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NAACP demands firings for discrimination

Agency questions hiring, promotion practices

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

The Chowan County NAACP chapter is demanding the termination of the Edenton-Chowan Schools superintendent and director of human resources for racial discrimination.

A group of about 25 people representing the Edenton branch

of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People attended Monday night's scheduled Board of Education meeting. It was there

that the Rev. John Shannon of Providence Missionary Baptist Church read a letter signed by the chapter's Legal Redress Committee that calls for the



Browder



Smith

termination of Superintendent Allan T. Smith and Michelle Maddox, director of human resources, for what the letter deems as their discriminatory practices in regards to hiring and promotions.

The Aug. 21 letter, not specifically addressed to anyone, specifically cites such practices

with the school system's failure to promote and subsequently terminate Mary Lyons Felton, a former school administrator and member of the NAACP.

Donnelle White, Chowan's NAACP chapter president, confirmed the authenticity of the letter in an interview with the Chowan Herald last week.

"It's not about Mary Lyons (Felton)," White said. "It's about the number of teachers (lack of blacks) in the school system, the hiring procedures

and screening process."

A third demand of the NAACP is that a joint committee between the NAACP and Edenton Chowan Schools be established to review and monitor the hiring practices of educators. If its demands are not met, the local chapter plans to seek the assistance of the state and national bodies of the NAACP for additional support and resources, the letter states. Also, the

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Schools overcome 9 percent turnover

From staff reports

Edenton-Chowan Schools experienced a 9 percent teacher turnover rate during its most recent annual reporting period.

Nineteen exit interviews among licensed educators were conducted between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012, according to Michelle Maddox, human resources director for the school system. She reported the results of those interviews to the Board of Education Monday night.

Maddox added Tuesday that retirement continues to be the leading reason for turnover within the school system. Five of the 19 left the system due to retirement, Maddox said. Other reasons for leaving given by educators include: transfer to another school district and family relocation. Job dissatisfaction typically ranks low as reasons for leaving, Maddox added.

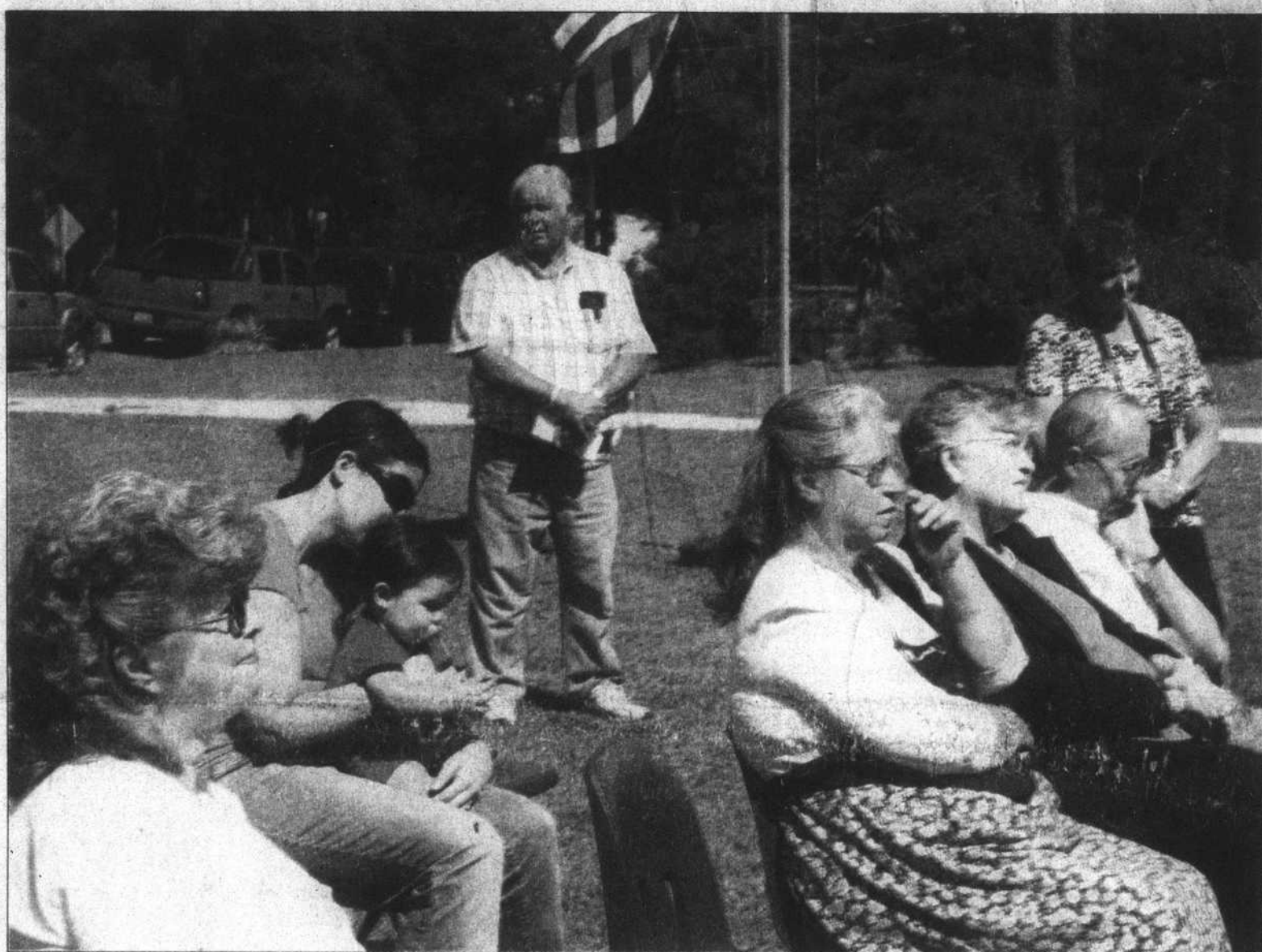
Maddox said that in response to the question, "Are you leaving in part because you are dissatisfied with your current position," 15 teachers responded that they were "not at all dissatisfied with my current job, I am leaving for other reasons."

