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DOT to fix local drainage problem

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Flooding problems at an Edenton church may soon be corrected by the state of North Carolina — as soon as next week.

St. Anne Catholic Church has dealt with stormwater runoff for about two years, according to a letter sent to *The Chowan Herald* by church director of religious education Mary Montgomery — and Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

"If you have ever gone by our church after a good rain," Montgomery wrote, "then you know our side yard floods. This has been an ongoing concern that has gotten progressively worse."

Knighton agreed with that assessment. The problems stem with stormwater drainage from West Albemarle Street on the church's south side — between the church and the parish hall. From there, pipes and catch-basins in the side yard run to Broad Street, where another stormwater pipe has been found to be clogged in the street, state Department of Transportation District Engineer Darrick Lee, said Tuesday.

According to parish council head John O'Connor, that water has been backing up into the church's basement.

"We use that basement for classes," O'Connor said.

Lee met with Knighton, O'Connor and church officials on June 21 to hear their concerns, Lee said. Plans are to bring in DOT equipment to clear the first blockage in the church side yard next week.

"That should help their problem," Lee said.

O'Connor hopes that is in fact the case.

"I think we have a problem that's about to be solved," he added. "(But) you don't know what (problem) you've got until you get in there."

Lee had said early Tuesday that he had been working to locate the equipment to be used to clear the blockage. He tried to locate the machinery recently.

"It was being used by somebody else," he said.

DOT contacted Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton Tuesday before presstime and assured her the equipment would be brought to Edenton next week and the problem taken care of. O'Connor sounded relieved Tuesday afternoon upon hearing the news during an interview with *The Chowan Herald*.

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Drug dealer may face deportation

Calzada sentenced to jail time of over three years

BY CHRIS WHIPPLE
The Daily Advance

A Mexican national whom police have described as one of the Albemarle area's "mid-level" drug dealers was sentenced in Pasquotank County

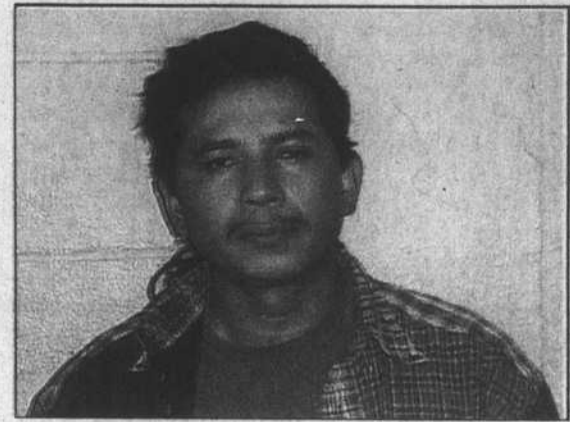
Superior Court on Monday to a maximum of 3 1/2 years in prison.

Arturo Baeza Calzada, 34, of Edenton, pleaded guilty to trafficking cocaine by possession as part of a plea agreement between the state and the pub-

lic defender's office. Judge J. Richard Parker sentenced Calzada to 35-42 months in prison and fined him \$50,000.

Local, state and federal agencies had been investigating

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Edenton resident Arturo Calzada may face deportation after serving sentence for drug trafficking.

Sales Tax Holiday in time for Back to School



Staff photo by Earline White

Taking advantage of holiday

North Carolina will celebrate its fourth Sales Tax Holiday beginning Friday August 5th through Sunday August 7th. During this three-day exemption, created to help consumers with back-to-school shopping, items free from sales tax include clothing, shoes and school supplies under \$100 per item and computers and educational software that is under \$3,500. Locally, Peebles, Cato's, Farmer's Foods, Dollar General, Super 10, Shoe Show, Sound Feet Shoes, CVS, and Roses will be taking part in the tax-free weekend. Above, Amber Keyser, a rising sophomore at John A. Holmes perusing through this season's hottest styles at Cato's in the Chowan Crossing Shopping Center.

Two arrested in weekend drug busts

Suspicious activity led authorities to find drugs, paraphernalia and weapons in unrelated cases

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Police arrested a pair of Edenton men over the weekend on unrelated drug charges.

On Friday night, July 29, Officer D.M. Knox arrested Ricky Lee Welch, 29, of 301 W. Gale St., and charged him with driving while impaired, open container, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was placed under a \$1,000 secured bond.

Knox had been patrolling the area of West Freeman and North Granville streets when he spotted two men get into Welch's vehicle, and remain inside, Bonner said. After approaching the vehicle, Knox nixed an attempt by Welch to drive away, then searched the vehicle, where he found two open containers of liquor, three plastic baggies of marijuana, and electronic scales.

