up the issue of possible consolidation of town and county

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Bloodmobile Scheduled

The Edenton Jaycees are hosting a Bloodmobile at the Edenton United Methodist Church on Monday, February 18, from 2-7 p.m.

With so many service personnel who have been regular blood donors now stationed in the Persian Gulf, the Red Cross is urgently seeking to make up these donations.

All eligible blood donors are encouraged to come out Monday afternoon and give a unit of blood.



HONORED--E.N. "Pete" Manning (left) and A.B. Harless were presented awards from the N.C. League of Municipalities Tuesday night by Mayor John Dowd. The awards recognized the service of the two former town councilmen.

Chamber Of Commerce Annual Banquet
Saturday, February 16, 1991 - 6:30 p.m.

Tickets Available at
the Chamber office or from
Chamber Board members

Banquet will honor
the troops in the Gulf
"Keep the Troops in Your Heart"