

The Chowan Herald

Wednesday, July 8, 1998

Published in the most beautiful little city on the North Carolina Coast

Vol. LXV, No. 27

Preliminary test results for schools look good

Chowan Middle, Holmes students post high scores

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

While the results are only preliminary, initial indications are that students, and teachers, in the local school system have a lot to be proud of with their state ABC testing results. Maxine Britt, director of instruction for the Edenton-Chowan Schools, said, "I'm very proud and happy to tell you preliminary test data indicate that Chowan Middle School will meet the exemplary growth standard, and that, based on partial data, it appears that John A. Holmes has a strong possibility of meeting the ex-

pected growth standard." She said that exemplary growth indicates students have exceeded expected growth by at least 10 percent, while expected growth means students met the expected level of achievement for the year, as defined by the state.

Britt said that 66.62 percent of Chowan Middle School students tested scored at or above grade level. "They easily surpassed the 50 percent performance standard, and we are feeling very good about that," she said.

She added that the "exemplary growth standard was met at most levels of consideration, including sixth grade reading and math, seventh grade reading, and eighth grade reading and math."

Brenda Winborne, principal at Chowan Middle School, said she and her teachers were over-

joyed at the results. "I can only say that we are very happy. Our teachers worked very hard to prepare the students, and I think their hard work has really paid off," she said.

Performance results measuring proficiency at the high school level were as follows: Algebra I, 43.2%; Biology, 52.7%; Ninth Grade Social Studies, 64.6%; English I, 44.7%; English II, 59.7%; and U.S. History, 44.4%.

"Our high school students are clearly making those gains that the state wants," said Britt, pointing out that a comparison of proficiency achieved over the past several years clearly shows continued growth in most areas.

The results to which she referred are as follows:

- Algebra I: 40.9 (1996), 41.9 (1997), and 42.4 (1998)

- Biology: 44.0 (1996), 48.5 (1997), and 52.7 (1998)
- Ninth Grade Social Studies: 49.3 (1996), 54.6 (1997) and 57.6 (1998)
- English I: 48.5 (1996), 49.4 (1997) and 46.6 (1998)
- English II: 48.1 (1996), 49.2 (1997) and 57.0 (1998)
- U.S. History: 45.7 (1996), 44.3 (1997) and 48.4 (1998)

Britt said that another piece of good news for the Edenton-Chowan Schools could be found in the percentage of Holmes students meeting graduation requirements.

John A. Holmes has shown what we think is an impressive increase in the number of students meeting the college prep and college tech prep graduation requirements. Those figures have grown from 48 percent in 1997 to 60 percent in 1998," she said.

Both of the county's elemen-

tary schools got high marks on student performance evaluations. According to Britt, both schools exceeded the state performance standard by having more than 50 percent of tested students score at or above grade level. Results were as follows: D.F. Walker, 52.10%; White Oak, 63.62%.

Britt said that the news was not quite as good in measuring growth among the elementary school students.

"The elementary schools were exemplary in growth at specific grade levels," she said. "Although several grades made exemplary, the total growth for all grades in all subjects was not sufficient to rate either school at the expected or exemplary level overall."

She added that "bright spots" among growth measured came in fourth grade

math and fifth grade reading at D.F. Walker, as well as fourth grade reading and math and fifth grade reading scores at White Oak.

In recognition of their outstanding work at schools that meet expected growth standards, teachers and other certified personnel will each receive \$750 bonuses, while principals and assistant principals get \$750 bonuses and a one percent salary increase. Teacher assistants at those schools will receive a \$375 bonus.

Teachers and other certified personnel at schools exhibiting exemplary growth will each receive a \$1,500 bonus, while principals and assistant principals get a \$1,500 bonus and a one percent salary increase. Teacher assistants at those schools will receive a \$500 bonus.

Coalition to bring consultant to town for public forum, tour

On Wednesday, July 15, Al Norman, who, for the past four years has helped dozens of communities across the country fight the invasion of "big-box" mega-stores in their areas, will be in Edenton to conduct a public forum. "What Happens When Wal-Mart Comes to Town?" Norman established his consulting firm, Sprawl-Busters, after organizing a successful fight against Wal-Mart's coming to his hometown of Greenfield, MA.

Wal-Mart has expressed an interest in building a large complex at the intersection of Highway 17 and Rt. 32, just beyond the limit of this town of 5,000, but within its extra-territorial jurisdiction. Opinions voiced by local citizens regarding the proposed development are mixed.

While some express the need for a Wal-Mart, others cite the devastating effect that Wal-Mart has had in many similar areas of the country: rising taxes, falling property values, increased crime, depressed



Al Norman wages, fewer jobs, the end of charitable giving by local merchants, and the disappearance of retail stores and other service providers.

