



Board, county weigh options for high school

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

During a joint meeting Monday night the school board and county commissioners considered a variety of scenarios for improving conditions for students attending John

A. Holmes High School. Those included rehabbing the current school built in the 1950s or considering other possible sites for the school including adjacent to Chowan Middle School. Architect Jim Copeland of Moseley Architects in

Morrisville said that more often now school systems are moving toward a trend of locating more than one public school at adjoining sites. Copeland, whose firm in 2008 conducted a feasibility study that looked at possible plans for im-

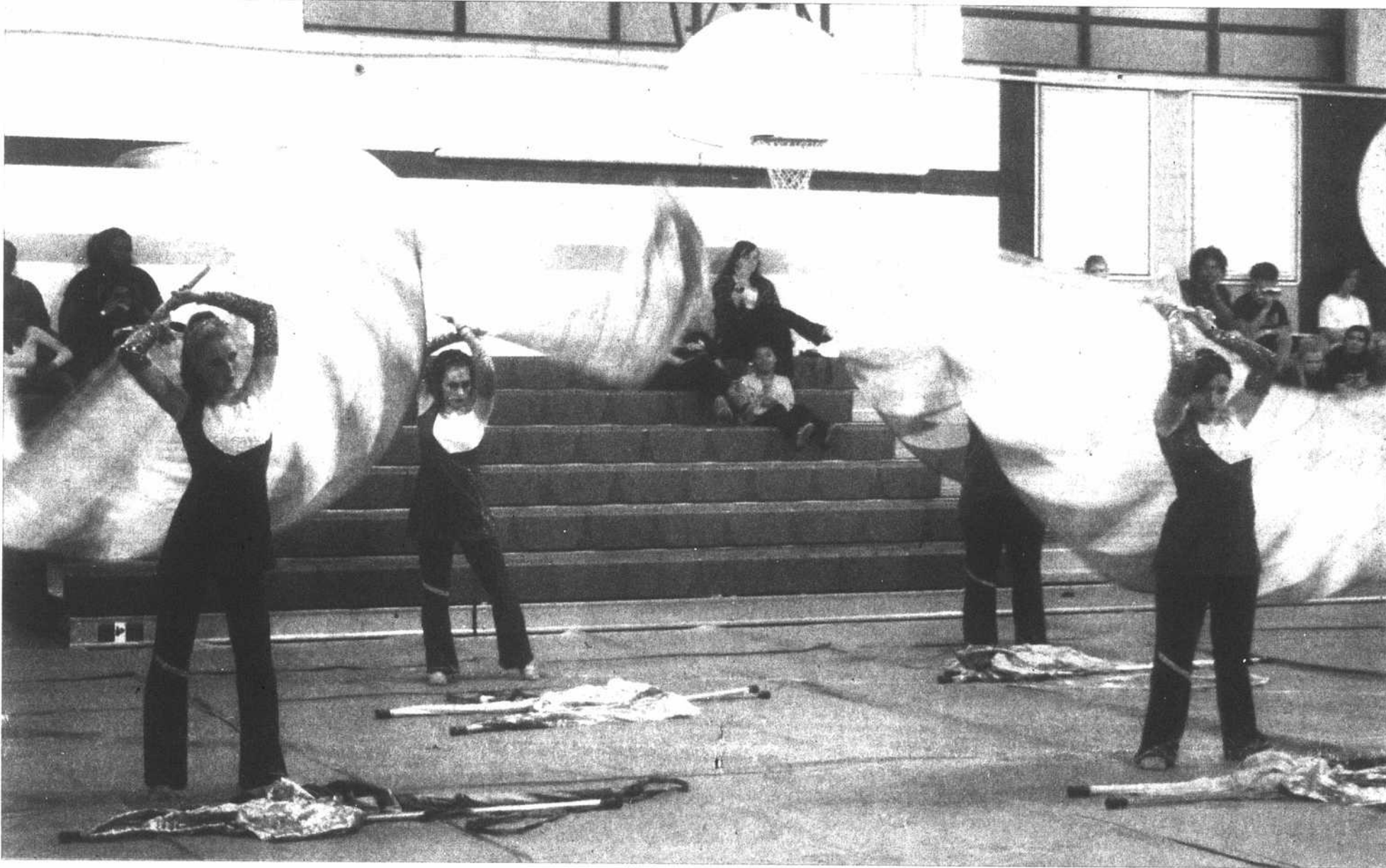
provements at Holmes at its current location, said that many school systems are now using buildings that house grades 6-12 at adjoining locations perhaps because of the economy. He added that modern, technology-driven classrooms

have a need for different room configurations than their predecessors to be used to their best advantage prompting the move toward building new schools. Commissioner Keith Nixon questioned whether building a new school

for a dwindling student population was the best use of the county's money. "I still keep going back to the question, do you need a whole new school," he said, "or is

See HIGH SCHOOL, 3A

BATTLE OF THE BANDS



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Members of the Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates Flag Corps perform during Saturday's rescheduled Edenton-Chowan Peanut Festival Battle of the Bands. Moved inside the gym at John A. Holmes High School due to rainy weather the event nevertheless drew a nice crowd from area counties. The Peanut Festival, sponsored by the Edenton-Chowan Band Parents Association, was postponed from its original Oct. 3 date due to the threat posed by a hurricane approaching the area. Results from the competition will be published in next week's Chowan Herald.

