

Cotton blooming in Chowan

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

For many decades, the Chowan Herald has published a photo of whoever finds the first cotton bloom of the growing season.

Though Edenton is known for its footloose and fancy-free ways, Chowan County's heart and soul is in agriculture. Cotton is king or at the very least, the crown prince.

Congrats goes to 16-year-old Landen Parrish and his 12-year-old sister Ainsley, who found the first bloom reported in a green field on June 21 within the family's farm on Wildcat Road.

According to Parrish's uncle Yates, who is 93 years old and still helps out on the farm, the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Parrish Farms reports the first cotton bloom of the growing season. Bragging rights goes to Landen Parrish and his sister Ainsley who found the bloom on June 21 at the family's farm on Wildcat Road. Photo shows Landen and Ainsley Parrish along with her best friend, Addison Bell.

family has been farming in Chowan County for more than 110 years.

"My wife Amy and I are very proud of both our

kids," said Wayne Parrish of Parrish Farms. "I hope that they will keep the family tradition going here in Chowan County."

ROTARY HONORS TURNER



MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Edenton Rotary Club presented Aces' Amy Turner with the official scholarship check so as she can pursue her academic career at East Carolina University. Since the 1920s, this prestigious scholarship has been awarded to some of Chowan County's best and brightest. From left are incoming Rotary President Tom Gande, Rotary Vice President Stephen Benkusky, Amy and Turner's father, Chris.

ART

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art media but also how to appreciate art.

Whichard — "Ms. Tracy" to many of her students — chose the name Fearless Kids Art for her business because she wanted her students, who range in age from pre-K through the fifth grade, to not be afraid or skeptical of trying different media for their art.

"When you start out with a blank canvas and push through the creative process, it's pretty amazing," she said.

Whether it is crayons, colored pencils, acrylic paints or clay, Whichard encourages her students to "just pick it up and give it a try."

"I let them decide what they want to do with the tools I supply," she said.

Whichard has offered art classes to youngsters through Fearless Kids Art at her Side Street Studio on 116 E. King St. for four

years. She previously owned Ladybug Studio in Rocky Hock, where she offered art classes to kids for five years.

Whichard offers afterschool art classes during the school year and arts camps during the summer. Children will have a chance to participate in her summer camp on the theme "Things That Go" starting next week. The camp, which begins Monday and runs through Friday, will allow kids to make art inspired by airplanes, tractors, buses, trains and cars.

In her Summer Fun Art Camp scheduled for Aug. 5-9, kids will "head outside for the ultimate inspiration," Whichard said. She likes to let students be inspired by their surroundings, whether it's the natural beauty of Edenton's cypress trees or the town's historic buildings and artifacts.

She also has scheduled a Pop Art Camp for Aug. 12-16 that will allow kids to create art from

commercials, television and grocery stores.

Whichard's Fearless Kids Art Afterschool Art Program starts at the beginning of the school year in September. It's grown from 12 students during her first year to 55 students in what will be her fourth year this fall.

Whichard said she started teaching classes after wanting to share her own love of art with others. One of the best parts of working with children, she said, is seeing them enjoy what they are doing.

"The kids are happy," she said. "We have fun creating."

Whichard earned a bachelor's degree in communications. She enjoys spending time with her children, Ellie, Kate and William.

For information about Whichard's Fearless Kids Art classes, visit the Side Street Studio Facebook page and website at <http://www.sidestreet-studio.com/>.

MURDER

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murder. Both are being held without bond at the Chowan County Jail.

Edenton police say their preliminary investigation suggests Riddick's shooting wasn't a random incident. They did not elaborate.

In a press release, police Chief Henry King expressed his thanks to the State Bureau of Investigation, which led the investigation that resulted in the arrests of Copeland and Speaks.

Edenton police say the investigation of Riddick's shooting death continues. Anyone with information is urged to call the SBI at 919-662-4500 or the Edenton Police Department at 482-4444. People may also email the Edenton Police Department at <http://www.edentonpd.com>.

This is the second murder this year within Edenton.

In late February, Andrew J. Cooper, 31, of Browns Summit, was arrested and charged with first-degree

murder after allegedly stabbing to death Dwight Coston of Edenton.

Police say Coston was stabbed around 3 p.m. Feb. 14 near North Granville and West Carteret streets. He was taken to Vidant Chowan Hospital in Edenton, where he died.

Edenton-Chowan Community Against Violence

will gather starting at 5:30 p.m. July 8 at the Edenton Farmer's Market, 200 N. Broad St.

