



Tyner crabber dies on Little River

From staff reports

A commercial fisherman is believed to have drowned Monday after apparently falling overboard into the Little River near the Pasquotank-Perquimans county border.

The body of Joseph Franklin Richardson, 55, of Tyner was found a short distance from his boat by other commercial fishermen who became alarmed when Richardson's vessel was spotted circling with no one aboard, said Lt.

Norman Watts of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

The boat was found about a half-mile west of Symonds Creek and two miles from where the Little River empties into the Albemarle Sound.

Richardson's body was found in that vicinity but nearer to the Pasquotank side of the waterway, Watts said.

Richardson reportedly was not wearing a personal flotation device, he said. A commercial fisherman

reported spotting Richardson crabbing alone at the site about 11:30 a.m., but did not see Richardson when he returned a short time later.

Instead, he saw Richardson's boat circling slowly with no one on

board, Watts said. Other fishermen at the popular crabbing site joined in the search and reportedly found Richardson floating in the water about noon before rescue personnel arrived, Watts said.

See DROWNING, 2A

Chowan covets new legislative district

From staff reports

Chowan County leaders have joined efforts to create a new legislative district that would unite Chowan with Perquimans, Gates, and Pasquotank counties.

Officials from those counties have agreed to submit a letter to the N.C. General Assembly Redistricting Committee endorsing Gates resident Earl Rountree, a former member of the State Department of Transportation, to combine the four counties in a new electoral district for the N.C. House of Representatives.

On May 18, Chowan Commission Chairman Eddy Goodwin penned such a letter, suggesting that uniting the four counties in the same legislative district would be in their best interests.

"We interact socially and economically with these other three counties on a daily basis," Goodwin wrote. "These same counties formed and support various other political subdivisions that serve the region, such as the College of The Albemarle, Albemarle Commission, and Albemarle Regional Health Services...We also share many of the same regulatory concerns, mainly dealing with transportation, coastal environmental issues, and coastal building and property insurance issues."

Goodwin added that Chowan prefers to be included in state House and Senate districts that are "comprised of compact and contiguous counties."

Chowan's response followed a similar letter from Perquimans leaders endorsing the same move that appears to be gaining momentum.

The plan, if adopted, would alter the districts currently represented by three area Democrats.

State Rep. Tim Spear, D-Washington, who serves on the House Redistricting Committee, said it's premature to draw any conclusions.

"Right now we're still just compiling the information," Spears said.

See DISTRICT, 3A

TURBINES SPAWN SPROUT



PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

Trevor Sherrick, owner of Calyber Boatworks, stands beside a mold that his company will produce for Sprout Energy with whom he has partnered.

Boat builder produces company mold

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

As the Albemarle embraces the economic possibilities that accompany the prospect of wind farms, an Edenton boat builder has partnered with a group set on promoting renewable energy.

A group of four has united to form a company - Sprout Energy - with an objective to provide a medium that raises awareness for renewable energy. In addition to a promotional kiosk, Sprout also serves as a data collection hub for research. Collectively, Sprout Energy creates normalized data while changing perceptions about how people think about clean energy.

On Friday, the Sprout group, birthed a year ago, gathered at Calyber Boatworks in Edenton, where the infant company's kiosk will be produced. Calyber's owner Trevor Sherrick has designed an outer shell that combines art and technology while housing Sprout's software and hardware.

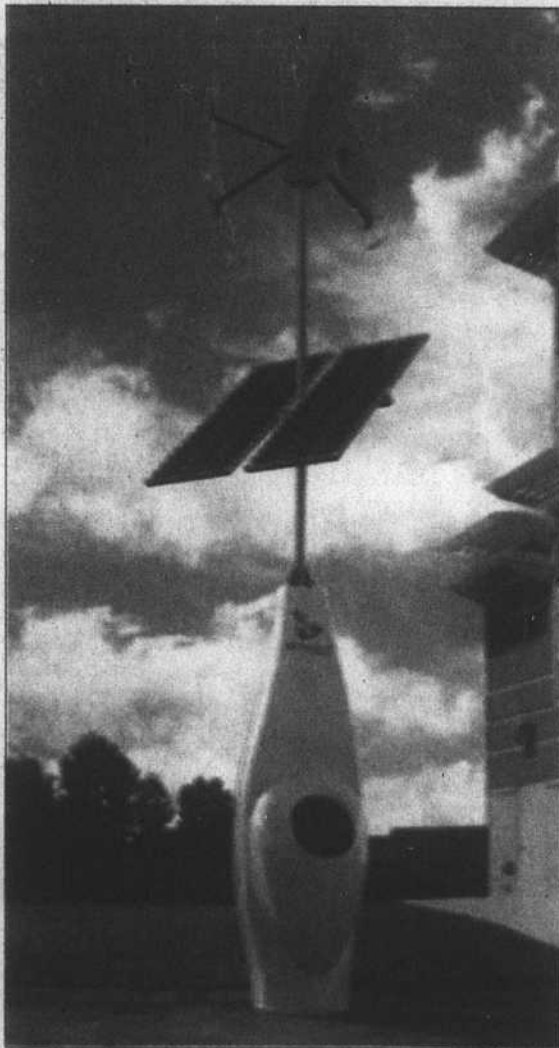


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPROUT ENERGY

Sprout Energy's kiosk is designed to collect wind and solar data for research analysis while also representing a symbol for public awareness of renewable energy. Trevor Sherrick of Calyber Boatworks has partnered with Sprout and will produce the molds.

