

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Edenton garden tour set in **APRIL** flower hour Community C-1



Spring **SPORTS** Sports B-1



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

A rescue worker jumps the median on the Chowan River Bridge Monday afternoon while responding to tractor trailer truck that overturned in high winds.

March storm roars through; damage, outages reported

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

A strong cold front blew through the area around lunchtime Tuesday, scattering tree limbs and darkening parts of Chowan County and Edenton.

Reached late Tuesday afternoon, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said about 500 Cape Colony residents,

and businesses there were still without power. Three utility crews from Rocky Mount were en route at 4 p.m. to help town crews restore power.

"They should be here any minute," Knighton said. "We should get all the power restored tonight."

Industries at the industrial park just south of Edenton

See STORM On Page 3-A

Suicide victim's body found near where he jumped

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The body of a Tyrrell County man who apparently leapt to his death from the Albemarle Sound Bridge on March 1 was found by divers Friday afternoon.

A dive team from the Norfolk (Va.) Police Department found the body of Germaine Costello King, 31, between 2:15 and 2:30 p.m. on March 4, Chowan County Deputy Wayne Goodwin said Monday.

Efforts to recover King's body in the cold sound waters were thwarted by high winds for several days, Goodwin said.

"It was just so dangerous the first couple of days," of the search, he said, "to get out there in a boat ... It was pretty tough."

Costello's body was found near the spot he jumped from the bridge after getting out of his parked Jeep Cherokee.

"From what I can understand," Goodwin said, "he was (found) pretty close to where he fell."

Costello leapt from a level part of the span, just before the bridge arcs upward.

"It was an apparent suicide," Goodwin said, "based on the note" Coston left in his truck.

The water is between 15 and 20 feet deep at the location he jumped from, with a temperature of about 40 degrees this time of year, Goodwin said.

The dive team was finally able to get sonar equipment in the water on Friday. The body was found in waters filled with

See JUMPED On Page 3-A

"This should be a win-win for everybody."

-- Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton

This 41-foot convertible is part of the Albemarle Boats' line-up that will be added to Brunswick's existing brands including Sealine and Hatteras Yachts.



Contributed photo

Brunswick adds Albemarle Boats to its expanding fleet

Alliance may provide more opportunities

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

One of Edenton's largest employers has been acquired by a Fortune 500 company and brighter days for an already bright business are on the horizon, officials say.

Albemarle Boats was acquired by the Brunswick Corp. Feb. 28, and word of the sale was announced March 1. Founded in 1978, Albemarle builds offshore sport-fishing boats from 24 to 41 feet at its site on the Albemarle Sound just south of Edenton.

"Popular and highly respected, the Albemarle lineup is a perfect complement to our family of premier Hatteras sport-fishing convertibles and motoryachts," Brunswick Chairman and CEO George W. Buckley said last week.

"It is an important part of our strategy," Buckley added, "to 'fill out the white spaces' within our product portfolio to support our dealer network and provide a boat for virtually any type of boater ... With seven models between 24 and 41 feet, Albemarle offers us ample and attractive opportunity to serve this segment of the sportfishing market."

Albemarle president Scotty Harrell Jr. said the move will be good for his company and the local community.

"We are pleased and honored to have been selected by Brunswick as a company," Harrell said, "with a great reputation and solid customer satisfaction. Brunswick

believes that with our focus and commitment — combined with the additional resources that they can offer — our boats will become stronger in the marketplace.

The sale will also allow Albemarle to hire more workers, who will in turn receive more benefits from the affiliation with the Lake Forest, Ill.-based company, which grossed \$5.2 billion last year.

"We are especially excited about the additional opportunities for our employees," Harrell added.

Burch Perry, vice-president of sales and marketing for Albemarle, also looks forward to the alliance with Brunswick.

"We are excited about the many opportunities that this new arrangement will bring to the table in the marketing area," Perry said. "In particular, we look forward to enhancing our worldwide dealer network for sales and service. We expect to make several additions to our already solid family of dealers in new markets in the near future."

Albemarle Vice-President and CFO Carol Ricketts said: "Brunswick looked to us because of our dedication to quality products, satisfied customers, and excellent dealer network, and this is where our focus remains. We in the management team are energized by this new relationship and committed to the Albemarle's family as ever before."

Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Richard Bunch applauded the move last week.

"It's always good to have a local business become a part of a Fortune 500 company,"

See FLEET On Page 3-A

Cofield is charged in church thefts

"I'm just glad we finally got a lead in this case."

-- Police Chief Greg Bonner

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

An Edenton man was arrested Saturday and charged with a string of break-ins at a pair of churches and a residence in recent months.

Robert Lee Cofield, 36, of the 100 block of West Peterson Street, was arrested March 5 and charged with five counts of felony breaking and entering, one count of second-degree burglary, six counts of felony larceny, two counts of possession of stolen property, and six counts of injury to real property and personal property.

He was jailed at the Chowan County Detention Facility in lieu of a \$31,500 secured bond.

The alleged break-in spree began in November and ended in February, police Chief Greg Bonner said Monday.

"I'm just glad," Bonner added, "we finally got a lead in this case that enabled us to make this arrest."

Cofield was charged with breaking into Providence Baptist Church, at 214 W. Church St., four times, and a single break-in at both Edenton Church of God in Christ, at 510 N. Granville St., and a home on West Peterson Street. Police have been unable to contact the owner of the residence, Bonner said.

During an interview with police Det. Aaron Davidson, Bonner added, Cofield offered a full confession to the break-ins. Damage to the churches, and the value of stolen items, is estimated at \$4,500.

And Cofield may not have worked alone.

"There is another suspect we're looking to charge in this particular case," the chief added.

Police Det. Sgt. Rhonda Copeland and Bonner assisted Davidson in the investigation.

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The Boys and Girls club is open and ready for more

Dining al fresco could soon come with a twist

Some council members have voiced concerns about public consumption

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The Edenton Town Council is considering if restaurants should be allowed to serve alcohol on town sidewalks to open-air diners.

During its Feb. 28 meeting, council's Administrative Committee — with input from the full board — tossed around the idea of allowing al fresco diners to toss back a margarita with a plate of grilled tuna.

Opinions were split during

the debate.

"It sets a bad example," committee chairman Steve Biggs said, also citing the lack of existing sidewalk space to accommodate outdoor dining along South Broad Street.

Councilman Jerry Parks agreed that allowing eateries to serve beer, wine and liquor to patrons may not be the best move for the town to make.

"It creates a festive ... atmosphere," Parks said. "I'm not sure we want that ... I'm not sure we want to put (sidewalk

alcohol consumption) in peoples' face on the streets of Edenton."

However, Mayor Roland Vaughan and Councilman Sambo Dixon favored the request. Dixon okayed allowing diners to drink alcohol at sidewalk tables.

"I think it's fine," he said. Vaughan also saw no harm in the idea.

"I don't have a problem with it myself," the mayor said.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said the Town of Hendersonville has an ordinance that allows sidewalk-café-style dining to include alcohol consumption. Hender-

sonville's ordinance was the "most comprehensive" rule reviewed by Edenton officials, she said. That ordinance requires a restaurant to have existing alcohol permits before applying for an outdoor-service permit.

"You couldn't just open an outdoor café all of a sudden," under that ordinance, she said.

In addition, that ordinance requires a restaurant operator to have not violated any alcohol-sales laws within three years of applying for a permit. And Hendersonville's mandate also requires that an eatery's outdoor seating capacity does not exceed the 50-percent mark

of its indoor-dining seating.

"We think that's important," she said.

Jennifer Harriss, Edenton's Main Street Program director, said restaurateurs she has talked to about the idea are in support of serving outdoor diners alcohol.

"I just believe it would be something good to add to their business," Harriss said.

Parks appeared to disagree. "I don't see it serving any purpose whatsoever," he said.

Council did not vote on the matter and scheduled further discussion on the issue for its March 28 meeting.

Friday, March 18th & Saturday, March 19th @ 7:30 PM
Chowan Arts Council 482-8005

ROCKY HOCK OPRY
Byrum Hardware Co 482-2131 Acoustic Coffee 482-7465

E A Swain Auditorium - Edenton, NC
Nixon's Family Restaurant 221-2244

Sponsored by: Rocky Hock Opry Relay for Life Chowan Arts Council