

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Whitehurst Chowan County Law Officer of the Year

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

Jim Coman relaxed his tough exterior as he spoke of those who have fallen while serving their community and country.

Coman, a senior deputy with the state Attorney General's Office and former state prosecutor, praised law enforcement and court officials during his address at the annual Chowan County Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet last week.

"They dedicate their lives to the highest of principles," Coman said.

But public perception of badge-wearing officers of the law has waned in recent years, he said. Mostly, Coman said, that is the result of a few unscrupulous cops bringing down the valor of the majority.

Good officers reach out to the community they serve, he said.

"I'm preaching to the choir when I say that," Coman told the representatives from the 28 law enforcement and judi-



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Clerk of Court Mike McArthur, right, congratulates Deputy Sheriff and School Resource Officer Greg Whitehurst, who was named Chowan County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

cial agencies on hand for the banquet.

He said good officers know how to uphold the laws they are paid and sworn to uphold.

"Duty is acting for the highest respect of the law,"

Coman said during his 24-minute keynote speech.

It's also a very dangerous occupation, he added.

"A law enforcement officer surely knows there are bad people in this world," he said. They "never know what des-

perate or frenzied criminal they may be facing" on a given day.

Two such officers were honored during the banquet. State Highway Patrol Trooper Kevin Briggs was named officer of the year by

the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club, which awards officers for their work with youths.

Briggs used an analogy based on his father's occupation, boat-building. Briggs likened the support other courts and judicial give to his profession. He said cops are the wood, and the courts are the glue that makes the judicial boat float.

"Now matter how pretty a boat is," Briggs added, "the strongest part is the glue. ... Without that backing, we're nothing."

Briggs, who was tapped for a similar honor last year, was humbled by the award.

"It's certainly a pleasant surprise," said Briggs, who was named Chowan County Officer of the Year in 2003.

That award went to Chowan County Sheriff's Office Deputy Greg Whitehurst this year. Whitehurst is the school resource officer at John A. Holmes High School, a job he's held for seven years.

"That's something I really enjoy doing," said White-

hurst, who was joined by his family near the podium.

But it hasn't always been a 9-to-5 shift for him.

"I've been through a lot," the 21-year law enforcement veteran said.

A former winner of the top cop award praised Whitehurst's ability to connect with the high school students he serves.

"He can identify with the school kids real well," said Chowan County Clerk of Superior Court Mike McArthur, who presented the award to Whitehurst.

McArthur, who took home the award in 1978 while with the state Highway Patrol, recalled his days working with Whitehurst, who began his career with the Edenton Police Department in 1983.

"He and I went through some really tough things together," McArthur said. "I admire him a lot. Everybody likes Greg Whitehurst."

About 250 people turned out for the Oct. 21 banquet at the Edward G. Bond Post 40 of the American Legion building in Edenton.

## Murder suspects from Edenton charged

BY JAMES-CLIFTON SPIRES  
Cox NC Publications

Three Edenton residents are in custody facing first-degree murder charges in connection with the July shooting death of Elizabeth City teen-ager Leugene Gerard Blount.

Elizabeth City Police Capt. Frank Koch said the suspects include:

- Marcus Paul Turner, 22, of Apartment 80, Chowan Court; Dekendrick Danell Brown, 24, of 122 Cox Avenue; and

- Regina Renee Bond, 22, of 114 Reginald & Mary Avenue.

Turner was served with an arrest warrant at Chowan County Detention Center where he was being held on an unrelated charge, Koch said. Both Brown and Bond were arrested at 302 E. Colonial Ave., Elizabeth City, early Friday morning, and are currently being held without bond at Albemarle District



Turner



Brown



Bond

Jail. All three are due for first appearance hearings in Pasquotank County District Court on Monday.

Koch declined to say what information led police to make the arrests, and would not say which of the three suspects is suspected of firing the gun which killed the 19-year-old Blount at his mother's mobile home on Liberator Street July 24.

