



District Health Department Seeks Tests

The District Health Department, at the request of parents in the Little Rascals Day Care case, has taken legal action to force testing of three defendants in the case for the AIDS virus.

A complaint and motion for injunctive relief was filed with the Chowan Superior Court on March 26. The suit, filed by District Health Director Howard B. Campbell, and joined by the state, seeks testing of Robert F. and Elizabeth T. Kelly and Willard Scott Privott. They are three of seven defendants charged with a multitude of sex crimes against 31 children at the day care.

The Kellys and Privott face the most charges. They were originally ordered by Campbell to submit to the tests on February 8 of this year.

In the latest civil action, the court document states "On information and belief, defendant(s) has failed and refused to submit to such testing."

The suit is based on N.C. general statute 130A-148 which "provides that the Commission (for Health Services) may authorize or require laboratory tests for AIDS virus infection when necessary to protect the public health."

Commission rules embodied in the N.C. Administra-

tive Code states, "A person charged with an offense that involves nonconsensual vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse or that involves vaginal, anal or oral intercourse with a child 12 years old or less shall be tested for HIV infection."

In addition, three criteria are specified: "probable cause has been found or an indictment has been issued; the victim notifies the local health director and requests infor-

mation concerning the HIV status of the defendant; and the local health director determines that the alleged sexual contact involved in the offense would pose a significant risk of transmission of HIV if the defendant were HIV infected."

Court action was scheduled on the complaint for Chowan Superior Civil Court on April 23. However, a court official said this week that Judge

Frank Brown had issued a continuance. The earliest that arguments can be heard will be on May 28 in Chowan Superior Criminal Court or in a specially called session.

In a related development, a news wire report states that the judge assigned to the day care case, Bradford Tillery, of Wilmington, has hired a surveyor to canvass eastern counties for a location to hold

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Student Loan Defaults

Approximately \$2 billion in student loans guaranteed by the federal government are now in default across the United States and that raises the question of how serious the problem is in North Carolina.

The answer depends on which segment of the education system we are talking about. For the 58 institutions in the community college system, the problem is not as serious as it is in some other sectors.

As might be expected, this information is not easy to come by. These loans do not become mature until after the student graduates or leaves college for whatever reason. They are made directly to the students and not through the college. So, only the lenders know who is paying and who is not.

Default percentages, however, have been made available to the state community college board, as have the totals. These figures show that, as of June 30, 1989, a total of \$31,505,839 in loans to students in the community college system were outstanding. Of that amount, \$4,520,486 was in default.

The bad news, however, is that the rate of default has been increasing each year since 1985-86, when it was 9.86 per cent. By 1986-87, it had risen to 10.7 per cent. To 13 per cent by 1987-88 and to 14.3 per cent by 1988-89.

Among the individual institutions, there were five -- Piedmont, Bladen, Gaston, Robeson and Southeastern -- with no defaults; and there was one, Isotherman, with a 50 per cent default rate. But then, it had only four students with loans, which means two of them were behind in their payments.

Central Piedmont had the largest number of borrowers who had reached repayment status, a total of 135, with 19.3 per cent in default. Wake was second with 104 borrowers, but with a default rate of only 8.7 per cent.

Except on the black campuses, the problem is not serious in the University of North Carolina system, which has by far the largest number of

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Convention Scheduled

Chowan County Democrats will hold their annual county convention on Saturday, April 21 at the new courthouse at 1 p.m., County Democratic Chairman W.T. Culpepper, III announced Tuesday.

"All Democrats are invited and urged to attend," Culpepper stated. Convention business will be conducted by delegates elected at the recent precinct meetings.

Democrats across the state will hold county conventions on the same day. Heading the local convention's agenda will be the election of eight delegates to the district and state conventions.

"The county convention is an important link in the series of Democratic conventions leading from the precinct up to the state convention," Culpepper said.

District conventions will be held on May 19 and the state convention will be held June

Primary Elections - 2nd In A Series

Candidates Discuss Concerns

By JACK GROVE

The primary election on May 8 will decide two seats on the Chowan Board of Commis-

sioners in District Two. The district stretches from Valhalla to Yeopim with the exception of most of Edenton.



Joseph B. Hollowell, Jr.

Joe Hollowell is a Chowan County native and a real estate developer. He is currently developing Oak Hill in Edenton. He is in his eighth year as a commissioner.