See SPROUT, 2A

Gates to build \$2.5M project

Fed grant covers sewer

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

GATESVILLE - U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) announced Thursday that Gates County would be the recipient of what many rural communities have been going without - federal funding for economic development.

Butterfield presented Gates County officials with a check replica marking the \$900,000 allocation, courtesy of the US Department of Commerce's economic development arm, to help fund the first phase of a \$2.5 million commercial project - the largest in Gates history.

After advising the crowd of about 20 who attended the press conference at Merchants Millpond State Park that northeastern North Carolina is too often ignored of federal and state infrastructure funding, the 1st District congressman said efforts are afoot to help rural communities.

"The needs of rural communities continue," Butterfield said. "You don't have the tax base to do anything. The only other source is government funds. We're going to continue to invest in rural infrastructure."

Butterfield touted President Barack Obama as understanding of the importance for investing in rural communities that typically wield less political influence than metropolitan areas.

"Many of those in urban areas have no idea of the challenges that exist in rural communities," Butterfield added.

Plans include for Gates County to use the federal funds to

See GATES, 3A

Aces' baseball loses after unexpected over-nighter

Rain delay forces stay in Whiteville

By PAUL WHITE
Special to the Chowan Herald

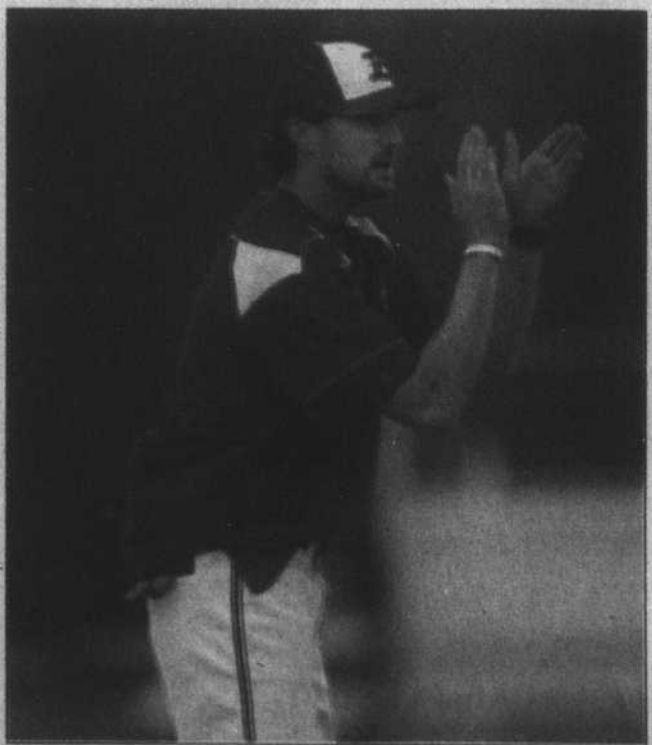
The Edenton Aces were willing to wait all night for the rain to stop last Tuesday, and they promised to all pitch in to get Whiteville's field ready for more baseball.

But after spending about 90 minutes watching rain flood the field and lightning dance across the sky, even Aces coach Justin Roberson couldn't object

at around 8:30 p.m. when the umpire suspended the 2A state tournament second-round game would resume Wednesday.

Of course, that was easy for him to say. For the Aces, who now faced a five-hour trip to Edenton and a five-hour return to resume play, the suspension was considerably more problematic. The Aces led powerful Whiteville (20-2) 1-0 in the bottom of the second inning when play was halted, but suddenly, winning a game was the least of their concerns.

"If it was, say, three hours away, we probably would have come back," said Edenton athletic director Bob Turner, who had made the trip to Whiteville. "But five hours up and five hours back the next day? That's too tough



FILE PHOTO

Edenton baseball coach Justin Roberson has nothing but applause for the parents who helped out the team after it was stranded overnight in Whiteville when a playoff game was suspended by rain.

gym. But Turner said if his team was going to stay, they'd stay in a hotel. So after getting approval from his administration, the Aces settled in at a nearby budget motel.

They then walked across the street to a waffle house for their first meal in hours. Meanwhile, the parents that had made the trip began taking inventory.

Who needs deodorant? How 'bout toothpaste? Or underwear?

The necessary items were then purchased a lo-

cal Wal-Mart. It was just one of the good deeds turned in by this group of parents, who also picked up the tab for kids that didn't have money and served as room chaperones - one adult per three kids - during their impromptu hotel stay.

"I truly think we've got the best parents in the state," Roberson said.

The folks at Whiteville weren't bad, either. The following day, the school let the Aces use their washing machines to get their uniforms ready for Round Two. And when the Aces arrived at the field at around noon - although the game was at 5 p.m., checkout time at the hotel was 11 a.m. - the Whiteville athletic director greeted them with Subway sandwiches.

See ACES, 8A

on the kids." Whiteville coach Arnold

Harwood offered to let the Aces sleep in his school's

