



Students Face Bout With Virus

Attendance Fluctuates During Flu Season

By JACK GROVE

Recent extreme temperature swings, from the low 50's to a high near 80 last week to the 30's and 40's this week are thought by many to be a cause of the spread of viruses resulting in colds and the flu.

Press reports indicate a spread of flu viruses on UNC campuses from Raleigh to the east coast. Another concern of state health officials has been an increase of red measles in college and secondary school populations across the state.

Whether or not the weather is a factor, at least one local private school has closed due to the flu. A local rumor that unusually large numbers of Edenton-Chowan school students have been ill has proven untrue.

Tom Gregory, Headmaster at Lawrence Academy, said Tuesday that his school has closed twice in the past two weeks. The first closing was due to "quite a few students reporting in sick." He said that his school has an annual winter break and that it was called early due to the absences "in order to try to prevent further sickness." This was from Jan. 22 through Jan. 30.

When students and faculty returned on Jan. 30, "Lo and behold, we had more kids sick than before," Gregory said. He said that the absentee rate was 40 per cent. Also, four of 27 teachers were ill. At a faculty meeting it was decided that for the "best educational interests of the school," Lawrence Academy should again close Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week.

School officials had contacted Bertie County and state health officials who supported the closing decision while not saying it was mandatory.

In monitoring the health of its students, Gregory said that the school has been keeping a sharp eye out for measles. No cases have been reported.

A viral infection of the respiratory tract, flu brings on fever, chills, headache,

sore throat, coughing, muscle aches and fatigue. While the symptoms usually last about a

week, the illness can progress to severe complications in older or infirm people.

Dr. John Dunn dispelled the rumor about illness among students of the Edenton-Chowan School System during an interview Monday.

He provided school-by-school and day-by-day absentee figures for last week.

John A. Holmes High H.S., with a total enrollment of 720 students, had 107 absent on Tuesday, Jan. 31 for the high with a low of 80 on Thursday, Feb. 2.

D.F. Walker had a high of 78 on Monday, Feb. 6 with a low of 57 on the previous Thursday. The school's enrollment is 1,009.

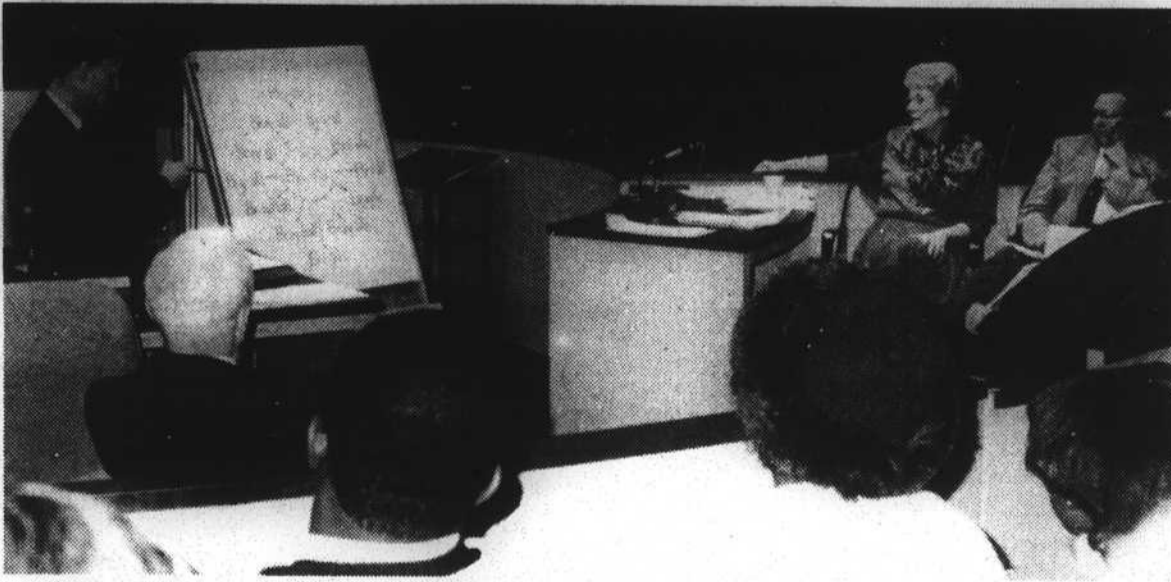
Chowan Jr. High had a low of 56 on Monday, Feb. 6 with a high of 68 on the previous Friday. The school's enrollment is 427.

