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THE CHOWAN HERALD

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EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1994

Clayton Speaks To Class

Congresswoman Eva Clayton (D-NC) brought a message of personal responsibility as well as an emphasis on lifelong learning and good citizenship to the 130 members of the John A. Holmes High School graduating class of 1994 during her keynote address Friday night.

While one of the smallest classes ever to graduate from Holmes, the Class of 1994 excelled in academics. It contained the highest number of John A. Holmes Scholars, the highest number of National Honor Society members, the most North Carolina Scholars, and the first National Merit Scholarship recipient in the history of the school.

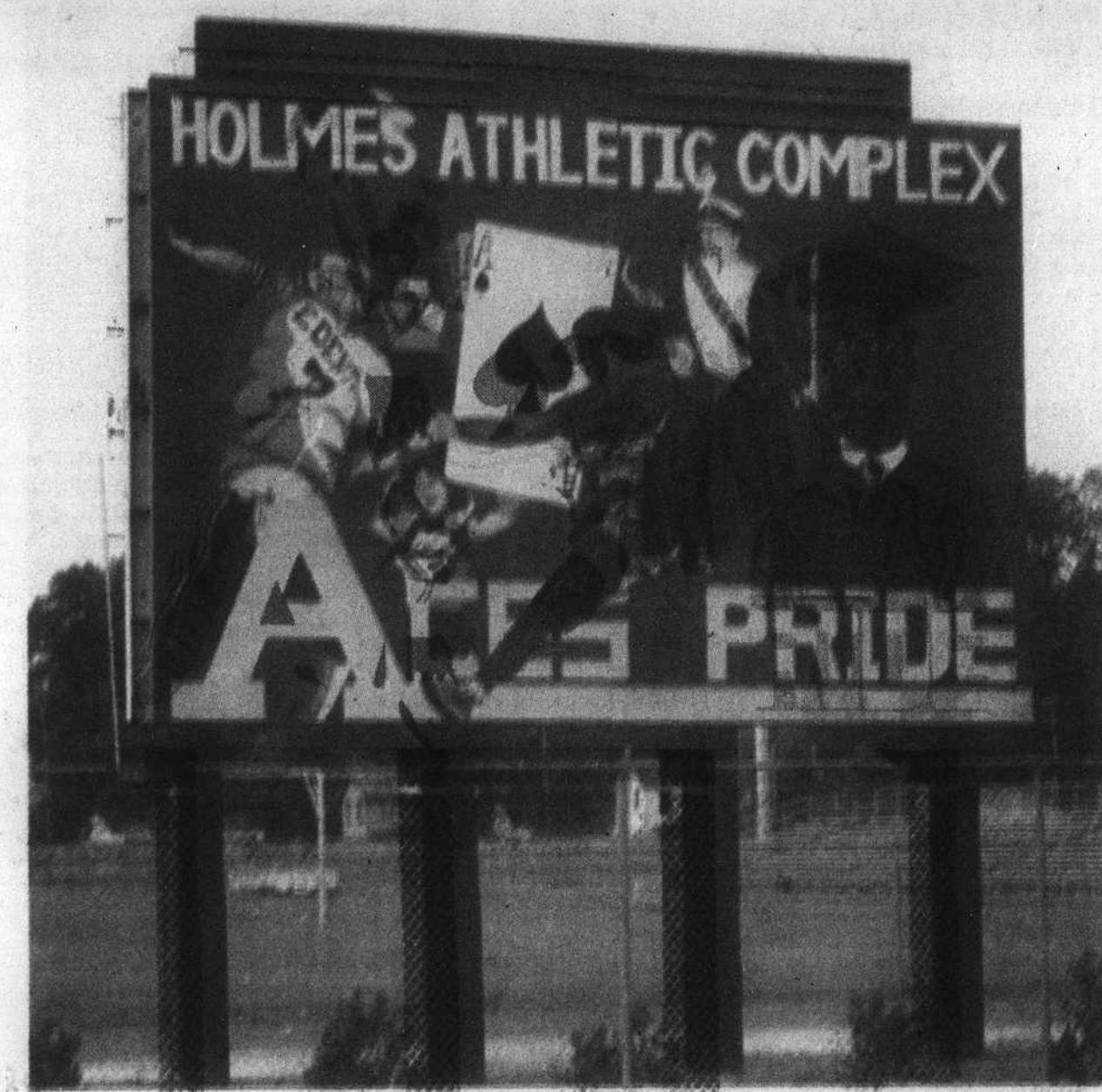
"You are expected to give back to your community what God has given you the ability to do," Rep. Clayton told the seniors. "We encourage you to use it!"

