

# JA Holmes Visit Site

John A Holmes High School is one of two North Carolina high schools selected for a site visit in the Secondary School Recognition Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. McDowell High School (McDowell County) is the other.

Being chosen for a visit is the final step in the national competition designed to call attention to schools that are outstanding in meeting the needs of all their students.

On April 29 and 30, a U.S. Department of Education representative will visit Holmes High to gain firsthand knowledge of the school through meetings with students, teachers, school administrators and community leaders. Observations made during the visit will be reported to a review panel.

"I'm really happy about being selected for the visit for our teachers, our kids, and our community," said Rob Boyce, principal, John A. Holmes High School. "It's rewarding to see the hard work of so many being recognized."

Schools selected for site visit have impressive student performance on standard achievement and minimum competency tests, low dropout rates and high daily attendance rates, according to Bill Church, special assistant for secondary education with the State Department of Public Instruction. Personnel in these schools have worked hard to overcome obstacles, improve student performance and maintain high education standards, he added.

Schools selected for national honors in mid-June will be recognized in a ceremony at the White House.

## Named Tree City U.S.A.

For the sixth consecutive year, Edenton has been named a Tree City U.S.A. community by the National Arbor Day Foundation, according to S. Thomas Rhodes, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

The Nebraska-based Arbor Day Foundation honors communities with a Tree City U.S.A. designation upon recommendation of the State Forester. The communities qualify after meeting standards which include: adoption of a tree city ordinance, creation of a legal tree governing body, implementation of an active tree management program and observance of Arbor Day.

"The Tree City U.S.A. award helps make our citizens more aware of the importance of our urban trees," stated Rhodes. "Most of the cities and towns receiving this award have received assistance from the Urban Forestry Program conducted by the Department's Division of Forest Resources. This program provides planning and advisory services to communities interested in improving their urban environment."

## Resolution On Agency

Edenton Town Council unanimously passed a resolution Tuesday formally disapproving of proposed amendments to the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency's project sales agreements and supplemental power sales agreements.

The Utilities Committee recommended that the town take the action after the matter was discussed in a committee meeting.

"Because we're trying to get relief from the agency, we felt we shouldn't get into another agreement with them," said Willis Privott, chairman, Utility Committee.

The Town of Edenton wants to be released from its contract with NCEMPA because of rates the agency is charging the town for electricity and because the town feels the original 1981 contract signed with the agency is no longer valid.

In other business the council:

Directed Mayor Roy Harrell to write a letter to the North Carolina Department of Transportation expressing concern over the postponement of construction of interchanges at the intersections of U.S. 17 and Paradise Road and U.S. 17 and Albemarle Street Extended.

Unanimously passed a resolution requesting that NCDOT place Peanut Drive on the state

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SPRING— Although the calendar says that Spring doesn't officially begin until next week, signs of the season can be found blooming all over Edenton and Chowan County. These particular daffodils were found growing close to Edenton Bay.

## County District Court Session Held

Chowan County District Court was in session March 12, the Honorable John T. Chaffin presiding over the criminal calendar.

Roberta Leary was found guilty of two counts of passing worthless checks. She was sentenced to 30 days suspended for 2 years on the condition she pay a fine of \$25 and

cost of court in each case. She is to make restitution of \$34 to S&R; she appealed.

Brenda Coston was called but failed to show on a charge of passing worthless checks.

John Melton Adams pleaded guilty to a charge of assaulting a female. He was sentenced to 9 months suspended for 2 years on the condition he pay a fine of \$100 and cost of court. He is not to assault Linda Adams for two years and is to report to Albemarle Mental Health.

Kerry Grant Bennett was called but failed to show on a charge of improper passing.

Richard Albert Pate pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing a malt beverage while under the age of 19. He was sentenced to 90 days suspended for 2 years on the condition he pay a fine of \$100 and cost of court. He is not to possess or consume any controlled substance, fortified wine, malt beverage or alcoholic beverage for a period of 2 years.

Mildred William Hayes was found guilty of a charge of assault inflicting a serious injury and a charge of injury to personal property. She received a 12 month commitment;

she appealed.

Ralph Algie Hollowell was found guilty of a charge of nonsupport of children. He was sentenced to 6 months suspended 5 years on the condition he pay court costs and make monthly payments of \$75 for child support; he appealed.

Dorris McFadden Riddick pleaded guilty to a charge of failing to stop for a blue light and siren. She was fined \$25 and cost of court.

Jeffrey W. Cooper was found guilty of two charges of passing worthless checks. He was sentenced to 30 days suspended for 2 years on the condition he pay a fine of \$25 and court costs in each case. He is also to make restitution of \$45 to S&R; he appealed.

James Louis Harrell was found guilty of a charge of trespassing and communicating threats. He was sentenced to 6 months suspended for 2 years on the condition he pay a fine of \$150 and cost of court in each case. He is not to go on the premises of Edenton Car Wash for 2 years; he appealed.

Percy Lee Leary was found guilty of intoxicated and disruptive behaviour. He was received a 30 day commitment, but received credit for 4 days he spent in jail awaiting trial.

## Wood Named Fund Chairman

Annette Wood was named chairman this week of the first annual Chowan Arts Council fund drive. Mrs. Wood, a past member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Arts Council, expressed delight at being involved in such a worthwhile project.

The fund drive will commence

with a gala evening entitled "Celebrate the Arts Council" this Saturday, March 16 at the National Guard Armory. The kick-off event features a sumptuous seafood buffet and an evening of popular jazz featuring the Loonis McGlohon trio with proceeds going to the fund drive, according

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Gordon Allen

## County Rate Up January

Chowan County's unemployment rate for January was 7.8 percent, up 0.8 percent from December's rate, according to figures released by the State Employment Security Commission.