White Oak had a high of 35 on Friday, Feb. 3 with a low of 22 on the previous day. The school's enrollment is 355.

The system-wide absentee rate for the week was an average of 10 per cent. "Four per cent is normal," Dunn said while cautioning that the figures include absences attributable to reasons other than illnesses.

The superintendent said that the week's figures were nothing to be concerned about. "It would be consistent with a normal school year," he said, where some weeks have a higher than normal absentee rate. He added, "We would consult with the Health Department if we became concerned," with abnormally high absences.

As with Lawrence Academy, no red measles have been reported among the system's students.



KEEP NAME--John Morehead, utilizing flip charts, showed the evolution of the name of a road from Briols to the current pronunciation of Brayhall at a public hearing Monday night. County commissioners had received a petition to change the road sign to Brayhall from Briols. Morehead wanted the sign to remain as it is. Brayhall Rd. won out.

Pre/Post School Program For Students To Begin

A before and after school care program will soon begin for the local school system's "latch-key kids," Malinda McGlone, Community-School Relations Coordinator said Monday. Sitting in on the interview was schools superintendent, Dr. John Dunn.

The program will be operated at D.F. Walker and White Oak Schools for students in grades K-8. Staffing at Walker will consist of the assistant principal, one teacher and two teacher aides. The program there begins next Monday.

Staffing has not yet been identified for White Oak so an opening date has not been established.

Hours for the program on school days in the morning are from 7:30-8:15 and in the afternoon from 3-5:30. A nu-

tritious afternoon snack will be served. Transportation must be provided by parents.

Ms. McGlone said, "We are trying to provide an enrichment program for children whose parents both work," and added, "We're not a babysitting service."

Three categories of activities are planned: physical - for example, aerobic dance; quiet time - with activities such as supervised homework, story time and rest time; and expressions through the arts - such as drawing, puppets, painting and cooking.

The program is currently funded for three years by a \$30,000 state grant from the Dept. of Public Instruction and by fees paid by participating parents. It is eventually intended to be self-supporting. "That's the notion," the superintendent remarked.

Dunn said that all school systems across the state received the same amount in "seed money" and were not told how to use the funds. Periodic reports do have to be made to the state concerning the operation of the program, however.

A brochure is available to

parents which contains an application for the program and details on how it will be run.

Fees listed in the brochure for the morning program are \$2 per week for students eligible for free or reduced meals and \$4 for students paying full meal price. Payments for the after school program are \$8 and \$12 per week.

Ms. McGlone will oversee the program. "It is going to be my baby." She said that those wishing more information may contact her at the central office at 482-4436.

Funding In Budget

Gov. Jim Martin has included in his proposed budget an amount of \$463,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1989, for the restoration and enlargement of the Ziegler house in Edenton.

According to Sen. Howard F. Bryan of Iredell, the project calls for "the construction of an 1,800 square foot addition to the 3,377 square foot Ziegler house located on the James Iredell State Historic site in Edenton in Chowan County. Funds are also recommended for the renovation of the existing dwelling. When complete, the facility will be used as a Visitors Center for the

James Iredell house and the remainder of Historic Edenton."

This does not mean that the money is assured, but it is a major first step toward the much-needed upgrading of the historic site. It is much easier to keep an item in the recommended budget during the legislative process than it is to put a new item in.

