



**Chowan Arts Council
hosts opening reception
Friday for new exhibit
"Through the Lens,"**

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CHOWAN HERALD

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50¢



Knighton



Goodwin

Capstrat fulfilled its deal

Firm's efforts paid off in project funds

By **BOB MONTGOMERY**
The Daily Advance

The head of a Raleigh consulting firm said he offered to provide detailed invoices for the \$260,000 worth of services his firm provided to the Edenton-Chowan Development Corp. over four years.

But then-Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland, who authorized Capstrat to lobby for economic funds on behalf of the ECDC, declined the offer because he felt it wasn't necessary, Capstrat CEO Ken Eudy said Thursday.

"(Copeland) said, 'I know what you're doing,'" Eudy said, referring to the time Capstrat began lobbying for ECDC in May 2004, operating on a contractual arrangement that paid Capstrat \$6,000 a month plus expenses.

"We had no thought Cliff was acting without authorization. I wish now we had sent more detail. But the client's the client."

As it turned out, only Copeland and a handful of other officials apparently knew of Capstrat's contract that drained on Chowan County's finances and contributed to a nearly \$4 million budget shortfall that left the county almost bankrupt last year, according to state officials.

Among those besides Copeland who knew of the lobbying efforts by Capstrat were Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton and Richard Bunch, director of the ECDC.

Knighton declined to say whether she thought Capstrat should have been required to provide detailed invoices between May 2004 and March 2008. She said the arrangement was between Capstrat and the county, and not with Edenton.

Bunch also declined to comment Thursday. He previously told *The Chowan Herald* he knew the county was paying Capstrat \$6,000 a month, but he had no idea the money was being spent on behalf of his agency or that anyone in

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Playing with purpose



JUSTIN FALLS/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Perquimans' Mikel Harvey tries to tackle Edenton's Deshon Fleming at Perquimans County High School, Friday. "This was the offense we were waiting to see," Aces head football coach Bob Turner said. "We were able to do just what we wanted to do." See full story on A7.

BANK ROBBERY SUSPECT ARRESTED

By **Rebecca Bunch**
Staff Writer

The man suspected of robbing Southern Bank here on July 15 was apprehended in Kingdom City, Mo. Saturday afternoon.

Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery said he was glad to hear from the FBI office in Jefferson City, Kan. that the arrest had taken place.



Schaffner

"I knew he was going to get caught sooner or later," the chief said of 37-year-old Chad Schaffner.

Law enforcement officers were able to identify Schaffner after he left his wallet behind during a robbery in Kansas City.

But it was a tip from a viewer of "America's Most Wanted" on television that led to his capture.

According to published reports, officers from the Missouri State Patrol and the FBI arrested Schaffner at a Super 8 Motel without incident.

He was scheduled to be arraigned Monday in federal court.

While it is unclear where Schaffner will eventually stand trial first for the 14 robberies he is believed to have carried out since May 15, Chief Fortenbery said he would never appear in a Chowan County courtroom because of all the federal charges against him.

He is believed to have robbed North Carolina banks in Fletcher, Fayetteville, Edenton and Hendersonville. Schaffner is also suspected of robbing South Carolina banks in Mt. Pleasant, Myrtle Beach and the Columbia area.

"We won't have to worry about him robbing anyplace else for a long, long time, now that the feds have him," Chief Fortenbery said.

County cash flow not a problem

B&G Club buys ALC

By **Earline White**
Managing Editor

Paying its debt will not be a problem this year for the county. The \$687,000 bill for the library and public safety center's loans will not dampen the county's cash flow, according to finance officer Lisa Jones at Monday night's commissioner meeting.

Despite the state budget cuts of more than \$50,000, as of July 31 the county had more than \$1,600,000 in its checking account; \$2,800,000 in investments.

Other news given at the September board meeting was the acceptance of the Albemarle Learning Center site plus four acres by the Boys and Girls Club.

Under the direction of the

B&G board, club director Jerome Levisy agreed to close in 30 days on the county property for an approximate total of \$230,000 of which nearly \$23,000 would be financed through the county for five years.

