

The Chowan Herald

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Testimony begins in Rankins trial

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Before the evidence in Michael Rankins' trial was ever presented to the jury, Rankins questioned Interim Police Chief Greg Bonner's credibility. Bonner, who was a Captain with the Edenton Police Department at the time of the Royalty Finance robbery on March 14. Bonner led the investigation that resulted in Rankins' arrest on armed robbery charges.

Superior Court Judge Clifton Everett had sent the jury out of the courtroom before Rankins stated that his due process rights were violated at the time of a grand jury hearing when a court reporter was not present as Bonner presented the case he had against Rankins.

"I feel as though Captain Bonner lied to the jury to get me indicted," Rankins told the court. "I can't come in here and expect to receive a fair trial if I can't test his (Bonner's) credibility."

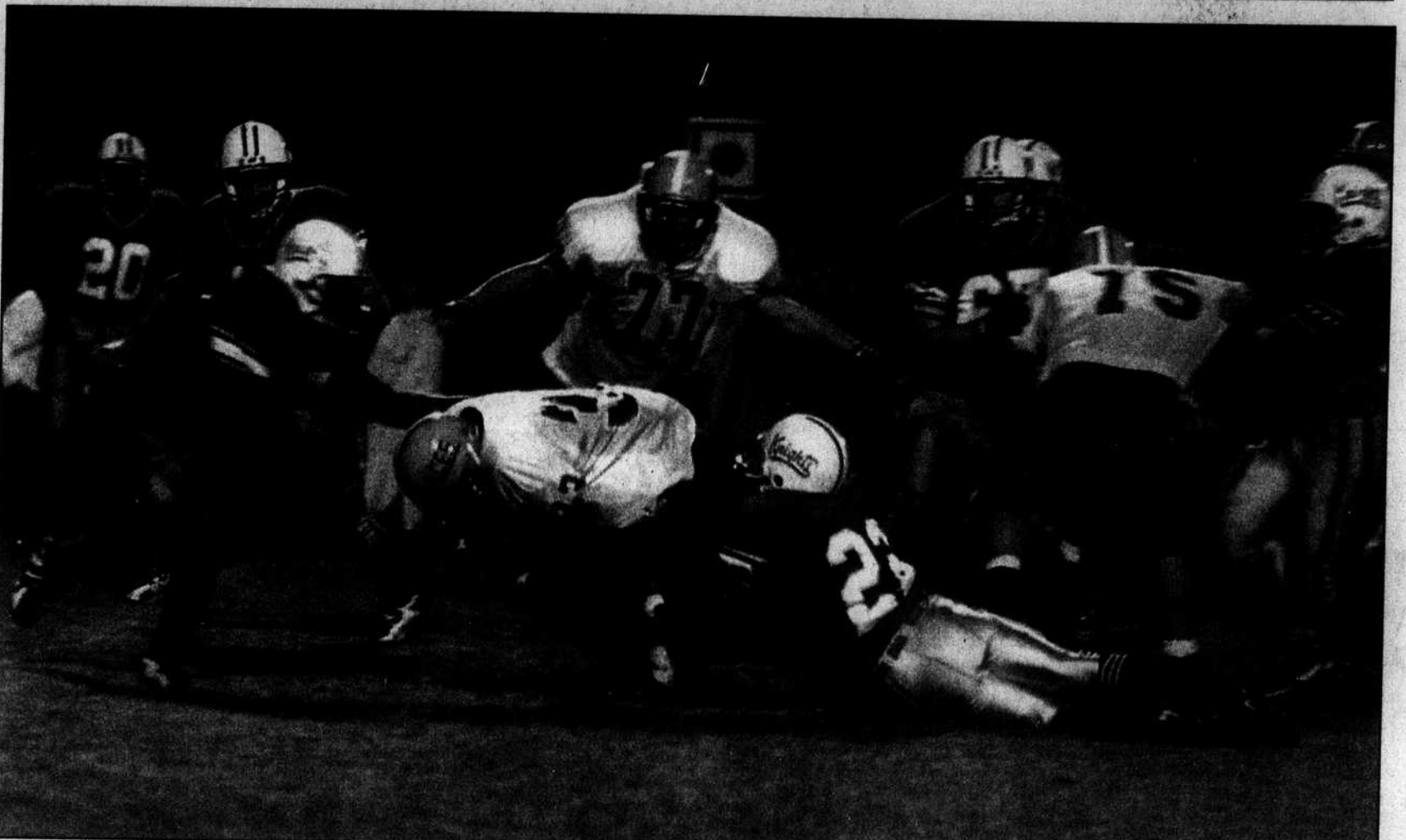
and his attorney, Hackney High, Jr. of Edenton, that only an investigative grand jury needs a court reporter present.

High then called Bonner to the witness stand to discuss the method in which Bonner presented three composite photograph lineups to Bishop Ali, owner of B.J.'s Coffee Shop on Broad Street, which—at the time of the robbery—was located just down the street from Royalty Finance. High wanted to suppress Ali's eyewitness identification of Rankins from the lineup Bonner presented to him on the afternoon of the robbery.

Everett denied High's motion to suppress Ali's testimony since he did not feel that the manner in which the photo lineup was presented to Ali was unduly suggestive.

After opening statements by High and prosecuting attorney Michael Johnson, four witnesses who were employed by Royalty Finance at the time of the robbery were called to tes-

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Currituck County's Demarcus Henderson hangs on to Edenton tailback Mitchell Stanley during Friday night's Northeastern-Albemarle Conference showdown in Barco. The Aces trounced Currituck 56-8 to clinch a playoff berth. (Cox NC Publications photo by J. Murphy Miller)

It's official: Edenton Aces earn entry to playoffs after championship win

BY AMY HARBER
Cox NC Publications
Sports Writer

Edenton Aces coach Jay Swicegood looked like he went for a dip in the Currituck Sound, but his drenched body wasn't due to the rain.