Reps. Vernon James and Pete Thompson and Sen. Marc Basnight will be on the alert to see that the current money pinch does not result in the deletion of the item as the budget moves toward final

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Misconceptions Cause Busy Lines

Lisa Anderson, acting site manager for the new Swain Apartments, said Tuesday that she has been swamped with telephone calls from individuals with misconceptions as to rentals.

One misconception resulted from an error in a news article in last week's Chowan Herald. The article stated that one and two bedroom units were available. Actually all 38 units are one bedroom apartments.

Another concerned availability of apartments for low-income persons, other than elderly and disabled. In the initial stages of planning, one floor had been considered for this purpose according to Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland. The plan was

subsequently changed to provide apartments only for elderly and disabled he said.

Ms. Anderson, who represents the managing company of Weil Enterprises of Goldsboro, defined elderly as those 62 and older and handicapped or disabled as those so designated under state and federal definitions.

"You're dealing with people that have low incomes," she said. She pointed out that the elderly are most often on fixed incomes which include social security and often low retirement income benefits.

While rents will be relatively low, they will not include utilities.

She said that, while all the apartments have been fitted with aids for the elderly, such as bathtub hand-rails, two apartments have been specially fitted to aid the handicapped. These include lowered kitchen appliances and cabinets for those in wheelchairs.

Residents will not need to visit a laundromat either. Washers and dryers are provided on the premises.

Ms. Anderson has been managing on a temporary basis. Edenton resident Hazel Morgan has been hired as the permanent resident manager. Saying that she expected to remain only two more weeks, she explained, "I'm here to get the project started and to train the manager."

In addition to the resident manager, a building superintendent is expected to be hired

shortly.

Those eligible persons interested in applying for an apartment may call the manager at 482-5211. The office is located on the ground floor of the building.

ABLE Center Proposed

Planning has begun on a literacy center here that may evolve into a satellite center in Chowan County of the College of the Albemarle.

It all started on October 6, 1988 with a "Harpoon" printed in The Chowan Herald on behalf of COA's Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) program and it listed COA's continuing education classes held at John A. Holmes High School.

Harpoons are created by Howard E. Kohn, II, Director of Special Projects at the Herald and illustrated by staff member Gail Basnight. They are a weekly feature geared to serve community needs.

The October 6 Harpoon was titled "Let's Help Them Help Someone" and it referred to a Nation's Business magazine cover which read "30 per cent of your employees can't read this headline and it's costing your business plenty."

One week later, Mary Partin, Director of Literacy Education, appointed Kohn to represent COA in Edenton and Chowan County on program planning and other activities as a member of the Ad-

visory Committee for the 1988-89 academic year.

On October 28, Kohn, accompanied by Herald Associate Editor Rebecca Bunch and Executive Director Richard Bunch of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce toured the very successful ABLE Center in Elizabeth City. They were then invited to lunch by COA's President, Dr. Parker Chesson and Dean Norman Norfleet.

Kohn discussed bringing an ABLE Center to Edenton and the later expansion and creation of a COA Edenton-Chowan Center.

The plan was accepted immediately and, in a letter dated October 31, Chesson confirmed the luncheon discussion. Dr. Chesson stated, "Such a facility could house the literacy education project, curriculum classes and various continuing education classes and I do believe this is something that is needed in Chowan County and which will be successful."

Kohn obtained from Chesson the offer of providing the instructional and equipment

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LOST LOAD--This log truck was involved in a single vehicle accident on N.C. 37 just north of the Yeopim Rd. on Friday afternoon. The driver, Lonnie Wade Smith, 29, of Columbia was unhurt but the truck sustained \$10,000 in damage. He lost control when braking to avoid a pickup turning into a driveway. He was cited for failure to reduce speed.

Moving Day: Offices Close

Town officials have announced that the Edenton Municipal Building will be closed on Monday, Feb. 13 while employees move their offices to the new Town Hall (old Peoples Bank Building).

Customers paying utility bills may use the night deposit which is located in front of the present Municipal Building.

New offices in the Town Hall will open to the public at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14.