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Neglected cattle spotted, reported by PETA

County officials to work with state experts to restore animal's health



Photo courtesy of The Daily Advance

One of the cows alleged to be underfed on a Chowan County cattle farm is shown in this image that was provided to local officials. They are looking into charges by PETA that some 30 undernourished cattle are living on an Edenton farm located on Paradise Road.

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Chowan County officials are teaming with state animal experts in hopes of nourishing roughly 30 underfed cattle back to health, Edenton-Chowan Special Projects Officer Peter Rascoe said Tuesday.

The cattle, located on a farm on Paradise Road, were discovered over the weekend by a worker with the Norfolk, Va.-based People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. That worker filed the complaint Sunday afternoon.

The Chowan County sheriff's and animal control de-

partments are working with state Agriculture Extension livestock specialists to determine the cause — and cure — for the emaciated cows.

"What the specialists are reporting back to me," Rascoe said, "is (the cows) are very old to be bred."

The underfed cows, most ranging in age from 16 to 17 years, have been separated from the calves they had been nursing, Rascoe said.

In addition, a strict feeding and care regimen will be recommended to the cattle's owner, one that likely would be followed for about four weeks.

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• Go directly to jail

Monopoly missing link is stolen, lost

From Staff Reports



A Chowan County man has been charged with the alleged theft of a McDonald's Monopoly Boardwalk game-piece that reportedly belonged to his friend.

Kevin William Oldham, 19, of 300 Okisko Trail, Edenton, was arrested Oct. 23 and charged with misdemeanor larceny. He was released on a \$500 unse-

cured bond. According to Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill, Oldham

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Polsters have time on their hands

Local election turnout 'light'

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Poll officials had plenty of free time on their hands Tuesday, with light voter turnout for Edenton's municipal elections drawing in sparse numbers to cast ballots.

At-large Councilman Jerry Parks, Third Ward Councilwoman Phyllis Britton, and Fourth Ward Councilman Willis Privott were the only names on ballots Tuesday.

All three incumbents were running unopposed and were expected to easily win re-election.

At the West Edenton precinct, a mere 19 voters had hit the polling booths by mid-morning.

"It's been light," precinct chief judge Becky McArthur said.

Like McArthur and other East Edenton officials, workers at the town's other voting place were eagerly waiting voters.

"We're keeping busy," Darnell White, chief judge for the East Edenton precinct, said mid-morning Tuesday.

Only 15 voters had cast ballots by 10:30 a.m. Officials there were not expecting to exceed 100 voters by the time

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"We want to move these cases" - Chowan DA Frank Parrish

Chowan DA answers critics

Parrish meets with Edenton Discussion Group; offers way to resolve issues

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

District Attorney Frank Parrish says his prosecutors handle plea bargains carefully and diligently, but mistakes can still happen.

Parrish, guest speaker at the Edenton Discussion Group's meeting Monday night, told the roughly 20 people on hand at That Fancy Café that a plea in Chowan County this spring "failed horribly."

The defendant, Cornelius Perkins of Suffolk, Va., avoided jail time though he had faced a slew of weapons and robbery charges stemming from a June 2004 crime spree in Edenton. Parrish admitted the evidence against Perkins "was pretty solid."

"There will be an ongoing conversation about your case, I promise you," Parrish told the father of one of Perkins' robbery victims.

Though grilled initially by some questions about the volume of pending cases here, Parrish said the backlog of criminal cases in Chowan County Superior Court is not solely due to prosecutors' delays. Parrish, the district attorney since 1994, said testing of evidence, interviewing witnesses, and defense lawyers' schedules all play a part in delays.

Chowan County Magistrate Dennis Halloran pointed out that at least one defendant he's charged has waited two years for his cases to go in front of a judge.

"That is an unusually long time," Parrish said.

Efforts are being made to stem the backlog in Chowan, Parrish said.

"We want to move cases," he added.

One effort to bring criminal cases to trial in Chowan more quickly is a special



DA Frank Parrish (top photo) answers a question during the meeting. At left, local Magistrate Dennis Halloran listens.



superior court session set for Nov. 28 through Dec. 2.

Parrish also said that special session should help ease overcrowding at the Chowan County Detention Facility. The jail's capacity is 22, but recently housed 51 inmates, Parrish said.

"We've put a lot of jail cases on this next calendar," he added.

Parrish was also asked if prosecutors would begin a jury trial while a plea deal was in the works.

"You definitely never should begin a trial when you know there's a plea deal," being arranged he said.

Parrish, who said he's personally prosecuted more than 300 cases, said prosecutors should always plan to reach a verdict once a jury is empanelled.

"There is nothing that ... focuses the mind," he

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Occupancy tax increase endorsed

Also, Federal cutbacks mean less childcare through DSS

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Tourism officials, local lodging proprietors as well as interested county officials turned out for the final vote on the proposed increase in occupancy tax for Chowan County at the November meeting of the Chowan County Commissioners. With a unanimous vote of 6 (Commissioner Louis Belfield was absent) the occupancy tax increase from three to five percent was approved, effective December 1, 2005. The slight tax, that will affect only those who come to stay at one of Edenton's fine hotel/motel or B&B facilities, will generate approximately \$43,000 in additional revenue for the Tourism Development Authority which promotes the county.

In other business, the Commissioners:

• Heard a report from Social Services Director Ben Rose concerning the latest proposed Federal cutbacks in DSS funding including large ones to the WorkFirst program, \$600 million in cuts to child welfare, \$844 million reduction in Food Stamps over the next 5 years, \$750 million in cuts to Medicaid over 5 years, and a cut to administrative reimbursement funds.

"Cuts like these are unfortunately like a train we cannot stop," Rose said. "Though cuts may not oc-

cur exactly like prescribed, they will occur in some form or fashion."

WorkFirst, a Federal program aimed to get people off welfare and back into employment, will be dramatically impacted by cuts made to available day care facilities for those now-working parents. Already there is a waiting list of 125 children. Rose said, "We worry about our working poor not being able to sustain child care when they need it and perhaps slipping back into welfare" because there is no funding available for the children at home.

Cuts to Medicaid will make it even harder to get long-term care for patients, Rose said.

The administrative monies, those that involve child support, contain a percentage of reimbursement that the department gets for child support activities over a 5-year period. If the current bill is passed, the funds will be reduced from 66% to 50%. "Therefore, now, when we spend \$1000 for costs in child support, we get \$660 back from Federal government, that will go down to \$500 over the course of time," Rose said.

The Federal government is also looking to reduce incentive funds over time, those based on performance to 6 child support standards

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Teacher assistants were honored during the BOE meeting

Chowan BOE tackles budget

Newly minted teachers also certified Monday

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

The 2004-2005 fiscal audit as well as the 2005-2006 budget resolution were among the items approved at the November meeting of the Edenton/

Chowan Board of Education.

According to auditor, Donna Winborne, Edenton/Chowan schools operated last year with a \$262,000 appropriation from the fund balance, one similar to many households' "rainy day" accounts. Winborne suggested that the school system

build the fund balance back up to its previous amounts, for future rainy days.

"We've been very lucky to have had such a healthy fund balance to help us through these tight times. We want to

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Registration will take place at NCCG & Walker Community Center

Youth Basketball (ages 5-18) and Youth Cheerleading (ages 8-12) Registration

8am - 6pm through Nov. 11
Cost is \$10.
For more information, call 482-8595 or 221-4901.