She added that the students should "serve as mentors at every opportunity, always have a heart of compassion, and offer the world the best you have."

Congresswoman Clayton challenged them to "always remember who you are as individuals...be morally prepared to lead with wisdom, and physically prepared to avoid violence, hatred, and illegal drugs."

Co-Salutatorian Tomeka Ward introduced Rep. Clayton to the audience, speaking with praise and admiration about how Clayton, as a female from a rural North Carolina district, had risen to prominence as President of the Congressional Freshmen Delegation.

Remarks were also offered by Co-Salutatorian Angie Winborne. "While time can take us quickly to tomorrow,



The Edenton Aces sign, located at the Athletic Complex and painted by Bryan Carpenter and Derek Stallings, Class of '94; and Joseph Hall, Varick Taylor, Corey Layton and Donnell Rawls, Class of '95, says it all for JAHHS from sports to graduation. (Staff photo by Pete Manning.)

time can never change those times that we have shared," she said. "As we are about to depart into the real world, let us never lose those memories or that best friend who has made our high school years so special."

A sense of personal accountability and a responsibility to help others were the themes stressed by class Valedictorian Jenny McArthur, a National Merit Scholar. "Humanity is one body of unique individuals who need each other's help," she said. "There is no room in this society for people who are selfish, apathetic, lazy or wasteful."

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Senior Advisors Lee Bass (left) and Kay Cherry (right) congratulate Jenny McArthur (center), John A. Holmes High School 1994 Valedictorian, upon her graduation Friday.

Tax Increase Is Considered

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

The proposed FY94-95 County budget will increase the tax rate from .74 cents to .77 cents, said County Manager Cliff Copeland Monday night at the Commissioners' June meeting. The new rate is derived from a tax base of \$513,690,205.

"There's absolutely no fat, no fat in this budget," Copeland told the board.

Copeland said not only were no new positions in the County being funded this year, but that his office, the Register of Deeds Office and the Tax Office retained the same number of employees they had for the past 15 years.

"Yet the County's budget has increased from two and a half million dollars fifteen years ago to twelve million dollars today," he said.

Budget highlights reviewed at the meeting were Medicaid funding increase, \$66,163; close out costs for the old landfill, \$25,000; increase in contribution to solid waste, \$22,000; contribution to Edenton-Chowan Airport, \$15,000; and increase in contribution to current expense fund -- Edenton-Chowan Schools -- of 2.7 percent or \$50,000.

The school system had requested a \$310,379 increase.

Other increases are being requested by the Town of Edenton for the amounts the County funds for Chowan Communications, the Edenton Fire Department, and the Edenton Recreation Department.

Committees from the Town and County are continuing to meet to work out the agreements.

A public hearing on the County's budget will be held in the Commissioners' Room at the courthouse on Monday, June 27, at 9 a.m.

Prior to the Board of Com-

missioners regular business Monday night, a public hearing took place in the courthouse courtroom regarding the location of the fourth convenience center site.

The original plan adopted by the County called for the construction of four centers, three along Highway 32 north of Edenton and one at the in-



Michael Hare opposes placing the County's new Convenience Center in Ryland.

tersection of Soundside Rd. and Highway 32 in the Yeopim section of the County.

The fourth and northernmost site selected near the water tanks fell through when it was discovered the amount of land available would be limited due to a burial ground nearby.

Commissioner Harry Lee Winslow, third district representative, proposed a site in the Ryland Community.

Members of the community were present to voice opposition to the proposal.

Winslow said he thought the Ryland site was safer (than on 32), more centrally located for users, and that it was "ready to go to work."

Following comments from
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Shepherd Stresses Laying Foundation

By REBECCA BUNCH

Walter Shepherd, executive director of the North Carolina Partnership for Children, was the guest of honor at a luncheon sponsored by the Edenton-Chowan Partnership for Children at the Dram Tree Wednesday.