"The rates aren't really any surprise," said Gordon Allen, manager, Edenton Employment Security Commission Office. Rates are traditionally high in this area during cold weather, he explained.

Looking to the future, Gordon said, "The employment outlook is good for the spring. We'll see unemployment rates drop."

Gordon said that local businesses contacted by the employment commission don't expect any layoffs soon and should be calling people back to work.

"They may even be hiring new people," he added.

Other reasons for Gordon's optimism are seasonal farm work and the work that will be generated by the construction of the new Albemarle Sound Bridge and a new housing project to be located behind Albemarle Hospital.

All counties in the Albemarle region had increases in their unemployment rates for January. Dare Co. had the highest increase with the rate rising from 13.2 percent in December to 19 percent in January. Pasquotank Co. had the lowest increase from 6 percent in December to 6.1 percent in January.

## Firefighters Contacted

A hot water heater malfunction was the cause of a fire Monday at the residence of Mrs. Francis Hicks, 313 W. Queen Street, according to Edenton Fire Chief Lynn Perry.

The fire on the second floor was discovered by Mrs. Hicks at approximately 9:13 a.m. She immediately closed the door to the room where the fire was located and attempted to call the fire department. But the line was busy.

Then Mrs. Hicks heard the fire sirens go off and began to fear that the town's firefighters were on their way to another blaze.

She quickly dialed the fire department's number again, but became distracted by the sound of someone knocking on her front door. When she opened the door, she was greeted by a number of firemen. Concerned neighbors who had seen smoke pouring out of Mrs. Hick's house had already contacted the fire department.

"I reckon we had four or five calls on that fire," said Chief Perry. Perry said moderate smoke damage and minimal fire damage occurred as a result of the blaze. There was, however, no water damage.

"The men did an excellent job," said Perry. "They put out the fire with only 25 gallons of water."

Later that afternoon, the fire department was called to fight another fire.

A 1970 Chevrolet log truck, owned by Thomas James, caught on fire as it was travelling down W. Carteret Street. "The truck was totaled out," said Perry.

## Laundry Gets Safety Award

Ricks Laundry and Cleaners Inc., Edenton, will receive an award for outstanding on-the-job safety achievement from the State Labor Department at the annual Elizabeth City Safety Awards banquet in Elizabeth City on Wednesday, March 20. This will mark the twentieth consecutive year the company has earned the honor.

Presenting awards to Ricks and representatives from 36 other area firms will be Assistant Labor Commissioner Charles Jeffress.

Co-sponsored for the eighth consecutive year with the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce, the

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### A Delayed Birth?

In his radio report to the country a few days ago, President Reagan came down with both feet on "born-again budget balancers."

While the President may have been looking at Congress, it appears he was talking to Jimmy Carter, the born-again former President who, with his predecessor Gerald Ford, has a greed to serve as co-chairman of Proposition One, dedicated to alerting the nation to the dangers of multi-billion annual deficits.

Proposition One, incidentally, was formed by former Vermont Gov. Richard A. Snelling, a Republican, who said he is "trying to convince the American people that our government's policies are leading us straight toward economic disaster."

The President's address was a continuation of his effort to convince the people that somebody else is responsible for the fact that you cannot reduce taxes and increase spending without running a deficit. And, up to now, he has been successful. He blamed it on Jimmy Carter as long as he could, with a litany of "double-digit inflation and high interest rates," which had brought the nation to the brink of bankruptcy until he arrived on the scene.

More recently, he has tended to blame it on Congress, which acceded to his tax cuts and then declined to take the Reagan budget and bring it into balance with revenues by cutting other programs enough to offset not only the tax cut but sharply increased defense spending.

He has been so busy accusing the Democrats of a long history of tax and tax, spend and spend that it never seems to occur to him that borrow and borrow, spend and spend might be an even worse policy.

Now the President, under whose administration more red ink has accumulated than in all previous years since the founding of the republic, is using the deficit as a stick with which to beat Congress into submission by convincing the American people that he needs their help in bringing an irresponsible Congress to heel. What he is unwilling to admit is that, by and large, the deficit is fueling economic recovery and paying for the military buildup. How many Americans realize that the Pentagon is stockpiling not only weapons but dollars? By the end of 1986 it will have some \$280 billion in carry-over funds for future spending.

While it is obvious to almost everyone that we can neither tax-cut nor spend our way out of the deficit, President Reagan holds to the conviction that, somehow, the economy will rise above the ocean

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## COA Offering Grad Course

High school graduates who are contemplating entering college or taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB) can enroll in a Graduate Refresher course Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at John A. Holmes School. The class will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00-9:45 p.m. through May 23rd. Math and English Language study will be the two courses pursued during this period of time.

Teaching the course will be Mrs. Elizabeth Little Gagnon. Mrs. Gagnon received her B.S. degree from East Carolina University in Special Education. Following graduation she taught at North Pitt High School before moving to Edenton with her husband.

Registration fee of \$10.00 and Social Security number are required for registration. For additional information call the College of the Albemarle office only on Tuesday and Thursday nights at John A. Holmes School-432-8426.



GRAND OPENING— Edenton Mayor Roy Harrell (2nd from left) cut the ribbon signifying the grand opening of The Edenton Nautilus and Fitness Center, Badham Road, on Saturday, March 9. Pictured with the mayor are: Keith Zimmerman (2nd from right) owner of the center; his wife, Cheryl; and John Dowd, president, Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce. The fitness center features Nautilus machines, men's and women's saunas and whirlpool baths. Also available are classes in karate and aerobics. During the opening ceremony, John Dowd told the crowd, "When I look at some of the physiques around town, I can see the center is something we need around here."