



Dear Santa Letters — 1B

482-4418

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

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Masked gunman robs Edenton Shell station

Robbery marks clerk's last day

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

A clerk's last day on the job began with a gunman demanding cash minutes after the store opened at dawn Saturday.

Police are investigating the 6:11 a.m. armed robbery at the Edenton Shell service station, located at 801 North Broad Street. Shortly after the station opened at 6 a.m. a man entered brandishing a handgun, wearing a stocking-type mask and black gloves while demanding cash, according to Edenton

police. Once the lone clerk handed over the money, the suspect fled on foot across North Broad Street toward First Street, police say.

Robert Cheek, store manager, confirmed the account.

"He demanded the clerk to open the register and put the money in a paper bag," Cheek said.

Cheek was manning the store alone Saturday afternoon after relieving the female clerk.

"She was upset after the robbery so I sent her home," Cheek said.

She had been employed at the store for about a year and was working her



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

See ROBBERY, 3A

A surveillance video captures an image of an armed robbery suspect wearing a red and white leather jacket with the No. 72 displayed on the back. The Edenton Shell Station was robbed Saturday at 6:11 a.m.

Senator Ed Jones succumbs to cancer

He died Friday at the age of 62

From staff reports

State Sen. Ed Jones, D-Halifax, died Friday following a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 62.

Jones represented Chowan, Perquimans and Gates counties as part of what was the 4th Senate District prior to redistricting last year. The new district Jones won re-election in last month no longer includes those counties.

Jones' daughter, Alesha Garrett, said Friday her father died at 2:20 p.m. at his Halifax County home.

Jones was remembered by colleagues Friday as a dedicated public servant and tireless advocate for rural communities.

"Everybody liked him," said state Rep. Bill Owens, D-Pasquotank. "He got along with everyone. (He had) just a good attitude. That goes a long way. We lost a good person. I'm real sorry. He'll be missed."

"Senator Jones was a gentle soul devoted to his family, church, and community," U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-N.C., said in a statement. "I am deeply saddened by his passing and my sympathies are with his wife Mary Ann and the entire Jones family."

Gov. Bev Perdue called Jones "an advocate for education and a strong voice for the law enforcement community in our state."

"Most of all, he was a great friend to me and I will always cherish our friendship," Perdue added.

See JONES, 3A



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FEEDBACK



PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Golden LEAF's Pat Cabe, vice president of programming, facilitates a feedback forum at John A. Holmes High School, Thursday night. Stakeholders that have applied for \$2 million in grants from Golden LEAF learned what the non-profit liked and disliked about their proposals.

Golden LEAF hints tourism support

COA might withdraw its application

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

For the Chowan County stakeholders seeking a possible leg up on Golden LEAF

funding, the non-profit's leaders first issued an array of feedback about the proposed projects. Judging from Thursday night's comments, some proposals appear encouraging while others seem doomed.

Dan Gerlach, Golden LEAF's president, pulled no punches as he critiqued 17 proposals for a

total request of more than \$6.2 million versus the projects' collective costs of \$13.5 million. Twelve of the projects stem from economic development and infrastructure for a total request of \$1.3 million with the other five related to education and workforce development at \$4.9 million.

Perhaps College of The Albemarle received the biggest blow when Gerlach reported that its \$2.5 million request exceeded the funding available.

"You can't blame a girl for asking," Gerlach said. "This proposal needs to be shrunk. I need

See LEAF, 4A

Fisherman drowns after boat capsizes

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Authorities have identified the man who drowned in the Albemarle Sound Saturday.

William Dale Moore, 55, of Roper drowned after the 12-foot boat he and two other men were fishing from capsized, according to William Laton, an officer with the N.C. Wildlife Commission. Names of the other two men, also

of Washington County, were not immediately available.

An emergency call was dispatched at 3:23 p.m. after the men had been in the water for about an hour, Laton said.

A group on a pontoon boat plucked the two survivors from the water and took them to shore at which point they called 911, Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said. "They happened to be

in the area and saw the folks in distress and took them to the boat ramp," Laton said.

Once at the ramp the survivors alerted authorities that Moore was still in the water.

Moore's body was later recovered. He was not wearing a life vest, Laton said. It's not clear if the other two men were wearing a life jacket. They were taken to Vidant Chowan Hospital where they were

treated and released. Goodwin said there were reports that the water had turned rough earlier.

Laton stopped short of describing the conditions as too rough for a small boat, at least when emergency responders arrived on the scene.

"It had some chop to it, but seas were less than three feet," Laton said.

Goodwin described the fishing boat as 12-foot ves-

sel similar to a Jon boat. It remained capsized when officials arrived and was later towed to shore, Laton said.

The men were fishing in a popular spot where the power lines are located on the Chowan County side of the sound.

In addition to the N.C. Wildlife Commission and the sheriff's office, Edenton police and the U.S. Coast Guard assisted with the recovery.

Legal partnership rids criminal record

More than 100 attend expungement forum

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

A group of more than 100 men and women with a criminal record showed up amid hope they could

get their tainted pasts erased.

The N.C. Justice Center and Legal Aid of North Carolina partnered to hold an expungement clinic in Edenton on Monday afternoon. Four attorneys working pro bono and four law school students from the University of North Carolina assisted with the review of criminal records to see

who qualified for expunction. Held in the gym at the former D. F. Walker School, the legal services were being provided at no charge.

A handful of legal remedies are available to help individuals with a criminal record obtain relief that otherwise impair their ability to gain such privileges as

employment, housing, and child custody.

"Today's event is to empower you to know your rights," explained attorney Kari L. Hamel, Legal Aid. "This is the equivalent of a medical checkup."

Among the legal tools available

See RECORD, 2A

"Come Join Us As We Celebrate Our Lord's Birth"

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ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:30 PM CHILDREN'S SERVICE
10:30 PM SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC
11:00 PM CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
The Rev. Dr. Rob MacSwain | 10:00 AM