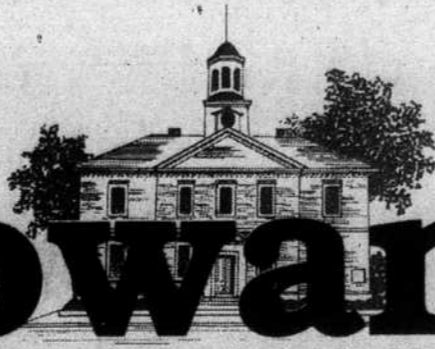


The Chowan Herald



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Violent encounter ends in stabbing of local man

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A quarrel between a pair of local men apparently escalated into a violent encounter, leaving 35-year-old Thomas Simons laying in his own blood after being stabbed with a butcher knife.

Simons was found by police late Sunday night at 202 E. Gale St., sprawled on his back in the front yard of the residence with

blood coming from the upper-left side of his body, soaking his shirt. Edenton Police Officer Curtis Liverman questioned Simons at the scene. Simons indicated that he had been stabbed.

In his report, Liverman wrote that Simons stated he had been stabbed by his neighbor, 49-year-old William Wilson. Both men reside in apartments at 103 N. Oakum St., said Edenton patrol officer Rhonda

Copeland.

"Apparently, the two of them had gotten into an altercation at William Wilson's apartment," Copeland said. Wilson allegedly stabbed Simons with the five-inch-long blade of a butcher knife, piercing Simons' left lung. Simons then fled Wilson's apartment and made his way to East Gale Street

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Three arrested on drug charges

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A New Year's Eve party turned sour for revelers last Thursday night when police officers showed up with a search warrant which resulted in the arrest of three Edenton men on drug charges.

According to Edenton Police Officer Rhonda Copeland, the 134 E. Gale St. residence had been the target of an ongoing

investigation by police. Copeland said that residents had been calling police for several months identifying the home as a hotbed for drug activity.

"Many of the calls we received said there was a constant flow of traffic going in and out of the residence," said Copeland. "People were apparently walking up to the house, riding up on bikes or in cars, and staying for a few seconds

and then leaving."

Police showed up at the residence just before midnight on New Year's Eve and arrested Kelsey Boston, Lorenzo Pulliam and Daryl Boyce on drug charges. According to Copeland, Kelsey Boston lived at the residence with his girlfriend, Sharon Hoffer, and Hoffer's two children - both under 10 years-old. Neither

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SONS OF LEGION DONATE TALKING BEAR

Chowan Hospital Administrator Barbara Cale (center) accepts the "Spinoza Bear" from Richard Campbell (left) and Merrill Perry (right) on behalf of the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 40 in Edenton. The talking bear will be utilized with pediatric in-patients and at the hospital's Skilled Nursing Unit. The Sons of the American Legion support several local agencies with causes ranging from scholarships to Operation Santa Claus.



Bryan Bass faces East as George Midgett ties the official Masonry apron for the office of Senior Warden during the Mason's installation ceremony Saturday night. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

Kirkland named new Lodge Master for '99

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Since the Middle Ages, Masonry has brought men together in a close-knit fraternity in which they could share values and conversation behind closed doors.

Saturday night, the local chapter of Masons, Unanimity Lodge No. 7, opened their doors to the public for a memorial service and installation of new lodge officers. Nearly 50 people climbed upstairs to the Mason's official chamber room for the hour-long event. The local lodge was chartered in 1775 and now boasts 125 members.

During the installation ceremony, Fred Kirkland was named lodge master for 1999 in a time-honored ceremony presided over by Bill Goodwin, a former lodge master himself and a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge.

"We're all here because we love Masonry," Kirkland said after all the new officers had been installed. "And we hope you're here because you love

us," he told family members on hand for the event.

Kirkland stated that Masonry goals in North Carolina are to raise moral, social, and intellectual levels in society by preserving and promoting the Mason's practices. And Masonry is no longer tied strictly to Christianity. All religions all welcome into Freemasonry. Members only need to be at least age 21 believe in a higher power, Kirkland said.

"We're not a religious organization by any means," he said.

Kirkland said that becoming a Mason does not involve any special qualifications beyond the desire to become a Mason and being allowed to do so by lodge members.

"To become a Mason, you have to ask to join," he said. "Mason's aren't allowed to ask prospective members to join."

Jim Kerr phrased the membership situation in Masonry terms.

"We have a saying," Kerr said. "'To be one, aks one.'"