It was from his players dumping a cooler of water on him during the final moments of the Aces' 56-8 win over Currituck County in Barco Friday night to clinch a state playoff berth and the 2-A Northeastern-Albemarle Conference title.

A soaked Swicegood said his team fought hard to come back

from early season losses against bigger non-conference opponents.

"They enjoy getting people wet over here. That's what the kids enjoy," said Swicegood, whose team has beaten Currituck (6-4, 3-2) three straight years. "I told you last week how fun it is coaching right now and when you win it is fun, but this is a close group of kids and they work hard. I think when we were 2-3, our kids battled back and people wondered if we were a good football team, but we knew we were playing people tough. I think it made us a little bit stronger."

He added, "Currituck fought real hard tonight. They tried to make a game of it. I'm just proud of our kids as well because I think we came out aggressive, ready to play and it's a great feeling to win the conference championship tonight."

Edenton (7-3, 5-0) took advantage of five recovered fumbles, including one returned 10 yards for a touchdown by Wayne Downing with 7:31 left in the first quarter.

Swicegood and Currituck coach Donnie Simpson said the weather was a factor in the game.

"I felt confident that if we came out and did the thing that

we were capable of doing that we could win the ballgame," said Swicegood. "We got off to a good start. A lot of things went wrong for Currituck. The weather, I think, played into it a little bit. The loose balls that were there, we were able to pick up and make some things happen."

"I think it had a lot to do with the weather," Simpson said of the fumbles. "Of course, there towards the end, our fumbles came when we had a new quarterback and not getting a lot of exchanges there with the first-team center and the weather

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Election voter turnout low

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Turnout for yesterday's election was, as forecast, light. In spite of favorable weather, Edenton residents did not turn up at the polls in large numbers.

Chowan County Board of Elections Director Rebecca Lowe reported a light turnout, a mere 90 votes cast at Edenton precincts, by lunchtime.

"It's been real quiet," Lowe said. "No call-in votes in yet at all. Everything must be running smoothly."

With no bond issues on this year's ballot, and with all three town council races going un-

contested, Lowe said voter apathy, for the most part, had been expected.

Councilmen Jerry Parks, at-large incumbent, Jerald Perry, 3rd Ward incumbent and Willis Privott, 4th Ward incumbent were re-elected for another four years on the Edenton Town Council.

All three council members are Democrats.

According to Lowe, the East Edenton precinct saw a little more voter activity since the majority of both the 3rd Ward and 4th Ward voters go to the polls there. The difference, Lowe said, was minor.

"It has been a quiet day," she said.



USHERING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Those doing a little early Christmas shopping found lots of beautiful things -- and some very reasonable prices -- during the National Guard Ladies Auxiliary-sponsored annual craft show and sale on Saturday. Even the nasty weather early that morning couldn't keep the crowd away as they were treated to the products of some of the most gifted craftspeople and cooks in the area. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch) (Related photos on page 1-B)

Veterans Day ceremony nears

The seventh annual Veterans Day Program will be held at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial in Edenton on Nov. 11, at 11 a.m.

Guest speaker will be Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton. Music will be provided by Lynn Bundy and prayer by Jean Halsey.

Local veterans' organizations will lay wreaths at the memorial, and citizens are also in-

vited to lay wreaths in memory of loved ones if they wish.

For more information, call George Stokes at 482-8572.

American Legion Post 40 will also be having a flag retirement ceremony that evening at sunset.

"All those who have flags to be retired with honor, please bring them to the Post Home, located on West Queen Street in Edenton," Stokes said.

Notice

Due to computer-related difficulties, some subscribers of The Chowan Herald may be late in receiving this week's paper.

We are working to repair the problem, and will have papers in the mail as soon as possible. Home delivery should not be affected.

We deeply regret any inconvenience to our readers.



Mary Jo Sellers and Susan Wood meet at the Barker House to discuss plans for this year's Christmas Candlelight Homes Tour weekend, scheduled for Dec. 12-14. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)

Candlelight Tour tickets now on sale

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Susan Wood and Mary Jo Sellers will again chair the annual Christmas Candlelight Tour, scheduled for the weekend of Dec. 12-14. The tour is sponsored by the Edenton Historical Commission.

Twelve Edenton homes will be included on the tour. While most of the homes are located on East and West King and Blount Streets, there will also be homes on Blount Street and Pembroke Circle included.

"I think we have a good mix-

ture of historical and contemporary homes for people to see and enjoy," said Wood. "We think the tour is going to be a very good one, and we are also excited about the other events that will be going on for people to enjoy that weekend."

Those events will include the Edenton Christmas Parade, scheduled for Saturday morning, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m. and the Chowan Arts Council's "A Grand Time for Christmas," on Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. at Swain Auditorium.

There will also be the traditional Wassail Bowl and Groan-

ing Board from 1-5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. A new feature this year will be the addition of a Holiday Repast at the Barker House which will also be held at the same time. Those events will be free to the public.

"This is my first time working with something like this...with such wonderful organizers as Susan and Mary Jo, I feel sure it will be a very memorable experience," said Ginny Culpepper, Barker House manager.

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Sunday,
Nov. 9

Many Groups
Performing

The Great Habitat Gospel Sing
Sponsored by Habitat for Humanity

Free Admission
Love Offering

Swain
Auditorium