Of the remaining teachers, three said they were "somewhat dissatisfied" but that was not the primary reason they were leaving. Only one teacher said, "I am definitely dissatisfied with my job, it is the main reason I am leaving," Maddox told the board.

Maddox added that 10 teachers completed a written survey that was included as part of the exit interview. Of those, she said, six said they were not dissatisfied with their current position, three were somewhat dissatisfied with their position, and one was definitely dissatisfied.

Major factors in teachers' decisions to depart the school system were identified as lack of influence over decisions regarding the teaching position and poor student motivation. Others included low salary, lack of support from administrators, student discipline problems and lack of parental support.

REMEMBER 9/11



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Leon Evans (beside American flag) surveys the crowd attending the 9/11 service of remembrance held outside his Rocky Hock Road home Tuesday on the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America. Evans organized the service attended by about 50 people including members of the Chowan County Sheriff's Office and the Center Hill - Crossroads Fire Department Evans once led.

July jobless rates offer mixed bag

Unemployment falls in Chowan

From staff reports

Unemployment rates decreased in 47 of North Carolina's 100 counties in July, including a slight drop for Chowan County

Jobless rates increased in 26 counties and were un-

changed in 27. When compared to the same month last year, unemployment rates declined in 94 counties, increased in four, and remained the same in two.

In Chowan, the jobless rate dropped slightly in July to 10.8 percent — down from 10.9 percent in June. A year ago, the jobless rate in the county stood at 12.2 percent, for

an over the year drop of 1.4 percent in the number of those without jobs.

"Rates either dropped or remained the same in most of North Carolina in July," said N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll. "Compared to the same time last year, nearly all of the state's counties have a lower unemployment

rate. We will continue our statewide effort between employers, our workforce partners and our employment service offices to put people back to work."

North Carolina had 34 counties that were at or below the state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.8 percent for the month of July.

Jobless percentage rates

posted in other Albemarle area counties during July were:

- Bertie — 12.2
- Camden — 7.4
- Currituck — 4.7
- Dare — 8.2
- Gates — 8
- Hertford — 11.2
- Pasquotank — 10.7
- Perquimans — 10.3
- Tyrrell — 8.3
- Washington — 11.9

Fair offers discounts to no-riders, military ID

65th annual event takes place Sept. 25-29

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Those who'd like to spend their time at the Chowan County Regional Fair in Edenton as walking spectators are in luck this year because low-cost tickets will be available just for them.

For only \$10, a non-ride ticket will be offered at the gate in cooperation with midway operator Playworld on the first three nights of the fair to those who are age 35 and older.



PHOTO COURTESY SUSAN MCCUISTON

The brightly lit midway beckons visitors to the American Legion Fairgrounds in Edenton. This year's 64th annual fair will take place Sept. 25-29.

"We hope that this offer will allow more people to come to the fair," said John Chilcoat, board

vice president for the 65th annual fair that takes place Sept. 25-29. "Anyone age 65 and older will be

admitted free on Thursday night only."

Admission price for those wishing to enjoy the rides will be \$18 at the gate. Discount tickets for \$15 are available at area Duck Thru outlets now through Sept. 22.

E.C. Toppin, fair president, said that the special ticket was being offered in response to requests from the public.

"People have been asking us if we could offer something like that," Toppin said. He said that the fair board issued a special non-ride ticket that was offered last year on the fair's opening

See FAIR, 2A



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CENTER HILL CROSS ROADS
FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIREHOUSE CHICKEN

\$8.00 per plate

SATURDAY, Sept. 15th, 12pm-6 pm