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FINAL RESULTS
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ACES Special Playoff Edition, Section C
DREAM TEAM

Town gets tough with property owner

From Staff Reports

Edenton officials are poised to take action in cleaning up an eyesore on the east part of town.

Known as Harris Shopping Center, and located at the intersection of North Broad Street and Paradise Road, the site has been deteriorating for years. The Chowan Herald received a letter to the editor several months ago that was critical of the town's adoption of a residential parking ordinance. The author wanted the town to clean up sites such as the nearly abandoned shopping center.

"The resident was right in the sense that we needed to take action to abate the Harris nuisance," Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said.

Edenton-Chowan County building inspections conducted checks of the property "and found numerous safety code violations," Knighton said.

"We deemed the safety issues to be such that we disconnected utilities and ordered tenants to vacate the property," she said.

The property owners have met with town officials "and outlined their plan of action," she said. Knighton said the property owners are working with a potential buyer who reportedly would either demolish and rebuild, or repair the site for commercial use.

"We gave the property owners until the end of February to receive a demolition permit from the Edenton-Chowan Inspections and Planning Department and present sufficient documentation that a contract has been entered into, with a firm completion date, for the immediate demolition and removal of the building," Knighton said.

As an alternative to demolition, the owner may, prior to

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*Be part of the solution: **America Recycles Day** is Monday, November 15.*

Remember what you recycle today could return in many forms tomorrow.

Chowan Herald file photo

The wreath-laying ceremony is one of the most moving parts of the annual Veterans Day ceremony held each year at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial. This year's ceremony will take place this Thursday morning at 11 a.m.

Veterans Day ceremony planned for tomorrow at Memorial site

BY RON GREEN
Commander
American Legion Post 40

This month marks the annual occasion to remember those who have served our country and those who continue to serve. In honor of those soldiers, Chowan County will hold a Veteran's Day Celebration November 11 at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial starting at 11 a.m.

See related story on American Legion memorial bricks on page 3-A

The speaker for the celebration will be Chowan County resident Tom Hall, former US Navy jet fighter pilot and POW of the Vietnam War.

The color guard will be the John A. Holmes high school ROTC unit. Memorial wreaths will be placed by American Legion Post 40 and any other patriotic and Veterans' organizations.

Soloist for the event will be Lynn Bundy who will perform the "Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America". Bagpiper, John O'Conner of Chesapeake, VA and

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Detectives discuss strategies used to deal with crimes

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Crime statistics can be as difficult to pin down as end-of-grade test scores.

But crime stats in Edenton point to a certainty, police officer Brian Ferraraccio said last week: Arrests are up because there are more officers hitting the streets.

With about 50 people on hand for the monthly meeting of the Edenton Discussion group at Acoustic Coffee, Ferraraccio rolled out numbers to support his claim.

Through the end of September, the first 274 days of the year, police received 7,516 calls, made 404 arrests and issued 361 citations. Those numbers are comparable to the 2003 figures.

"We have a pretty good hold on crime," he said. "Crime is pretty well in check."

The same appears to be true across the state. According to the SBI's annual crime report, reported crimes dipped by 2.4 percent in 2003. Violent crime fell by 5.3 percent.

Ferraraccio's numbers included:

- 75 reported cases of breaking and entering
- 18 public drunk arrests
- 40 drug arrests
- 90 larcenies
- 49 assaults
- 26 domestic violence arrests
- nine robberies
- two rapes
- one murder

Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill said his department tends to focus on the

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Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Weapons, drugs and a large cache of fake social security cards were recovered by Edenton Police at a Church Street residence. They are currently seeking the man who lives there, **Arturo Calzada "Bronco" Baeza**, as a suspect in the case.

Authorities investigating death of Edenton man on Hwy. 17

BY RYAN BURR
Cox NC Publications

An Edenton man was killed early Friday when a vehicle struck him from behind while he was walking south on U.S. Highway 17, about five miles south of Hertford, a state Highway Patrol sergeant said.

William Edward Bond Jr., 33, of East Peterson Street, was killed instantly from injuries sustained by the collision and thrown onto the median, said Sgt. Tom Griffin. Based on vehicle debris left at the scene, authorities now believe it was a light color Toyota Camry made between 1994 and 1997 which struck Bond and left the scene. Authorities believe the car was also driving south on the highway.

Griffin said Bond had left a newly reopened nightclub - formerly called Hillcrest - a few miles south of Hertford just before 2 a.m., according to witnesses there. Bond was reportedly heading back to Edenton, as were several other patrons that night, but he did not have a driver's license or a car.

The accident occurred about a mile and a half south of the club at around 3 a.m., Griffin said. Bond's body lay in the road for hours until a passing motorist reported the situation to the Highway Patrol just before 7 a.m. Also responding to the scene were the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office and Perquimans Emergency Medical Service.

Griffin said authorities suspect Bond had been drinking, but they have not seen the blood alcohol results of an autopsy which was performed Friday afternoon.

Authorities could not say for certain that the driver did not stop after the accident to check on Bond, Griffin said. There are no tire marks on the road where the impact occurred, so Griffin said it is likely the car did not slow before hitting Bond. Although Bond's body was found on the road, it has not been confirmed whether the car struck Bond on the road or just off the road. There are no tire marks in the grass from the Toyota, however, Griffin said.

A crime scene reconstructionist with the Highway Patrol will conduct a detailed investigation of the events before, during and after the fatal accident, Griffin said.

The owner of the club and security staff knew Bond by name, Griffin said, but they don't know for certain if he came by himself or with others Thursday night.

There is no indication that Bond was involved in any altercation with people at the club, Griffin said, adding that the owner "can't figure out why (Bond) would have been walking" to Edenton.

"We're still trying to get up with some of the folks" who may have seen Bond on Thursday, Griffin said. "We are scratching the surface to see what we can come up with."

The Highway Patrol asks that anyone who recently talked with Bond or who has information about the incident please call their office at (252) 331-4749.

Staff photo by Earline White

William Edward Bond Jr. is believed to have spent his final hours at the Hillcrest Club a few miles south of Hertford. The body of the Edenton man was found on Hwy. 17 Friday.

Suspect being sought in weapons, Social Security fraud case

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Edenton police are looking for a West Church Street man charged with selling drugs, possessing illegal weapons, and Social Security fraud.

On Nov. 5, police and probation officers raided the residence of Arturo Calzada "Bronco" Baeza, 34, of 314 W. Church St, after obtaining a search warrant.

The search was conducted after a 3-month investigation by police detectives, according to a press release.

Police seized more than one pound of marijuana, cocaine, two illegal firearms, and hundreds of forged Social Security cards, resident alien cards, and fake IDs. Investigators also seized a large amount of equipment used in making fake IDs, the press release stated.

Police were still searching for Baeza Tuesday.

"This is just a continued effort by the Edenton Police Department to rid the Town of Edenton of crime," police Chief Greg Bonner said shortly after the raid. "I'd like to commend the officers for their excellent work in getting to the bottom of this operation."

Bonner said the identification fraud could result in federal charges against Baeza. He also said he was "pretty sure" police would seek a grand jury indictment against Baeza.

Officers involved in the investigation included Det. Sgt. Rhonda Copeland and Det. Aaron Davidson.

Anyone with information about Baeza's whereabouts can call police at 482-5144.