



Groups curb animal euthanasia, Page 1B

482-4418

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

50¢

Jedele, Harrell sentenced for slaying

Edenton woman has 10 years left to serve

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Chowan Herald

EDENTON — An Edenton woman and her boyfriend have been sentenced to prison terms for their roles in the murder of the woman's ex-husband more than three years ago.

Raymond Christian Jedele, 41, pleaded guilty last week to the first-degree murder of Donald

Bradley Smithwick on Oct. 4, 2007, Hertford County court records show. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Janet Denise Harrell, 36, of Edenton entered an Alford plea for her part in Smithwick's slaying. Her plea, which allows her to avoid admitting guilt in her ex-husband's slaying, will keep



Harrell



Jedele

her in prison for a minimum of slightly more than 13 years, court records show.

Jedele and Harrell entered their pleas Tuesday, Nov. 23, during what was supposed to be a hearing for preliminary motions in their murder trials set for Jan. 10.

According to Hertford County

law enforcement officials, Smithwick, 33, was abducted from the driveway in front of his home in Ahoskie on Oct. 4, 2007. His body was found two days later in Chowan County. An autopsy revealed that he had been shot fatally in the head the day of his abduction.

Harrell became a suspect in her ex-husband's slaying after law enforcement officials learned that Smithwick had been awarded custody of his and Harrell's two children a day before his ab-

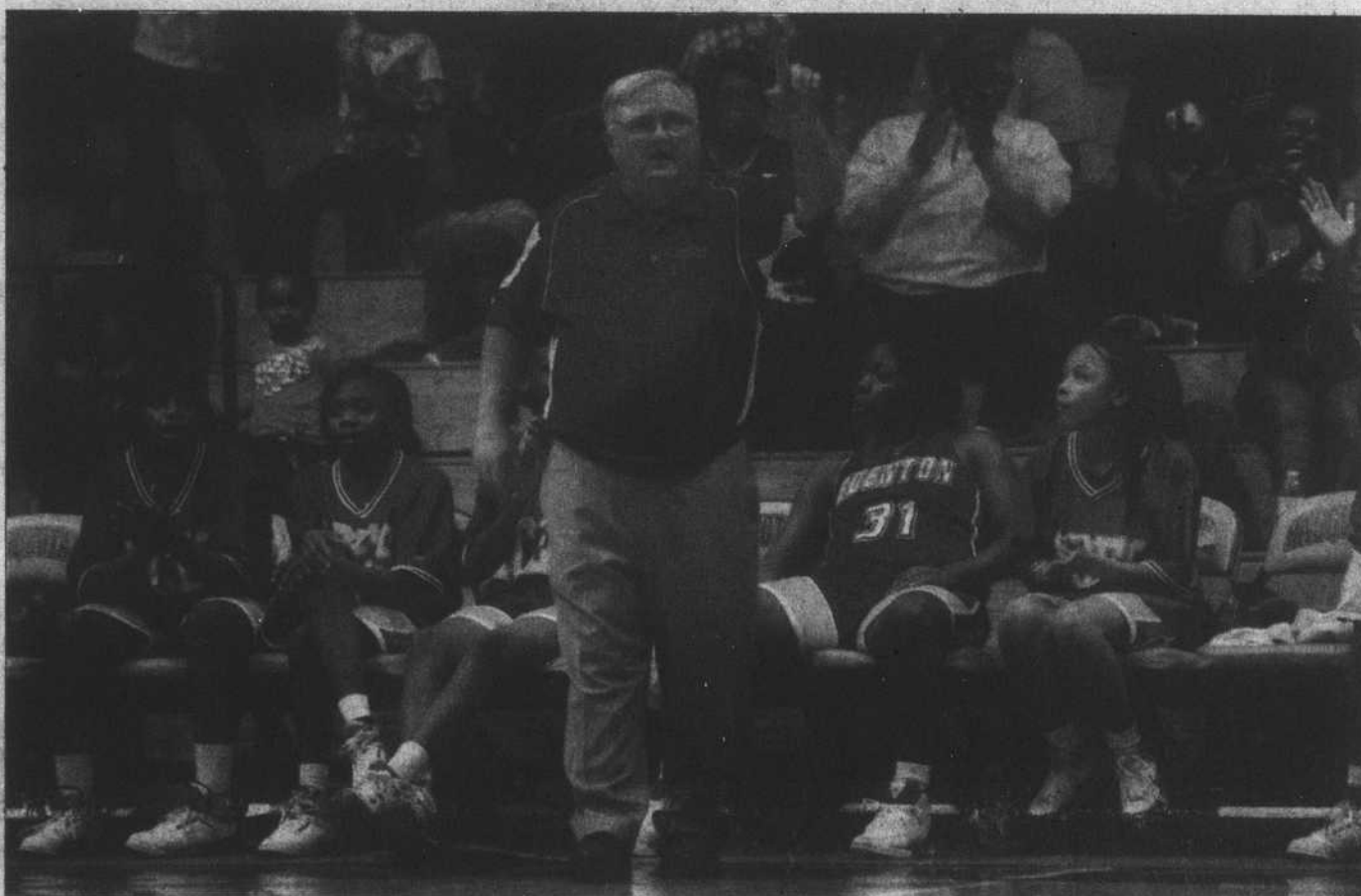
duction.

