

**ECU's Pinckney heads back to Memphis**  
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**Perry wins year's supply of pork rinds**  
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## Chowan, Capstrat get subpoenas

Fed grand jury probes near financial collapse

By **RITCHIE STARNES**  
Editor

EDENTON — Chowan County and a Raleigh lobbying firm both have received subpoenas to turn over documents to federal authorities investigating the county's near financial collapse in

2008, a source close to the investigation told The Chowan Herald Wednesday.

Sources told the newspaper that the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina has initiated a probe of the near collapse, months after county officials requested one.

"The county did request that the U.S. Attorney's Office investigate this," John S. Morrison, Chowan's coun-



Copeland



Morrison

ty attorney, said Wednesday. "The county requested that I meet with the U.S. Attor-

ney's Office, which I did."

Neither Morrison nor Chowan County Manager Peter Rascoe would confirm that the U.S. Attorney's office had subpoenaed county records as part of its investigation.

Neither would Ken Eudy, president of Capstrat, a Raleigh lobbying firm that was paid \$260,000 by former County Manager Cliff Copeland to help secure

federal funding for several projects. Copeland apparently hired Capstrat without the approval of Chowan or Edenton officials or the joint county-town Development Commission.

But a source advised the newspaper that the U.S. Attorney's Office has subpoenaed records from both Capstrat and Chowan County.

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## Burger King hit by armed robbers

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Editor

Two men robbed the Burger King at gunpoint as the employees were leaving the building during the early morning last Wednesday (Dec. 23), according to Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenberry.

A night manager and another employee were ambushed in the parking lot of the Virginia Road fast food restaurant at 1:09 a.m., Fortenberry said Monday. Both robbers brandished handguns before getting away with the night deposit bag that contained \$2,000, Fortenberry said.

Police responded with a K-9 tracking team, but the bloodhound search ended at an area where a waiting car could have been parked, Fortenberry said.

Police are still investigating the armed robbery, Edenton's fourth of the

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## Phoning school boards not easy

Only 2 districts post members' numbers

By **Kristin Pitts**  
The Daily Advance

When parents have an issue with their local school district, it's pretty typical for them to take it up with a board of education member.

But depending on your district, getting in touch with a board of education member may be more difficult than you'd expect.

*"None of us like to have negative phone calls but then again we can't bury our heads in the sand."*

**Sharon Martz**  
Member, Currituck Board of Education

The Edenton-Chowan Schools and Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools are the only districts in the area to post board of education members' home phone numbers on their Web sites. Camden, Currituck and Perquimans school districts do not.

In some cases, even asking for phone numbers doesn't work either. Of the three districts that do not post school board members' home phone numbers, Perquimans was the only one to provide phone numbers for the district's board when asked. Camden did not respond to The Daily Advance's requests for the board members' contact information, while a Currituck County schools spokeswoman responded by providing the phone number for the superintendent's administrative assistant.

Although North Carolina law doesn't mandate that board of education members make their contact information readily available, a number of school board members say being accessible to the public is just part of the job.

"It provides opportunities for school employees as well as parents and public and the press to contact us if they have questions, or (need to) interview us on an issue, said

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## Heads or tails?



PHOTOS BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

The heads side (left photo) and the tails side (right photo) of this rare 1853 quarter are seen in this photo. According to Bill Hicks of the Edenton Lions Club, someone dropped this coin in one of Edenton's four Salvation Army donation buckets earlier this month. Hicks said he noticed the coin when it ended up at the top of several other coins that had been processed through a machine sorter.

## Rare coin tossed in Salvation Army kettle

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Editor

Bookkeepers with the Salvation Army will need to adjust their balance sheet a little more to the good after it was discovered someone tossed a rare quarter into one of the holiday collection kettles here in Edenton.

Bill Hicks, chairman and treasurer of the Edenton Lions' Club, is well aware the town ranks among the state's oldest, but he was still surprised to find a donated coin that dates back to some of the area's historical architecture. And discovering the 1853-quarter was a mere coincidence.

"This just happened to be on top of the tube," said Hicks, describing how the coin came to be stacked after



Bill Hicks

the change was sorted. Had the coin not been on top and in Hick's plain view, it would have most likely been overlooked and treated as a regular quarter.

After all, Hicks said he typically handles as much as \$9,000 worth of quarters a year in fundraising.

It's not unusual to find an assortment of loose items among the Salvation Army's bucket of change.

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## Teen charged in Dec. 2 incident

From staff reports

An Edenton teen is one of three people facing charges in connection with a recent armed robbery at a Camden residence.

Steven Odell Goodman, 17, of the 400 block of White Oak Road, has been charged with first-degree burglary, attempted armed robbery and felony conspiracy to commit armed robbery.

According to a press release from the Camden County Sheriff's Office, Goodman and two Elizabeth City residents — Antonio Tarus Gregory, 25, and Nicole York, 21, both of the 600 block of U.S. Highway 158, were charged in connection with an incident that occurred Dec. 2.

During that incident a group of people entered a home in South Mills and attempted to rob the occupant, according to a Dec. 26 story in the Daily Advance.

Gregory and York are charged with attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon and conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, a felony.

The suspects are being held at Albemarle District Jail in lieu of \$250,000 secured bonds.

Camden Sheriff Tony Perry declined to release the name or address of the victim.

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## Look what we got for Christmas



PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Te'von Copeland (right), 7, and Jasmine Copeland, 4, show off the new bicycles they got for Christmas. The siblings were enjoying a sunny, but cool Monday while riding off Virginia Road. School is out this week for Christmas vacation.



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