1. "I have enjoyed serving the people of the county for the past eight years and feel that I

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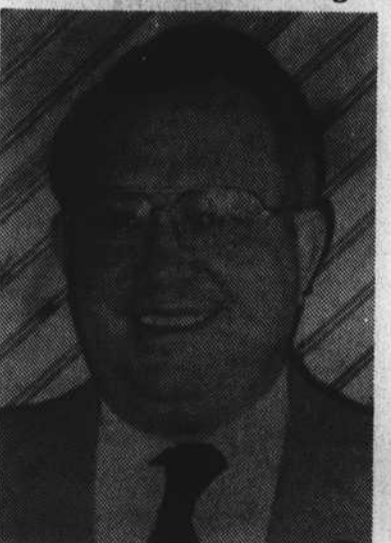


George E. Jones

George Jones is a native of Chowan County and is a self-employed hog farmer. He served on the Chowan County Board of Commissioners for four years from 1978 to 1982.

1. "I'm concerned about Chowan County. I feel that there's going to be a lot of crit-

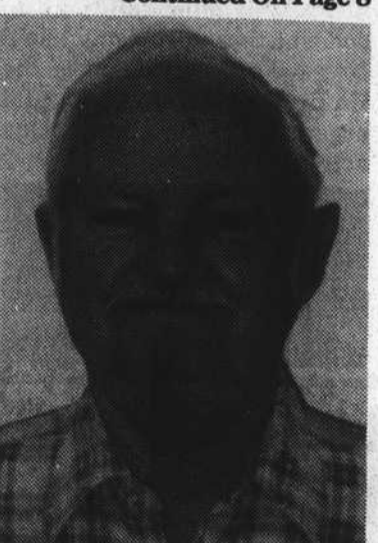
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James C. (Pete) Dail

Pete Dail is a native of Chowan County and is president of Edenton Savings and Loan, having been with the financial institution for almost 30 years. He served for eight and a half years on the Edenton Town Council and was elected to a two year term on the

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George W. Stokes

George Stokes is a native of Pitt County and has lived in Chowan County for 16 years. He is retired from the U.S. Navy and served four and a half years as Service Officer for Chowan County. He has never held public office.

1. "Ever since I've been a

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Bids OKed For Construction

Schools construction will soon begin with the first of \$7

million in improvements to be started at D.F. Walker School. An exceptional children's wing will be added to the present school building.

Work will begin on the first of May. Bids were accepted by the school board Tuesday evening.

An opening round of bids were opened on March 29. A minimum of three bids for each of four areas of construction was required in the first round. Three or more bids were received in the electrical and plumbing areas but not for general contractor and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC).

In a second round of bids, only one bid in each area was required.

All bids accepted were from Albemarle area companies. They were: general contractor, Rick Gardener Co. of Elizabeth City, \$208,385; HVAC, Ward and Sons of Elizabeth City, \$15,960; electrical, Chuck Casey Electrical of

Pine Town, \$27,200; and plumbing, Clay Clark Corp. of Kitty Hawk, \$25,700.

Dr. John Dunn, Schools Superintendent, said yesterday that \$280,000 was budgeted for the Walker School project and the bids came in under budget at \$277,000. Work is scheduled to be complete before the next school year begins.

Dunn said that design work has been completed for site preparation at John A. Holmes High School for the new athletic complex and for site work at Chowan Middle School. Work at both schools will take place through the next school year and all construction is to be complete by July, 1991.

Work has been planned to minimize distractions to staff and students. At Chowan, a new building will be constructed "off by itself" away from the existing structure. Once completed, it will be occupied by classes and the present building vacated and renovations begun there.

'City' Application Is On Its Way

By REBECCA BUNCH

Several months of hard work and dedication to a common goal came to an end earlier this week when the Steering Committee for Edenton's All-America City Committee mailed in the necessary forms to the National Civic League.

The gesture completed a lengthy and sometimes arduous process that began on January 18 when Mayor John Dowd and other members of the committee held a luncheon - planning meeting at the Lords Proprietors Inn. At that time, they met with officials from Kinston, one of 10 cities nationwide to win the award in 1988.

Those serving on Edenton's Steering Committee included: John Dowd, Arch Edwards, Donna Heidenreich, Livy Goodman, Kathy Miller, Cliff Copeland, Richard Bunch, Ralph Cole, Lewis Belfield, Dr. John Dunn,

Anne-Marie Kelly and Becky Bunch.

Sponsored by the National Civic League, the All-America City Award presentations are made during the League's annual convention. Finalists have 10 minutes to make a presentation to a panel of judges; then, a 15 minute follow-up session ensues, as the judges ask questions of each city's presenters.