The police captain also declined to give a motive for the shooting.

"They're acquainted with

each other," Koch said. "Everybody knows everybody. But they're not known associates of each other."

Koch did say the police investigation is continuing and that other arrests are possible.

The Edenton Police Department confirmed Friday afternoon that Turner was being held in the Chowan County Detention Center on charges of felonious breaking and entering, larceny after a breaking-and-entering and possession of stolen goods for an Oct. 20 break-in in Edenton.

According to the Pasquotank County Clerk of Court's office, all three of the suspects have criminal records. Turner was convicted in February 2002 for simple assault and carrying a concealed weapon. Brown has pending charges of felony possession of cocaine and carrying a concealed weapon, both in connection with an Aug. 1 incident, and is scheduled for court appearances on those charges on Dec. 2 and Nov. 4, respectively.

Bond was charged with attempted robbery in connection with a Dec. 2, 2002 incident and pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of common law robbery on June 10, 2003, receiving 36 months probation. On Jan. 14 of this year, she was found guilty of violating her probation, which was continued.

The night he was shot to death, Blount - who had just

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## Commissioners meet in restored courthouse

BY EARLINE WHITE  
Staff Writer

As a part of the historic reopening of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners will once again take residence in the grand structure.

According to the proclamation signed and adopted on October 4, 2004 at the last County Commissioner's meeting, the 1767 Courthouse has historically served as the center of government in Chowan County. The Board of Commissioners met in the Panel Room of the courthouse until September 1977.

Now that the courthouse is fully accessible to all citizens of Chowan County and possesses a greater seating capacity than the present location in the newer courthouse, the

Chowan County Board of Commissioners established the 1767 Courthouse Panel Room as their official meeting location.

"I think that the 1767 courthouse symbolizes Chowan County throughout the state," said Cliff Copeland, County Manager. "The courthouse is basically a symbol of the top-elected officials and I believe that the Commissioners should meet there. It will serve as a better meeting place with a larger capacity for the public. Plus, with the courthouse being so close to all the staff it will facilitate effectively in the running of meetings," Copeland added.

This relocation of the County Commissioners will be effective for the November 1, 2004 meeting which starts at 9 a.m.

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### Fall Back!

Daylight Saving Time  
Ends Sunday, October 31.  
Don't forget to move the  
clocks back one hour.

## Parton may bring live music show to region

BY EARLINE WHITE  
Staff Writer

If country music fans had their way, there would be a live music show every night. Such a destination may be a possibility in the near future if plans work out for one country singer. Randy Parton, a versatile musician and brother to country megastar, Dolly Parton, will be in northeastern North Carolina later this week to lend his friendship and expertise in evaluating whether the northeast region of North Carolina is capable of supporting a theater district.

Parton, who currently performs at Dollywood, a theme park in Tennessee, was contacted by President/C.E.O



Randy and Dolly Parton

Rick Watson of the North Carolina's Northeast Partnership, Inc. two years ago. "We recruited Randy because of

his incredible versatility and knowledge inside of the music industry. Randy's career includes traveling on the road

for 15 years and 5 years at the current venue in Pigeon Forge, and has made numerous contacts that could encourage those artists to come to the area," Watson said.

"We are now looking at the entire region including the area on I-95, Martin County, Dare County, Southeast Virginia and Currituck County in which to place such an entertainment district. I believe that Currituck County would be the premiere sight, but we are considering lots of other areas as well."

"This is a project Rick and I started discussing years ago," said Wayne Leary, Economic Developer for Currituck County.

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## Trick or Treat Downtown

BY EARLINE WHITE  
Staff Writer

Trick or Treat Downtown will take place Saturday, October 30 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. The event is sponsored by Market Place Guild and the Edenton Main Street Program.

"We picked Saturday for two reasons," said Ashley Misseri, President of the Market Place Guild. "For one, we wanted to promote businesses downtown and

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North Carolina's Northeast Partnership, Inc.  
WELCOMES RANDY PARTON

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