Partnered with the Edenton Police Department, the group meets once a month within various neighborhoods so as to offer a prayer and fellowship among neighbors. Anyone is invited to attend.

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

July 12, 2019
11:00am-2:00pm

Chowan County Farm Bureau
524 Virginia Road, Edenton, NC 27932

- Free hotdogs, snacks and goodie bags
- Door Prizes (must be a Chowan County Farm Bureau Member to win)
- Young Farmer and Rancher Food Drive (bring nonperishable food item then you will be enter in twice for the door prize drawings)



150 kids attend fishing derby

STAFF REPORT

Edenton Fish Hatchery and Aquarium hosted about 150 children June 15 for the annual Kids' Fishing Derby.

The annual event is sponsored by the Chowan Edenton Optimist Club. The nonprofit offered up free lunch of hot dogs, chips and water during the event.

As in previous years, hatchery Deputy Manager Sam Pollock and Optimist Club member Mike McArthur helped file the



SAMANTHA LAYTON/ FOR CHOWAN HERALD

About 150 kids and their caregivers attend the Kids Fishing Derby June 15 at Edenton National Fish Hatchery. Chowan Edenton Optimist Club sponsors the derby.

catfish and rock fish (striped bass).

Fishing derbies help the hatchery prevent over-

population of fish in their pond. It also gives children the chance to learn a life-long skill.

COUNCIL

Continued from A1

next year because he said citizens shouldn't be paying more for "old water" until the water treatment plant work is complete. He based his opinion on a healthy skepticism of governmental affairs most recently after Outer Banks residents were made to pay for a beach nourishment project that was promised sooner rather than later, but did not start until later.

Water infrastructure improvements are needed because the town's water system remains in violation of state law because the water contains elevated levels of tri-halomethanes, a byproduct of the chemical process to disinfect drinking water. Tri-halomethanes, or THMs, are considered carcinogenic. That said, don't be alarmed because high THM levels in the town's water don't pose an emergency, but customers — particularly those with specific health concerns — need to know about them.

Speaking of water treatment plants, Town's Public Works Director Corey Gooden gave a presentation as to the ongoing progress at Beaver Hill and

Freemason water treatment plants. Beaver Hill will be online in early October with Freemason early next year. Both plants will be compliance with state Department of Environmental Quality standards. Though water quality will improve, the town's 2,107 water customers will continue to get mailers in their utility bills that say tri-halomethanes are present in the water supply — until the plants are online for a year.

In related financial news, council approved a \$20.5 million budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20. There will be no increase in the Town's property tax rate, which stands at 40 cents. The budget includes \$1.50 increase in fees to pay infrastructure needs, as well as a 1.5 percent electric rate increase.

In other matters, say goodbye to the Conger Building and hello to a proposed brew pub.

According to council documents, Raleigh businessman John Glover decided to waive condition to secure necessary permits and will proceed with purchasing the property on June 28, prior to the June 30 deadline set by Town Council. Town Attorney Hood Ellis said covenants limit use of the

property to a brewery and brew pub, so Town is protected in its intent. There are a few minor repairs to make to the building — three or four window panes were damaged recently by pellet gun bandit and a footing on the east side of the building needs repair.

In March 2018, council voted 4-1 to adopt a resolution supporting the town's sale of the building, also known as the former Northeast Commission Building, to Glover for \$309,000.

Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton is working with Glover on a short-term solution for the Town to use the land where the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department's sunfish sailboats and Town of Edenton stand-up paddle boards are stored, as well as temporary use of the Sail Loft building where county and town equipment is stored.

The Edenton Yacht Club owns some supplies stored in the sail loft. The town will work to include in the temporary arrangement. Edenton has a long-term plan to construct building for storage and classroom space for teaching sailing and water-related sports.

Va. teen charged in stabbing

STAFF REPORTS

CURRITUCK — A Virginia teenager is facing charges in connection with the stabbing of an Edenton man on a bridge in Moyock, Wednesday, the Currituck Sheriff's Office says.

Anthony Robert Lee Smith, 16, of Virginia Beach, was charged with felony assault causing serious bodily injury following a disturbance at the Tulls

Creek Bridge in the 1400 block of Tulls Creek Road about 7 p.m., the Sheriff's Office said in a press release Thursday.

According to the release, a man from Edenton suffered knife wounds and was transported to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. The victim's name and condition were not immediately available.

The sheriff's office said the investigation continues.

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