Kinston officials told the local committee that the Civic League seemed to be inclined to select as finalists those cities whose projects dealt with the solving of educational and social issues. Edenton's committee obviously took the message to heart -- two of the projects they submitted for consideration have to do with illiteracy and hunger in the community.

The three areas chosen for inclusion in the Edenton application for All-America City status are:

• Community Economic Renewal -- Efforts are outlined that are underway to enhance Edenton's Historic District and downtown business section. Receiving special mention are the newly designated Visitors Center, the Tourism Development Authority's establishment of a regional - national promotional program, and the Downtown Merchants Guild. The questionnaire also outlines the proposed beautification of all downtown parking areas and the new zoning code adopted by the Town Council.

(2) College of the Albemarle's Edenton - Chowan Adult Education Center -- An outline is provided explaining how a project spearheaded by Howard Kohn, Director of Special Projects for The Chowan Herald and Richard Bunch, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, in

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Environment Targeted

Sunday will mark the twentieth anniversary of national Earth Day.

It began with a march on Washington, D.C. of thousands of demonstrators, some wearing gas masks, protesting the damage being done to the environment.

Since then, the Environmental Protection Agency has come into existence as well as many laws designed to slow water and air pollution and to preserve and protect wilderness areas and scenic wonders across the country.

Dying rivers and lakes have been rehabilitated and an increased awareness of

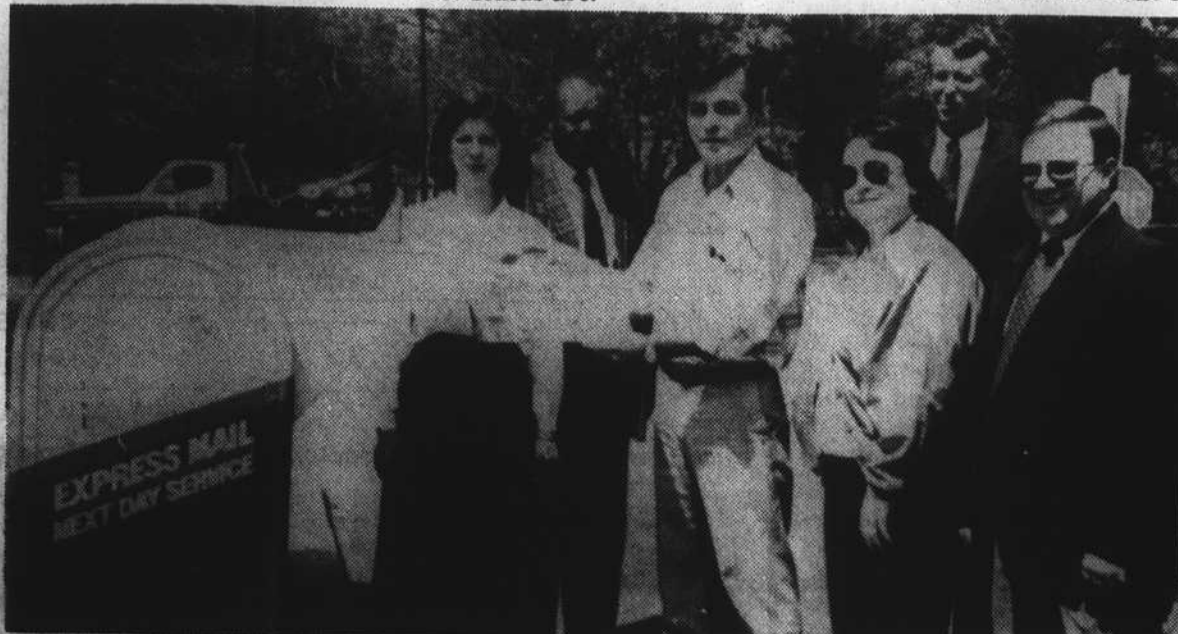
pollution and its prevention has been fostered. This, national organizers say, is what Earth Day is all about.

On the state level, Gov. James Martin has called for a statewide litter cleanup over the weekend.

Edenton and Chowan County have initiated programs to better the environment. Both have had litter cleanup days and have instituted recycling with collection centers convenient to most residents.

While no organized Earth Day activities have been planned locally, Town Manager

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BON VOYAGE -- Several members of the Steering Committee for Edenton's All-America City nomination gathered at the post office earlier this week to bid farewell to the completed application forms. They included (l. to r.): Anne-Marie Kelly, town manager; Louis Belfield, assistant principal at John A. Holmes High School; businessman Arch Edwards; Becky Bunch, associate editor of The Chowan Herald; Cliff Copeland, county manager; and Richard Bunch, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. The committee chairman was town councilman Livingstone Goodman.