Melanie Corpew with social services reported a 24 percent increase in the client number this year. Adult Medicaid, heating/cooling and food stamp applications this year all increased, as did the number of abuse investigations. Only the WorkFirst and number of children in childcare saw decreases in numbers.

In mid-October expectant mothers, kids 6 months to 12 years and daycare workers should make an appointment to get the H1N1 (swine flu) shot from Albemarle Regional Health Services. Jerry Parks with ARHS confirmed that it will be the largest mass vacci-

nation ever attempted by the federal government for this, the fourth pandemic in the 20th century.

Chowan is one of 31 counties in the state that does not have a voluntary agricultural districts ordinance for farming, forestry, livestock, etc. Extension director Heather Lifsey presented information about the non-binding program, which makes agriculture buffer zones clear on county planning maps.

Another effort to clean up Chowan comes by way of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission which plans to spend \$900,000 to revamp the boat ramps, rehab the old Hwy. 17 bridge for a fishing access pier and construct a building near the Chowan River bridge. The county is not expected to invest any money, but provide upkeep, maintenance and security. Work is expected to begin in March and take six

months to complete.

It was approved that Bill Monds and Bobby Winborne replace Doug Belch and the late Murray Nixon on the firefighter's relief fund; Jerome Levisy to replace Al Robb on the library board of trustees.

Frances Layden and Jim Elliott spoke during public comment on government transparency and the ECDC respectively.

Layden questioned county manager Peter Rascoe's decision to demote former EMS employee Angela Toppin after Toppin spoke out against Rascoe during the county budget crisis.

Elliott suggested that the board reconsider its funding cut to the ECDC saying why not tweak the current machine which has been a positive thing for the county.

Contact **Earline White** at ewhite@nccox.com

Peer review to evaluate ECDC's mission

By **Rebecca Bunch**
Staff Writer

Now that the Edenton Town Council has voted to continue funding the Edenton-Chowan Development Corporation, an analysis is being planned to see how the ECDC can best fulfill its mission in the future.

The ECDC sought the analysis because it wanted an outside expert to review how the ECDC is structured and compare that to other models local governments use to advance economic development.

"Because of the recent public discussion about the ECDC,

we think a 'peer review' would be very beneficial," Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said. Knighton is an ex-officio member of the ECDC board.

The analysis, to be performed by the Sanford-Holshouser Economic Development Consulting group from Raleigh, is expected to get underway within the next few weeks and be completed within 90 days.

The goal is to have Sanford-Holshouser do here what they have done for other communities - determine the best structure for its specific economic development needs, Knighton

said. Project leader for the analysis will be Crystal Morphis. Her focus in the firm is on strategic planning, economic analysis, organizational structure, and product development.

The cost of the analysis will be picked up by Electricities, of which Edenton is a member. Brenda Daniels, an economic developer with Electricities, helped bring Sanford-Holshouser on board.

"We are on life support right now," one ECDC official said. "There is no way we could pay for something like that."

Council votes to support ECDC

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Morphis outlined the process to be followed in an outline provided to the Chowan Herald by Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

The first step will be to create a small community leadership team of three or four people for the project.

"The group will provide initial guidance to the consulting team and will review the draft report later in the process," Morphis said.

The team is interested in interviewing staff from the

Northeast Commission, as well as four or five employers in the local area.

They also have proposed that interviews be conducted with personnel from "local economic development-related organizations" including the Town of Edenton, Chowan County, Edenton-Chowan Development Corporation, the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, Chowan County Tourism Development Authority, College of the Albemarle, and possibly others.

"Interviews will be struc-

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HEE HAW SHOW featuring the **Rocky Hock Opry Band** and the **WHOLE HEE HAW GANG** with Special Guest **Rocky Hock Community Center**

FRIDAY NIGHT, SEPT. 18TH & SATURDAY NIGHT, SEPT. 19TH • 7:30PM TICKETS \$10.00

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