Shepherd talked about the importance of the local school system continuing to prepare itself for implementation of the "Smart Start" initiative created by Gov. Jim Hunt. While Chowan was not one of the counties chosen for the pilot program, 12 additional sites are expected to be named soon, and the community hopes to become one of them.

Teacher JoAnne Lichtenwalner, who prepared the Edenton-Chowan application and submitted it four days ahead of schedule, conducted more than 60 individual interviews to acquire necessary

information. A \$7,600 grant was provided by the Department of Human Resources to aid in the process.

"JoAnne has done just a terrific job," said Dr. John Dunn, superintendent of schools. "We are ready."

Mrs. Lichtenwalner, a preschool educator, discussed her findings with the audience. "The first thing I think our county needs is quality child care," she said. "This county needs to move on that."

She said the second finding of her study was unexpected. "The second area that popped up (during the interviews) surprised me," she said. "Most of those I talked with felt that people do not have the necessary skills to be good parents." Seventy-five percent of those surveyed said that adults need to learn better parenting skills. "That just

Judge Establishes Venue

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

A special hearing on four defendants in the Little Rascals case recessed here Wednesday, June 8, after establishing venue for two persons and tentatively setting it for a third.

The hearing resumed this morning to hear a motion by defendant Willard Scott Privott's attorney.

Privott, 45, is charged with 68 counts of sexual abuse against 16 children attending Little Rascals. After being jailed for nearly four years on a \$1 million bond, Privott was released in 1993 when his bond was reduced to \$50,000, a sum raised by his friends.

During last week's session, Superior Court Judge D. Marsh McLelland, the presiding judge in the case, told defendant Shelley Stone's attorney, State Sen. Frank Ballance, to pursue a courtesy inquiry about setting venue in Bertie County for his client.

Ballance, who contended Stone, 38, could not receive a

fair trial in Chowan County, said he thought Bertie would be suitable because it had two courtrooms. Acceptable alternatives would be Wake or possibly Dare County, he said.

"I'm tentatively ordering the transfer of your case to Bertie County," said McLelland.

Charged with 14 counts of child sexual abuse, Stone is free on \$375,000 bail.

Jeffrey Miller of Greenville, attorney for Robin Boles Byrum, and Maynard Harrell of Plymouth, attorney for Darlene Harris Bunch, withdrew motions asking for a change of venue on their clients from Chowan County.

The motions, filed February 21, 1990, were granted by Judge Bradford Tillery, the presiding judge in the case at that time.

"I'm in a quandary of what to argue for," said Judge McLelland. "There is nothing for me to act on, because the defendants are asking for withdrawal of opposition for

Chowan County. Therefore they (the venues) stay where they originated...in Chowan County."

Special Deputy Prosecutor William "Bill" Hart said he had no opposition to the Chowan venues for Byrum and Bunch.

"For the record, the defense made motion for changing venue," the judge stated.

Byrum, 23, is charged with 23 counts of child sexual abuse, and Bunch, 32, with two counts. Both women are free on bond.

Little Rascals co-owner Robert Fulton Kelly Jr. is serving a sentence of 12 life terms after being convicted of 99 counts of sexual abuse against 12 children attending the day care center he owned with his wife, Elizabeth T. "Betsy" Kelly.

Earlier this year, Betsy Kelly pleaded "no contest" to the charges against her and is currently serving a prison term.

Public Is Urged To Come Out For Fourth

Members of the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club remind the public to make plans now to attend the club-sponsored "4th of July Celebration and Antique Car Show."

The events will be held in Colonial Park beginning at 9 a.m., Monday, July 4, with antique car registration and display.

From 12 noon until 4 p.m., the cars will be judged and awards presented.

Food, drinks, live entertainment, Optimist train, games for children, dunk-in' booth and much more is scheduled from 4 - 9 p.m.

The annual fireworks display will begin at 9 p.m.

AMERICAN LEGION Bldg.
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EDENTON, NC

HEART FUND AUCTION
FREE ADMISSION

THURSDAY
JUNE 16
7:00 P.M.