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## Capstrat answers inquiry

Firm takes credit for securing project funding; details officials' involvement

by Earline White  
Managing Editor

An 11-page report detailing the Raleigh-based communications firm Capstrat, Inc.'s four-year role with Edenton-Chowan Development Corporation was released Monday. It included a detailed timeline in which the company allegedly worked to secure funding for county projects.

"Our work resulted in a 44-to-1 return-on-investment for the ECDC," according to the cover letter from Capstrat's chief executive officer Ken Eudy.

"Former County manager Cliff Copeland, discredited though he may now be, knows this. Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton, gunshy though she may be, knows this, too."

In the letter, Eudy takes credit for efforts leading to the awarding of a USDA Rural Development loan for the public safety center, but cited the type of loan incorrectly.

According to USDA officials, that type of loan (a direct loan, not a loan guarantee as stated in the letter) secured by Chowan County would not have taken a lobbyist to seal.

Eudy also lauds the company's efforts in acquiring \$1.5 million for the instrument landing system at the airport.

Capstrat was paid nearly \$260,000 for its services, though county commissioners and ECDC board members said they had no knowledge of the payments. Eudy said he was surprised to learn that Copeland was not authorized to act on behalf of the ECDC.

"We operated with the understanding that we were acting at the board's direction and with its authorization," Eudy said.

According to the state auditor's office the county should seek to recoup the money spent with Capstrat.

Eudy concluded the letter saying that Capstrat will not be a pinata in the political brawl taking place ... "we are not your problem."

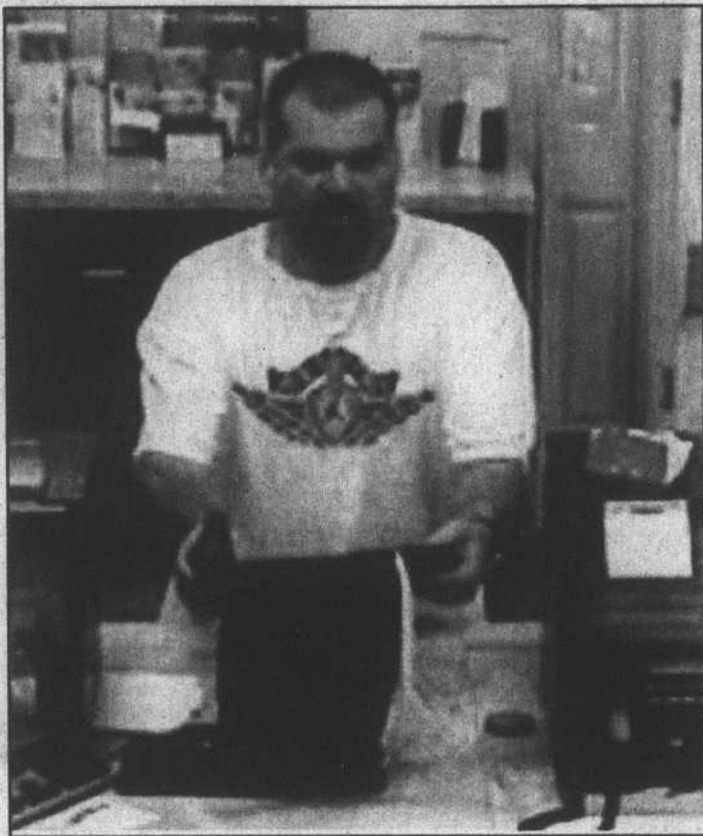
ECDC chair Roland Vaughan was unable to be reached for comment.

Knighton, in response to Capstrat's report would say only that she was writing a letter to the county commissioners based on the report and what she recollects.

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SUBMITTED

FBI are now looking for this suspect — a white male with a medium to stocky build, between 5'7" and 6' 2" with tattoos on both forearms.

## Police seek bank robber

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

Thirty seconds. That's how long surveillance video shows it took a man to rob Southern Bank in downtown Edenton Wednesday, July 15.

Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery said the man walked into the bank just after 1:42 p.m., a time when he was the only customer.

He was casually dressed, wearing green shorts and a white T-shirt with a gold, black and blue, wing-shaped image on it that would have allowed him not to attract too much attention from passersby as he walked up to the bank and entered it.

Once inside the bank, the man did not waste any time. A surveillance camera shows that he walked directly to a teller's window, reached under his T-shirt and pulled out

a semi-automatic handgun he had tucked inside the waistband of his shorts.

He did not hand the teller a note.

Instead, with his other hand he placed a dark-colored bag with white drawstring ties on the counter to be filled with money. The tellers at the windows quickly complied.

As he waited, the man glanced alertly behind him several times as people walking through the bank parking lot crossed in front of a glass door near where he was standing. But they didn't come in.

Once all the money was inside the bank, the man quickly closed it, replaced the gun in the band of his shorts, pulled his T-shirt down over his shorts and exited the bank.

He did not leave behind a note but Fortenbery said police were able to lift partial prints where his palms rested

on the counter at a teller's window while he waited for the money.