On Saturday night, Knox stopped a 1994 Ford Crown Victoria on N.C. Highway 32 just north of Edenton after the vehicle al-



Basnight



Welch

most caused a collision, Bonner said Tuesday. Knox was given permission to search the vehicle, only to later arrest its driver: Demetrius Lamont Basnight, 21, of 208 E. Peterson St.

He was charged with misdemeanor possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, felony maintaining a vehicle for the storage of a controlled substance, felony possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was placed under a \$5,500 secured bond.

Knox found two separate bags of marijuana in the car, and a loaded 12-gauge shotgun in the trunk, Bonner said.

County asked to oppose fishing moratorium

Commissioners deal with full agenda during Monday's meeting

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

The possible elimination of an age old lifestyle, a national conference in Hawaii, an upcoming change at convenience centers, and the 2006 revaluation schedule of values were among the items on the agenda at the latest Chowan County Commissioners meeting held this past Monday night.

Local fisherman, Terry Pratt, asked the Chowan County Commissioners at their August meeting to oppose the ban that may ultimately destroy his lifestyle.

"I have been casting lines in northeastern North Carolina for 50 years," Pratt told the board Monday night. "Recently the Division of Marine Fisheries has proposed a total moratorium for herring fishing throughout the state. Already regulations on herring fishing allow only 300,000 pounds can be taken out of NC's waters annually."

"What we're facing is being regulated out of business based on assumptions that don't fit in the real world," Pratt said. "The problem of the seemingly diminishing herring population doesn't lie in the fact that we're fishing; it's a lack of proper management. In the 70s we had 700 pound nets in Chowan's waters; today we have 34. We have been doing our part to help sustain the species and there are direct resources that need to be focused toward finding the problems rather than destroying our livelihood and heritage."

This was the third stop on Pratt's visit through northeastern North Carolina asking for the counties' support to oppose the herring fishing ban. Already, Martin, Bertie and Perquimans have given their support. After many comments from the commissioners



Terry Pratt

including Chairman Wayne Goodwin who grew up around the industry, a unanimous vote forwarded Pratt's efforts to get support from all the northeastern counties in favor of the fishermen.

Back from the National Association of County Commissioners (NACo) meeting in Hawaii, Chairman Wayne Goodwin and Commissioner Louis Belfield highlighted several items of interest for the county and many informative talks they attended while there.

"When I got back on the plane with the suitcase I arrived with, I was 12 pounds over the limit," Goodwin joked. "That is a sign of how much useful information I picked up during the conferences. And yes, this is the tan I left Chowan County with," he added.

Belfield raved about the speakers, Judge Glenda Hatcher and T.R. Reid who addressed the importance of children and globalization respectively. Transportation in rural communities and medical assistance for the prescription drug cards were also topics which incited Belfield's interest and his attendance at the seminars. Goodwin mean-

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Low voter turnout the focus of 'Democracy Summer'

Same day registration is touted as solution to encourage 18-24 year olds to get involved

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Fewer than 2 percent of North Carolina's young people fully understand voter registration deadlines, according to a recent survey by Democracy North Carolina, a non-partisan, non-profit group. Ten college students from various NC universities worked with the organization's annual summer

program "Democracy Summer" to potentially identify low voter turnout among 18 to 24 year-olds.

North Carolina's young voter turnout in the 2004 election was 38.4 percent, lower than the national average of 41.9 percent.

The summer program participants conducted over 500 face-to-face interviews. Of those interviewed, the 67.9 per-

cent who were not registered for last year's election said that they would have been more likely to vote if they'd been able to register on Election Day. More than one in three agreed that the registration process is inconvenient.

"Same day registration would be a big help for college students or those young people who move around a lot," said Amanda Smith, a rising senior at Meredith College and one of the 10 students who helped conduct the survey. "Oftentimes when students become voting age they are in high school. They register in that

county but then leave that area to go to college. We learned through this survey that very few students knew that you must register 25 days before Election Day. It is startling to think that students would try to register up to Election Day but couldn't. We believe that by simplifying voter registration (with same day registration), the state would see an increase in the number of young people who register to vote," Smith said.

According to the US Census data released in May 2005, there were 310,000 18 to 24 year-olds not registered to vote in

the November election. Democracy North Carolina hopes that the NC General Assembly will utilize the information learned from the survey to push forward legislation (HB851) that would allow same day voter registration throughout the early voting process. The bill has passed the House Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform Committee July 20 and is up for debate in the House Appropriations committee. Of those polled by Democracy NC, 80.5 percent said they would support same

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