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Contributed photo courtesy of Jimmy Patterson, Town of Edenton

Edenton Bay surged onto East Water Street Saturday evening as a tropical storm blew through Chowan County. Though not as devastating as Hurricane Isabel, Charley caused widespread power outages in the area.

Charley churns through Chowan

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Tropical Storm Charley had lost much of its punch by the time it arrived in Edenton Saturday, but the former hurricane still dealt a blow to the town.

The storm that caused at least 16 deaths in South Florida, where it roared in off the Gulf of Mexico as a Category 4 hurricane, blew in from the Albemarle Sound late Saturday, pushing Edenton Bay onto the waterfront and scattering tree limbs.

"The ground was so wet from the enormous amount of rain we've had, I surprised, quite frankly, we did not have more trees to come down," Knighton said. Approximately two feet of storm surge came in from the Sound and temporarily flooded East Water Street. Public Works Director Jimmy Patterson reported that employees were clearing catch basins of debris during the height of the surge.

In addition, winds as high as 68 mph were reported.

"The southern end of the county appeared to suffer the

brunt of the storm," Knighton said. "At least a dozen spans of line were torn down from falling trees in Cape Colony and on Popular Neck Road. Two tree limbs fell on lines in Town, one near Moseley Street and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and one near the Edenton Baptist Church parking lot on West Eden Street. Once those tree limbs were cleared, electric power was restored to most customers inside the city limits. Electric crews were able to isolate areas where lines were down, and gradually restored power

to customers as spans of new lines were repaired."

Town power workers began efforts to repair the electric system at about 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Power was fully restored to approximately 1,500 customers by 7 a.m. Sunday, Knighton said. Utility crews from Greenville also assisted in restoring power, she added.

Knighton said the Town learned a great deal about preparedness after Hurricane Isabel. In anticipation of Hurricane Charley, the Town

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Bird fouls up power grid

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Just two days after Tropical Storm Charley left many residents in the dark, the Town of Edenton's electric system was shut down by a bird.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said Tuesday morning that officials found a "dead (fried) bird in our substation" Monday night. The wayward bird knocked out power at approximately 7:25 p.m.

"Electric Department personnel immediately went to the substation on Freemason (Street)," Knighton said, "and quickly determined that Dominion Power's transformer that feeds our substation had kicked out."

A call was then placed to a Dominion Power service technician who lives in Belvidere, Knighton said. The power company's Norfolk, Va.-based operations center was also contacted by town officials.

"They were aware of the outage and were awaiting diagnosis from the service technician," Knighton said.

Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland drove to the Cotton Mill neighborhood, on

the south side of town, where power was in service, which meant Dominion Power had power at its substation.

The technician reset the switch to the town's transformer shortly after 8 p.m., Knighton said.

"We question why Dominion's transformer was on what is called 'one-shot,'" Knighton said of the custom of a system having three times to "clear" by "resetting itself."

"We asked the technician why Dominion's (transformer) was on one shot," she added, "(and he said) he did not know and directed me to call the 'higher ups,' which I am doing this morning."

In addition, the town is looking at installing bird-prevention devices at electric substations.

"Even though this the first time we can remember a bird taking out the entire system," Knighton added, "we think it worth it to check out. I have learned today (Tuesday) that there are devices that makes noises that some utilities have had success with, another options is to install some type of cage."

Local woman found dead of gunshot wound

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A Sandy Ridge Road woman was found dead in her home Aug. 11 and authorities have issued a warrant charging her husband with first-degree murder.

Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill said last Friday that Anita Jackson Leary, who worked at a pair of Edenton restaurants, was found at her home with an apparent gunshot wound. Investigators had not received results of an autopsy by Friday.

Authorities are searching for her husband, Cornelius

Leary. He had been released from prison in 2003 after serving 11 years of a 20 sentence for common law robbery, the sheriff said Friday. The couple reportedly had married in March.

The family did not immediately report Anita Leary missing, Spruill said, because she worked two jobs — Pizza Hut and Snooker's Grill.

She hadn't been seen for several days until her body was found last week.

Anyone with any information about the incident call Chowan County Sheriff's Office Investigator Dwayne Goodwin at 482-8484.