Connie Smithwick, the victim's mother, told the Chowan Herald Monday that she and her husband, Donald, agreed to Jedele's and Harrell's plea bargains and sentences. She said both were in her son and his children's best interest.

"We wanted things resolved as quickly as possible because of the children," Smithwick said. "We wanted keep the children safe as long as possible. (The children)

See SLAYING, 3A

FOR COACH, KIDS MATTER MORE



FILE PHOTO

Edenton girls' basketball coach Fred White instructs his team during a game against Pasquotank in January, 2009.

Edenton's White has 499 career victories

By CHIC RIEBEL
Sports Editor

EDENTON — To Fred White, the toughest part of coaching high school girls' basketball has nothing to do with losses.

"It's when you have 15 uniforms and 18 girls come out for the team," said White, who has been coaching at Edenton for 31 years and coached at the former Chowan County High for three seasons before that. "Those bottom three kids work as hard as anyone to make the team, but then they don't make it."

"I hate cutting kids." Fortunately, White didn't have to tell any kids they weren't good enough to play

"I've always thought the main thing about athletics is to help kids grow in different directions. I try to teach them to respect each other. I tell them they will see more of their teammates over the next three months than they will of their families and just like their family, they're not always going to get along, but they do respect each other."

Fred White

Edenton girls' basketball coach

this season. He had enough uniforms for everyone.

And that will make White's pursuit of his 500th career victory just a little bit more enjoyable.

The win should arrive

soon. Going into Tuesday's season opener at home against Riverside, White's victory total stands at 499.

If the Lady Aces come up short against Riverside, they have another chance

to get No. 500 tonight at Perquimans.

When White does reach that figure, he doesn't want anybody to make a big deal

See WHITE, 5A

CAC forgot alcohol use on lease

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

When the Chowan Arts Council inked a deal to relocate its gallery inside the town of Edenton's municipal building, the non-profit group failed to realize it could not serve alcoholic beverages during fund-raisers.

Efforts are underway to change that. CAC will soon find out if it will be able to serve beer and wine at future gatherings.

The Town Council's administrative committee agreed at a Nov. 22 meeting to add language to the town's lease with the CAC that would permit alcoholic beverages on the premises, but not within the council chambers that adjoin the new gallery. The Council is expected to consider the request at its December meeting.

The action came after Councilman Willis Privott said that he objected to the idea of those attending CAC receptions carrying alcoholic beverages into the town

See CAC, 2A

Food Bank envelopes in today's newspaper

From staff reports

The Food Bank fund-raising appeal was published in error in last week's Chowan Herald and the envelopes were not inserted in the paper. You will find the envelope in today's edition.

If you choose to contribute, you can mail the donation or drop your envelope off at the Chowan Herald office at 423 South Broad Street, Edenton or at local First Citizen Bank locations.

Council can't decide on its new town planner

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Edenton Town Council remains undecided how to proceed with filling a town position for a new planner.

A proposal currently under consideration calls for the position to be part-time and limited to 24 to 30 hours a week, which the town currently has budgeted funds.

But some council members have made it clear

they would like to see the position stretched into full-time and expanded to include the duties of an assistant manager as well.

Mayor pro tem Steve Biggs said that the need for an assistant town manager was becoming a reality since the town adopted more stringent housing regulations as well as a Demolition by Neglect order for the historic district.

Biggs said that having those necessary regulations in place would only add to the workload of Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton. Knighton and her staff have been handling town-related planning issues since a planning position formerly shared between the town

and county became vacant last November.

The county said it was unable to continue to help fund the position because of a budget shortfall; the town at the time elected not to try and fund the position on its own.

Councilman Willis Privott asked Knighton during a Nov. 22 council meeting if she had investigated whether any suitable part-time applicants for the planning position might be out there.

"I have been contacted by several people informally," Knighton said. She said that in each case, the person's background and experience was in planning.

See PLANNER, 2A

Sly as a Fox



PHOTO BY REBECCA LOWE

This gray fox was spotted near Filbert's Creek Monday night. A young buck had been previously seen in this area, becoming too chummy with area residents before the deer was returned to a more suitable habitat.



©2009 The Chowan Herald
All Rights Reserved