

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXXIII, No. 12

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

Single Copies: 50¢

Ticket tabs set to soar

Five dollar penalties not considered deterrent; crossing double yellow lines will cost you \$25

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Violating a pair of Edenton traffic offenses got a little costlier on March 14, as the Town Council opted to boost the fines for parking and turning violations in the downtown district.

With a unanimous 6-0 vote, councilors raised parking fines from \$5 to \$10, while the newly imposed cost for crossing the double-yellow lines downtown to park was upped from \$5 to \$25.

Last month, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said motorists would likely ignore the penalty for violating no-left-turn ordinance approved last fall if the fine was kept at its current rate of \$5.

"People just laugh about having to pay the five dollars," Knighton told *The Chowan Herald*. "They don't take it seriously at all."

Currently, the town enforces a two-hour parking limit from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

In other business from council's March 14 meeting:

- Wharf Landing received approval for a request to give the waterfront development's zoning classification a Resort/Conference Facility designation. Developers plan to build a hotel or inn, as well as a conference center, at the site located just south of the Chowan River Bridge.

- Council unanimously approved amending Edenton's Unified Development Ordinance to give the Edenton Preservation Commission the authority to stop any demolition plans for properties determined to have statewide or national historical significance.

Bustin' out!



Mary Kay Coyle

Welcome, spring

Tuesday officially marked the first day of spring and already some hints of color are appearing in local gardens. This photo shot in the Cupola House gardens last spring offers a lovely reminder of the beauty locals and visitors will enjoy in the weeks to come.

"We're going to do everything we can to help her get her signs back."

- Chowan Sheriff's Deputy Dwayne Goodwin

Thieves aim to thwart campaign

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

A candidate for the Chowan County sheriff's race has had a spate of campaign signs stolen from supporters' yards, and she's relying on the Sheriff's department to find those responsible.

Edenton Police Det. Sgt. Rhonda Copeland said Monday that about 100 of her election signs have been stolen in less than a week out of the 200 total distributed to date. Her husband Durwood placed most of the signs out, and now he'll likely have to make return trips, Copeland said. Support for her campaign has been good, Copeland said. But the theft of her signs is a hindrance.

"It's really put me in a bad position," she said. "Signs are not cheap."

At \$4 apiece, the stolen signs cost Copeland's campaign roughly \$400. Then there's the lost time and gas money used to distribute the signs.

"It's really put a dent in things," she said.

Most of the signs that went missing were from northern Chowan, in the Rocky Hock/Tyner communities on Virginia and Center Hill roads, as well as some from Macedonia Road, closer to Edenton.

However, one Copeland supporter saw a thief pull a sign out of her yard around 11 a.m. on March 16. In broad daylight.

"This person was right out in her yard," Copeland said. Because of so many missing signs, at least one woman asked Copeland if the candidate — who would be Chowan's first female sheriff if elected in November's



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

Nearly 100 signs promoting Rhonda Copeland for sheriff have been pilfered, largely in rural areas of northern Chowan County.

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Mime, sublime

Emmy award winner to visit Edenton as part of 'World Tour'



Submitted photo

Robert Shields as the 'original' street mime.

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

World-renowned street mime, Emmy winner, performance artist, jewelry designer and television star, Robert Shields will be making a stop on his world tour on Saturday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Swain Auditorium. Sponsored by the Chowan Arts Council, tickets for members are \$15, \$20 for non-members.

Robert Shields began what is now a long-running career as a performance artist on the streets of San Francisco. His street mime routine at Union Station won him so much notoriety in fact that it was there, at the age 18 that he was discovered by world-renowned mime Marcel Marceau. Shields was offered a full scholarship to Marceau's school in Paris but found his desire to take the arts to the streets too powerful to overcome in a classroom setting.

He returned to the states and with fellow mime Lorene Yarnell, launched a highly successful CBS show "Shields & Yarnell." His original scripted television special "Toys on the Town" earned him an Emmy.

Shields' creative outlets next led him to the world of decorative art. He established a jewelry design studio and retail store in Sedona Arizona. It soon grew into a chain of stores and a wholesale jewelry and accessory line.

Shields met with Al Gustave, creative force behind American Classics and together formed a company called "Fool's Moon", offering unique and decorative sculpture and accessories designed by Shields and made by Gustave. Over time

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Lumber yard OK'd for Virginia Road

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

A Manteo-based hardware-supply business was given approval by the Edenton Town Council on March 14 to locate a new business on the outskirts of town.

Kellogg Supply Co. Inc. was given the OK for a conditional-use permit to begin plans for a lumber yard and retail store at 548 Virginia Road, across from the former Chowan Teen Center.

Kellogg official Tom Blanchard said his company plans to develop the lumber yard and hardware-supply store on roughly five acres of the 8.53-acre site. The lumber yard will be erected during the first phase of development, while the 30,000-square-foot retail store would be during phase two of the

project, Blanchard told councilors.

"That will be our primary structure in phase one," Blanchard said of the open-sided building that would be used for lumber delivery and sales.

He said specific plans for the total development of the site would be better known following a future review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for roughly 3.5 acres of wetlands on the property. In the meantime, Kellogg would install a fence around the wetlands to protect that portion of the site, Blanchard said.

In addition, plans are to have separate entry/exit roads for customers' cars and larger delivery trucks, respectively, Blanchard added. That is the format used for Kellogg's central location in

Manteo, he added.

"We figure that would be the easiest way for customers and larger trucks to enter and exit our building," he said. "We know about the (positive) impact of taking every safety precaution."

Council unanimously approved the request at its March 14 meeting following a public hearing during which there was no opposition to Kellogg's plans. Council made that approval after determining that the project would not adversely effect surrounding property owners' land values, public health and safety, and that the plans meshed with the town's land-use and development plans.

Officials did not say when work on the site would begin.

Man held on charge of sexual assault

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

An Edenton man was arrested on March 12 on a charge of attempted rape at a Vann Street residence.

Claude Miles Brinkley, 48, of 1023 Badham Road, was charged with second-degree attempted rape, Edenton Police Det. Aaron Davidson said Monday. Brinkley was jailed at the Chowan County Detention Facility under a \$40,000 secured bond. He made his first court appearance on March 14.

The female victim of the sexual assault made



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YEOPIM RURITAN CLUB

BBQ Chicken Fundraiser

SATURDAY

LUNCH: 11AM - 2PM DINNER: 4PM - 7PM

MARCH 25TH

EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT

Jaycee/Ruritan Bldg. - Soundside Rd. Tickets: Cleo Griffin 482-1290 or Larry Wilson 482-4011