Dr. Slade will be remembered for selflessness

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Managing Editor

Edenton lost one of its most beloved citizens when James N. Slade, M.D., died Saturday morning after a two-year battle with cancer. For almost 40 years, he practiced pediatrics and general medicine for those who could pay, and those who couldn't, at the same small office he opened in downtown Edenton in 1965.

Born Sept. 7, 1930 in Edenton to the late Alonzo V. Slade and Martha Bemridge Slade, he began the private practice of Pediatrics and Adult Medicine in Edenton in March 1965 and continued through December 2003. He was on the staff of



Dr. James N. Slade

Chowan Hospital for 38 years. He also was clinician at clinics

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SHOWS PROMISE

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

At-risk students have another terrific program to help them with their reading. The Ivy Reading AKAdemy, sponsored by the NC Arts Council Grassroots Grant program, assists second and third graders to help pass the North Carolina End of Grade Tests. The AKAdemy has been in effect for about three years now and was implemented by the Nu Eta Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc alumni. Todne Bemby is the coordinator of the program with four other dedicated volunteers, Jolyquin Belfield, Ruby Webb, Mary Lewis, and Bettie Bemby.

Todne Bemby initiated the grant that rose the program to where it is today. "This is Alpha Kappa Alpha's way to help the reading initiative started with Bush's 'No Child Left Behind' legislation. There should be an Ivy Reading AKAdemy in every city or small town where there is an AKA alumni chapter. We aim to help the students with their reading



James Williams

through the use of African American poetry, illustrators, and prose," Bemby said. The most recent program began in January 2004 and ended June 1, 2004. The programs were held every Monday and Wednesday after school. Participants were hand-selected to participate in the curriculum by Debbie Webb.

"Kids need to be encouraged because their surroundings are so negative," said Brenda Benjamin DeBona, Assistant Director of the Chowan County Arts Council. "They need to be encouraged to see beyond their humble surroundings. The world is their oyster; all they need to do is reach forward and grab."

The program this year had phenomenal success. Each student came determined and committed to get what they came for. One student in particular went the extra mile, literally. James Williams, now a fourth grader, has been in the program for one year. He began when he was in the 2nd grade and ended when he was in 3rd. Williams missed only one session at the Reading AKAdemy, because he was sick with the flu and couldn't find the strength to walk home afterwards. Usually James walks from the old D.F. Walker (where the program is held) to his house one mile away.

But James didn't become discouraged because of the distance nor the struggle. Instead James seemed driven by a force that took him to excellence. James began to read at a faster pace, love poetry and prose and set goals for himself. James became the first student of the program to score fours on all of his EOG tests!

James, now a rising fourth

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Council plans review of proposed dog ordinance

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

The Edenton Town Council has decided to review a move of placing stringent guidelines on viscous dogs before deciding whether or not to adopt a new ordinance.

During its Aug. 10 meeting, council delayed taking action on the proposed ordinance. In a memo to council, Town Manager Anne-Marie highlighted a few issues

the ordinance would need to address.

Owners of a "potentially vicious" dog would have to obtain a \$50,000 public liability insurance policy, under the proposed ordinance.

"We have been in touch with various local insurance agents," Knighton wrote, "and have learned that it is virtually impossible to purchase such a policy for potentially vicious dogs. So, it appears that council needs to decide if it wishes

to keep this insurance provision in the ordinance or delete it."

Aggressive dogs — specifically those with a history of biting people — would be required to be microchipped, and muzzled when off their owner's property.

Dogs on the "black list" for the proposed ordinance include: Pit bulls, Staffordshire bull, American pit bull terrier,

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Locals to aid Florida

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Managing Editor

Watching television coverage of the devastation visited upon Florida by Hurricane Charley over the weekend brought back a lot of memories for Chowan County residents - vivid memories of loss and destruction brought to our community last fall by Hurricane Isabel. But local residents are not dwelling on those thoughts; instead, they are hard at work trying to fill an 18-wheeler that they hope can be sent from Chowan County to Florida later this week.

The truck will deliver the supplies to Venice, Florida just north of Fort Myers. There they will be turned over to the South Venice Baptist Church and its pastor, David Burgess, for distribution to those in need.

The drive was organized by two local women, Peggy Dees and Felisa Bass. Bass said she

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