"He obviously knew enough not to put his hands down on the counter," Fortenbery said. "Otherwise, we could possibly have lifted fingerprints" to help identify him.

Once he left the bank, Fortenbery said, officials believe the robber calmly walked around behind the bank and over to Eden Street where several witnesses have reported seeing a man matching his description prior to the robbery.

Police believe he was probably returning to a vehicle he had parked there, a 1980s model Ford Bronco II with out-of-state plates.

### NOT A ROOKIE

Surveillance video also gave officers a clear look at

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## YOUTH SPEND SUMMER REVAMPING HOMES



REBECCA BUNCH/THE CHOWAN HERALD

From left, Beth Eldridge of Winder, Ga.; Kayla Burrows of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Katie Kellaham of Kingstree, S.C.; and Brad Stuba of Downers Grove, Ill. paint shutters to be placed on Tina Brooks' Martin Luther King Avenue home Tuesday morning. The WorkCamp group, consisting of about 400 adults and teen volunteers total, is providing free home repairs to approximately 70 elderly, handicapped or lower-income families this week in Chowan, Pasquotank and Camden counties. The initiative is being sponsored by the River City Community Development Corporation in Elizabeth City.

## Saving a home. Martinique becomes the focus of restoration

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

"Sarge" Russell is no stranger to rescuing old houses.

Russell, who with his wife Ellen, has a home in Stantonsburg, N.C. they bought from Preservation North Carolina, and restored, has been doing that type of work for decades.

In recent days, he's been sharing the carpentry skills honed over a lifetime to volunteer with a special PNC project — shoring up Martinique, an 18th century Chowan County home, so that it can be saved and eventually relocated by a new owner (see related story on Martinique's history).

"My intent is to limit what I do because if I don't, I'll never get to go home," he said jokingly, wiping sweat from his face.

But it's easy to see he loves what he's doing.

Russell has spent several days at the site, measuring, hammering and sawing piec-

es of boards to nail in place so that some of the walls will hold together during the move.

He has worked in the hot sun with no air conditioning, day after day, because he believes that old homes deserve a second chance to belong to somebody who will appreciate and care for them.

And Claudia DeViney, who manages multiple counties for PNC from her office in Edenton, said that's what led Sarge and Ellen, an architectural historian, to offer their help.

"It's funny how this all came about," she said. "We were talking on the phone one day, and Sarge asked me what I was working on."

She told him about Martinique, and asked if he'd be interested in helping. To her surprise and delight, he said he would.

His expertise as a carpenter, and willingness to volunteer, has saved PNC thousands of dollars on this project — mon-

ey it did not have in its budget, DeViney said.

For Ellen Russell, the time spent at Martinique has given her the opportunity to study items left behind at the house — like a small rocking horse, painted light blue and adorned with darker blue hearts and small white flowers that might be daisies.

Also resting on the floor near an old brick fireplace is a woman's coat, made of plush black material, with long sleeves.

Both items rest atop stacks of old boards that cover the floor of a downstairs room.

"You can't help wondering about things like this," said Ellen Russell, gently fingering the rocking horse, "wondering what child this belonged to, wondering if they still think about it."

She then picks up yet another find, a small pair of old-fashioned sewing scissors. That item, she said, fell from

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## Walking around

Town approves plan to increase walkability in Edenton on Church, Court, Water streets

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

During a special meeting held Monday night, the Edenton Town Council approved details of a Pedestrian Master Plan designed for the community.

A \$20,000 grant from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation funded the study used to develop the plan.

A key element of the plan will be connecting places where people walk, said Roger Henderson, of Raleigh-based Henderson Consulting.

That will include "closing missing gaps in the downtown sidewalk network, connecting adjacent neighborhoods to downtown," and increasing the level of walkability around town, according to a draft copy of the plan.

That plan was developed by the Town of Edenton Planning Department, the Wood- en Company of Raleigh, and the N.C. Dept. of Transportation's Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation in Raleigh.

Areas identified in Henderson's remarks to the council included East Church Street, Court Street, and the Water Street/Oakum Street neighborhood.

Henderson also recommended additional signage in the vicinity of crosswalks along Broad Street.

### IN OTHER ACTION

• Heard a briefing on the One North Carolina Fund Grant awarded to MiTek

• Agreed to move two other agenda items, a recycling carts-related grant from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental and Natural Resources, and discussion of a proposed four-way stop at two intersections in North Edenton, to next month's council meeting for further consideration.

## The history of Martinique



One of the most architecturally and historically significant houses in the Al- bamarle will be saved over the next few weeks, thanks to the efforts of leaders in Chowan County and in Edenton.

The property, deeded by Lord Granville in 1752, is the only proprietary land grant in Chowan County still held by descendants of the original owners. Seldom

does a house of this age and distinction become threatened. "Martinique" and four outbuildings had to be relocated.

The combined work of members of the Edenton Historical Commission, the Edenton Foundation, the Richard Dillard Dixon Fund for the Stabilization of Endangered Buildings, the

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