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Fourth graders post dismal scores on state tests

Seventh, tenth graders continue to improve scores

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

While the Edenton-Chowan school system expressed pride in the scores of its seventh and tenth grade students on the North Carolina Writing Assessment, officials admit the scores of fourth graders left them with little to smile about.

Combined fourth grade scores from D.F. Walker and White Oak Elementary Schools dropped from a 45.7% proficiency rating in 1997 to 31.8% this year, something that Maxine Britt, director of instruction for the local schools, admitted was "a disappointment for us. They were down significantly from last year."

Britt added that while White Oak's fourth grade scores dropped from a 43.8% proficiency level in 1997 to a 41% rate this year, the biggest drop was by Walker students whose scores dipped from a 47% proficiency rating last year to only 27.8% proficiency this year.

"There was a huge difference between how those two schools scored," she said reluctantly. Britt said that those reading the scores need to remember that it is difficult to compare student performances between

the two years, because "you're talking about two entirely different groups of students. There are a number of factors that enter into it."

She said that areas school officials will be looking at include learning styles. State test scores indicate that girls did better overall than boys on the tests, and that black students scored lower than whites on every grade level.

"We will be looking hard at the ways in which students

learn most effectively," Britt said, "and we will be making plans to help teachers become

the field would be coming to work with school personnel on ways they can better reach students.

Britt said that school officials are very pleased with the test scores of the seventh and 10th graders.

"Our tenth graders did great," she said. There

Maxine Britt
Director of Instruction

'We will be looking at the ways in which students learn most effectively, and we will be making plans to help teachers become more sensitive to the ways in which students learn best.'

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The Edenton-Chowan Schools have already scheduled a literacy conference for this summer to look at literacy in grades K-12. Britt said that experts in

time around. "We're edging up," she said. "We think that's a very positive sign."

The Edenton-Chowan Schools also exercised their option to test sixth grade students in the school system at their expense this year. She said that those students achieved a 55.3% proficiency rating, which officials thought was extremely good.

The local figures were in contrast to state writing scores for students, which showed an increase in proficiency among students in grades four and seven, and a slight decline at the 10th grade level. According to information provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the

See SCORES On Page 9-A

Argument leaves one wounded

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

After a dispute over a girlfriend turned violent, one Edenton man was left with a gunshot wound to his wrist, while another successfully eluded police.

At approximately 1:30 a.m. Monday morning, Edenton Police heard gunshots and screeching tires in the vicinity of East Hicks and North Oak streets. According to Edenton Police Chief Greg Bonner, police responded to a call reporting gunfire in that area, but were unable to spot any suspects.

"Approximately 20 minutes later, Edenton Police officers responded to a call from Chowan Hospital in reference to a gunshot victim," Bonner said.

Upon arriving to the hospital, police confirmed that Earl White had received a bullet to his left wrist. White claimed that an acquaintance, Troy Halsey, had shot him.

"Earl stated that he and Troy Halsey had gotten into an argument over Halsey's girlfriend," said Bonner. "When Troy confronted Earl in relation to the girlfriend, Earl said that nothing was going on between him-

See WOUNDED Page 3-A



HATS OFF FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Members of the Edenton Steamers baseball team line up along the third baseline as the Albemarle Sounds sing the National Anthem just prior to the start of last week's game. The Steamers, playing their first season in the Coastal Plain League, fell to the Florence RedWolves 9-4 in the home opener, but drew 1,280 fans to Hicks Field for the first minor league-caliber game held in Edenton in more than 40 years. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

Sheriff hoping early morning arrests will stem flow of drugs

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

An early morning raid carried out yesterday by local, state and federal authorities has resulted in the arrest of four Chowan County residents and hopefully will slow down the sale of drugs locally, Sheriff Fred Spruill said.

At 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, members of the Chowan County Sheriff's Department, SBI, FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office (Eastern District), awoke three of four adults living at 352 Cofield Road. All four were subsequently taken into custody, and two guns confiscated.

Arrested were Arthur William "Big Bud" Privott, 50; his wife, Janice Lee Privott; and two daughters, Jennifer Ann Privott, 25, and Katina Marqui Privott, 19.

Only Mr. Privott was awake when officers arrived at the home, the sheriff said.

According to Sheriff Spruill, each suspect was arrested on federal charges of conspiracy to distribute and possess cocaine and cocaine base, distribution of cocaine base, aiding and abetting, and criminal forfeiture.

"Each individual was arrested on several counts of each charge," Spruill said Tuesday

afternoon. Paperwork on the arrests was incomplete at presstime.

The sheriff said the arrests were made on the basis of federal grand jury indictments handed down against the four on May 26. He added that there were no drugs found in the house during the Tuesday morning raid.

The Privotts are all scheduled to appear in federal court in Elizabeth City Thursday for a bond hearing. They are currently being held in Wake County.

Sheriff Spruill said that despite the absence of drugs in the house when the arrests were made, he felt the evidence against the four was solid. He said that numerous undercover drug buys had been made by authorities during the past year from those arrested Tuesday. As a result of those undercover purchases, he said, the grand jury had sufficient evidence to indict each of those arrested.

"This (arrests) is the result of a year-long, joint investigation between the Chowan County Sheriff's Department, FBI, SBI, and U.S. Attorney's Office," Spruill said. "It was a job well done by all involved. We hope these arrests will help stem the flow of drugs into Chowan County."

'Click It or Ticket' has resulted in arrests and citations for motorists

Saturday evening, Edenton Police set up a standard roadside traffic inspection on East Church Street Extended, hoping to boost seat belt use for local motorists.

For 17 individuals, that routine stop proved to be more than a simple inconvenience. On behalf of a statewide Click It or Ticket campaign, police issued 17 tickets and 10 warnings to motorists Saturday.

Across the state, law enforcement officer have issued more than 6,000 seat belt and 500 child safety seat violations.

"It was successful here at our check point," said Edenton Police Chief Greg Bonner. Violations ranged from drug offenses to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, Bonner said.

One individual, 20-year-old

See TICKET On Page 3-A

Copeland says he'll limit role on local oversight committee

When news of county manager Cliff Copeland's dual board memberships for both Pitt County Memorial Hospital and Chowan Hospital's oversight committee surfaced last month, Copeland received few complaints.

Still, recognizing the possibility his twin positions could cause complications during the county's ongoing negotiations to lease/sell Chowan Hospital,

Copeland has withdrawn from his role as an active member of the oversight committee in what he describes as a precautionary measure.

"I'll still be a member of the oversight committee, but just as an observer," Copeland said Monday. "I won't offer any advice or suggestions to the oversight committee."

See ROLE On Page 3-A

Citizens' concerns prompt borrowing of equipment for a study of traffic patterns

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Has Big Brother been watching you? You may have gotten that feeling when travelling in your automobile down North Broad and Granville streets in the past week.

But it was your safety that the Edenton Police Department had in mind when it obtained a speed-monitoring device from the Kitty Hawk Police Department.

Installed on North Broad Street near the Gale Street intersection from Tuesday through Saturday night, police are using the speed monitor to evaluate average speeds and traffic volume in response to citizen complaints. In the past year, several traffic accidents involving pedestrians have occurred along North Broad Street, and residents wrote to town, police and state Department of Transportation officials in an effort to draw attention to what they felt was a dangerous situation along

See TRAFFIC On Page 9-A



This speed-monitoring device borrowed from Kitty Hawk has caught motorists' attention in Edenton