County to end water softening at plant

State officials order changes to ensure compliance with groundwater standards

From staff reports

Chowan County soon will begin phasing out its water-softening process at the Valhalla Water Treatment Plant in order to comply with state groundwater quality standards.

The county softens the water at the treatment plant. But in order to comply with a recent mandate from the Division of Water Resources, the county must discontinue softening the water.

Beginning Dec. 1, the county will gradually start to reduce softening the water. All soft-

ening of the water will be stopped by March 1, 2016, in order to comply with the North Carolina Groundwater Standards.

Hard water is safe to drink so softening of the water is not required by the EPA.

Among key points noted by county officials:

- Water will be safe to drink
- Water supplied will be much harder
- Soap will not lather as well.
- Customers can elect to use the water as provided or can install a home water softener or other type of treatment system.
- Additional information will be provided with customer water bills.
- By Permit from the State of North Carolina,

the Valhalla Water Treatment plant's softening system has operated without a discharge to the Chowan River. Instead, the treatment plant has collected brine, a byproduct of softening, in a lagoon that has seeped into the groundwater. The groundwater has been impacted by the chlorides in the brine, and now because of changing groundwater standards the N.C. Division of Water Resources - Water Quality Regional Operations Section has ordered the Chowan County Water Treatment Plant to cease softening operations until an alternative treatment can be built that will not increase chloride levels in the ground-

See SOFTENING, 4A

Students could get new role with board

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Students may one day have a greater voice in the Edenton-Chowan schools. That Edenton-Chowan school board is considering that would create a student advisory council at John A. Holmes High School and perhaps name a couple of students to sit on the school board in an ex-officio capacity — not as voting members but as advisors to the board members on particular issues.

Superintendent Rob Jackson told the school board at its Nov. 3 monthly meeting that two area school systems — Currituck and Camden — already utilize the advice and input of students on their school boards.

Jackson told the board he felt the involvement of students would allow for "a richer discussion" of issues that come before it.

Jackson said that the students' presence would allow for new and different perspectives as well

See NEW ROLE, 3A

Officials still seeking second grocery store

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The search for a second grocery in Edenton goes on.

Last night Edenton Chowan Partnership Executive Director Frank Miglorie updated members of the town council during their regular monthly meeting on efforts by the ECP to secure a second grocery store for the community. He said that given the length of time that the search has continued those involved — the ECP, ElectriCities and Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton — believe hiring a

specialized marketing consultant who focuses on grocery chains would be a positive step.

Miglorie confirmed that his office has had ongoing discussions with the Gemini Group that manages the Edenton Village Shopping Center. He said a contact within the Gemini organization had reaffirmed the interest of several grocery chains in the location currently occupied by Food Lion.

However, he said, he has learned that Food Lion recently signed to renew its lease at the site.

"We've had no indication from them that they are going to relinquish their hold on the present site," Miglorie said.

He said that when ECP officials have been in contact with Food Lion representatives and raised the issue, Food Lion has refused to respond.

Miglorie added that efforts to interest a grocery retailer in building a store in the community have so far not met with success.

He said that Jennings Gray of ElectriCities, who is assisting the ECP in the search, had reached out to Charlie C's IGA, a Wake County-based operation that wanted the building Food Lion currently occupies.

"They had expressed interest in coming to Edenton but when they found out they would have to build a store here, they backed off," Miglorie said.

He said that those working to secure a second grocery store for Edenton had also been in touch with Wal-Mart regarding its small town grocery operation.

"We learned they are still interested in Edenton but have no specific plans at this time," he said.

Miglorie said that the market consultant that would be hired would be experienced in attracting grocery stores to small communities like Edenton. He said funding from ElectriCities would be sought to pay for the position should the town council approve the idea.

Miglorie added that should those working on this project succeed in attracting a grocery chain that would welcome the opportunity for a freestanding store, the ECP has identified a three-to-four-acre tract inside the town limits on the north side of Broad Street owned by two specific landowners who have indicated they would be willing to sell if it would help the town attract a second grocery store.

"So far they've been very cooperative," Miglorie said.



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