Officers for 1999 installed

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Preserving rural history goal of new plan

As the South becomes a veritable melting pot for those individuals seeking a less-urbanized style of life, southern culture is in jeopardy of fading like wallpaper in direct, bright sunlight.

But a statewide initiative labeled Heritage Tourism seeks to preserve the rural histories of North Carolinians who have come and gone. Locally, the opportunity to enhance economic development with a heavier tourist trade may be outweighed by the chance to have still-living residents reveal their own colorful pasts and historic landmarks to visitors.

Monday afternoon, Heritage Tourism officials met with Yeopim residents to discuss a push to involve their community in the new plan. According to Tourism Development Authority Director Nancy Nicholls, Heritage Tourism relies strongly on local support.

"You want it to be a community, grassroots situation," Nicholls said shortly after the 90-minute meeting with some of Yeopim's elders concluded. Many family histories and narratives have not been written down over the decades and centuries. Future generations may not have access to the oral accounts currently available.

"It's really involving what we have in our county to tell a



(From left) Marion Jones, Francis Inglis, Beulah Wadsworth and Earl Wadsworth met with members of the local Heritage Tourism board Monday afternoon to discuss ways to bring the Yeopim community into a lasting relationship with the tourism initiative. A public meeting is planned for the spring, where ideas gathered at Monday's and other meetings will be openly discussed. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

story (to visitors)," she said of the initiative. "A lot of history has taken place that we don't even know about. We want to not lose it all."

Recently, the local board charged with overseeing the

program divided Chowan County into four sectors: Upper township (northern Chowan), middle township (Valhalla and surrounding communities), the Town of Edenton, and Yeopim. Mon-

day's meeting with was Nicholls' and fellow board member Nancy Morgan's method of brainstorming for ideas with Yeopim residents.

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Opening of new school, hospital lease big news

Naming of police chief, school supt. also newsworthy

Along with naming a new police chief, school superintendent, and the opening of a new elementary school, the leasing of Chowan Hospital to a Greenville-based health-care company was big news here in 1998.

In late January, the county hospital board requested that County Commissioners consider leasing the publicly-owned hospital to a larger health-care provider to ensure that Chowan Hospital would remain a viable facility in upcoming years. In June, commissioners named Pitt County Memorial Hospital and Province HealthCare as the two finalists from a list of five bid-

ders seeking to lease Chowan Hospital. On Aug. 10, Pitt was unanimously chosen by the county board to lease the lease the hospital, and took control of day-to-day operations in November after the closing of a 30-year, \$30 million deal.

On March 10, Dr. Allan Smith was named by the county school board to replace outgoing school superintendent Dr. John Dunn. Dunn retired from his post on June 30 after heading the Edenton-Chowan School System for 22 years.

Also that month, Edenton Police Captain Gregory Bonner was named to the department's top post after serving five months as Interim Police Chief. Bonner, an Edenton native, was sworn in as chief - the first African-American to officially head the department - on April 2, culminating his 24 years as a police officer in Edenton.

The new White Oak Elementary School moved a few miles

south on state Highway 32 from its former location, accepting students on the first day of school in August. The new school, built by M.B. Kahn Construction Company, was lauded by local school officials at a grand-opening ceremony just prior to the students' arrival.

Other top stories for 1998 included:

• On Jan. 7, the Village Creek Homeowners Association filed a complaint against a group of Edenton officials in protest of the town's approval to rezone a tract of land on Coke Avenue for a proposed subdivision, Colonial Village. Superior Court Judge Richard Parker dismissed the complaint in June, citing a "lack of subject matter jurisdiction" in the case. Construction has yet to begin at the 23.3-acre site.

• On Martin Luther King Day, Jan. 19, nearly two inches of snow fell in Edenton and Chowan County. Although rain

would wash away the snow a few hours later, the brief accumulation was the area's only measurable snowfall during the winter of 1997-1998.

• On Feb. 2, county, school and town officials gathered with representatives of the Coastal Plain League at Hicks Field to announce that the league would sponsor a collegiate summer league team in Edenton during the 1998 season.

• On Feb. 27, the Edenton Holmes Lady Aces basketball team clinched the Northeastern-Albemarle Conference post-season title by trouncing Northside, upping the team's unbeaten record to 25-0. Edenton had earlier clinched the NAC's regular-season title. The Lady Aces would fall to East Duplin 64-41 on March 14 in the state 2-A East Regional Finals at Greenville Rose High

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