

COLLEGE OF THE ALBEMARLE GED AHS PROGRAM HAS RECORD-SETTING NUMBER IN 1995/96

Reprinted from *Between The Lines*, newsletter of COA.

College of The Albemarle's GED/AHS program set a record for the 1995-1996 school year in the number of graduates that received high school diplomas. The total number of graduates between June 1995 and May 1996 was 371. The previous record was 332 in 1993-94.

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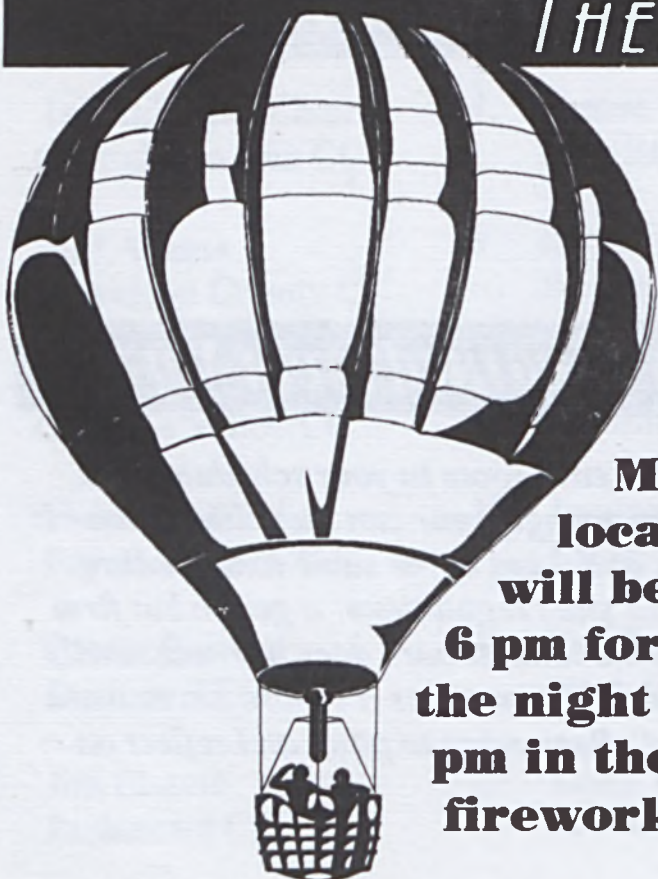
The college has been over the 300 mark for four straight years. Ryane Whitehurst attributes the rise to several factors including a stable group of instructors, new positions within the department, and new testing sites.

"We've had a very stable group of instructors with little turnover," Whitehurst said. "Our instructors are getting people ready to take the test. There are some that come here that need very little study. Others need more. We instruct according to people's goals." Whitehurst said students begin with a pre-test. If they do well on the pre-test, students can set up right away for the first GED test. Other students need more instruction. Last year, Anne Lennon became COA's full time GED examiner and Louis Stephenson was designated as an alternate examiner. Whitehurst said these personnel moves have made it easier on students to take the tests. "Students are comfortable with someone they know and are used to," she said. Also, for the first time, tests were allowed to be taken to other test

sites and students were allowed to take tests at multiple sites. "The schedule is more convenient. This year the tests can be taken to other sites and students can go back and forth between the sites. Students couldn't change sites in the past." Whitehurst said. "This could speed up the time frame it takes to take the test." For example, a student could now take one test at the Chowan County Center and take another test at the main campus. GED test sites include the Chowan County Center, main campus, area prisons, Knotts Island, and the Dare County Detention Center. "The GED test is normed on high school seniors," Whitehurst said. "So 30 percent of high school seniors couldn't pass the test."

COA has also been successful on the state's goals for completions. The North Carolina Community College System goal is to have at least 25 percent of those students initially enrolled to earn a diploma within a year. The state average is 24.57 percent. COA's average is slightly over 31 percent. That says some good things about the programs, the instructors, and the students," Whitehurst said.

THERE'S MAGIC IN THE AIR



Come one, come all to the North Carolina State Fair! Thursday, October 24 is "Winn Dixie Day".

The only admission charge is 5 cans of Thrifty Maid canned food which will be donated to the local food bank. Also on Thursday, John Anderson will be playing at Dorton Arena at 7 pm. Doors open at 6 pm for this free concert. Additional entertainment for the night includes the Joie Chitwood Thrill Show at 8:30 pm in the Grandstand (admission fee charged) and fireworks at 9:45 pm.