Norman, who has been featured on television news documentaries, including 60 Minutes and Nightline, has been invited to the area by a local citizens group, the Chowan

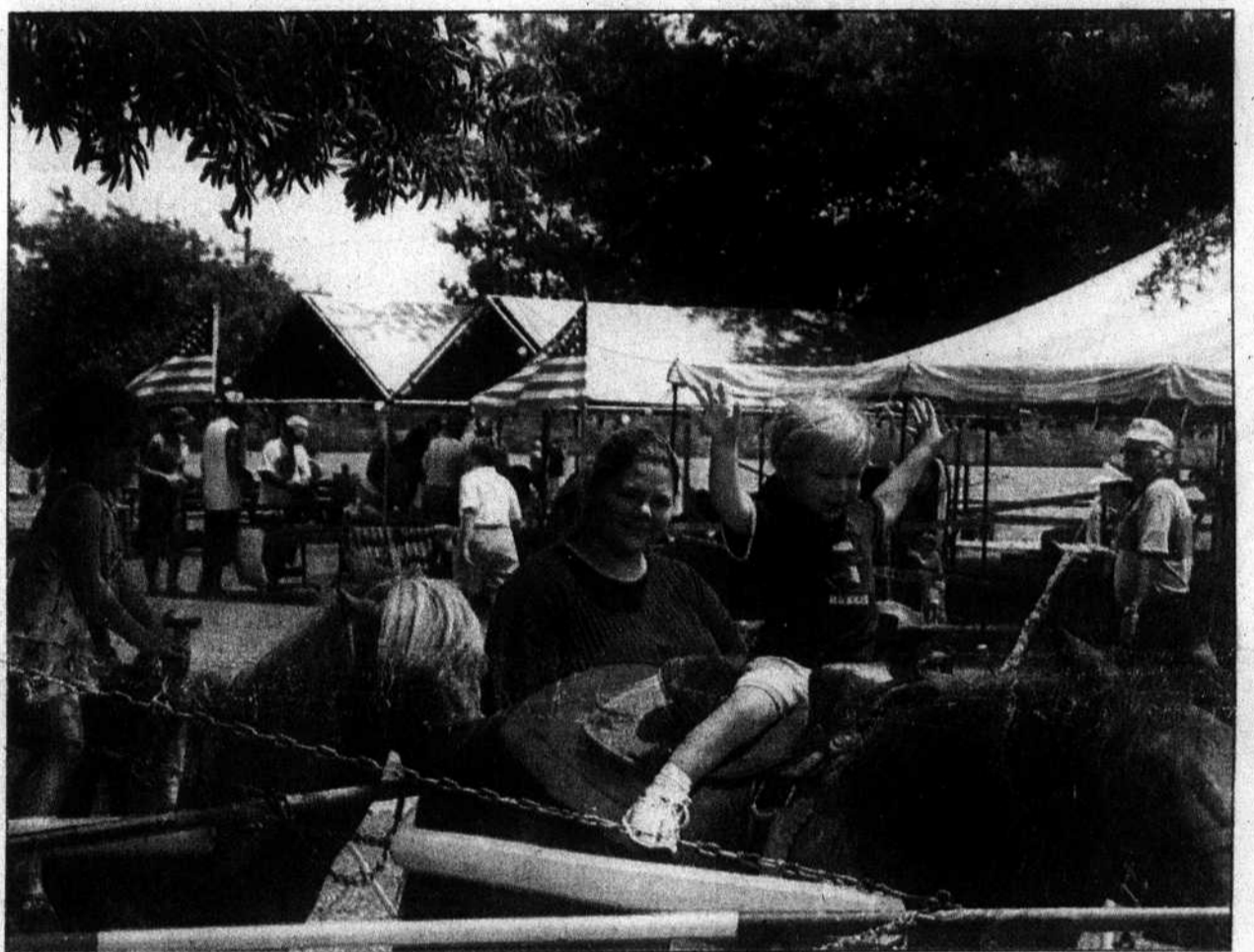
Communities Coalition. CCC was recently organized by citizens of Edenton and Chowan County "to afford residents an effective voice in the growth and development issues that affect communities and inhabitants of the area," according to the group's mission statement.

At the public forum, which is set for 6 p.m. in the auditorium of Edenton's John A. Holmes High School on North Broad Street, Norman will show the 60 Minutes spot in which he, with Morley Safer, demonstrates what Wal-Mart can do to turn vibrant and thriving communities into ghost towns. Following the presentation, he will explain what can be done to keep Wal-Mart out.

There is no admission charge for the public forum.

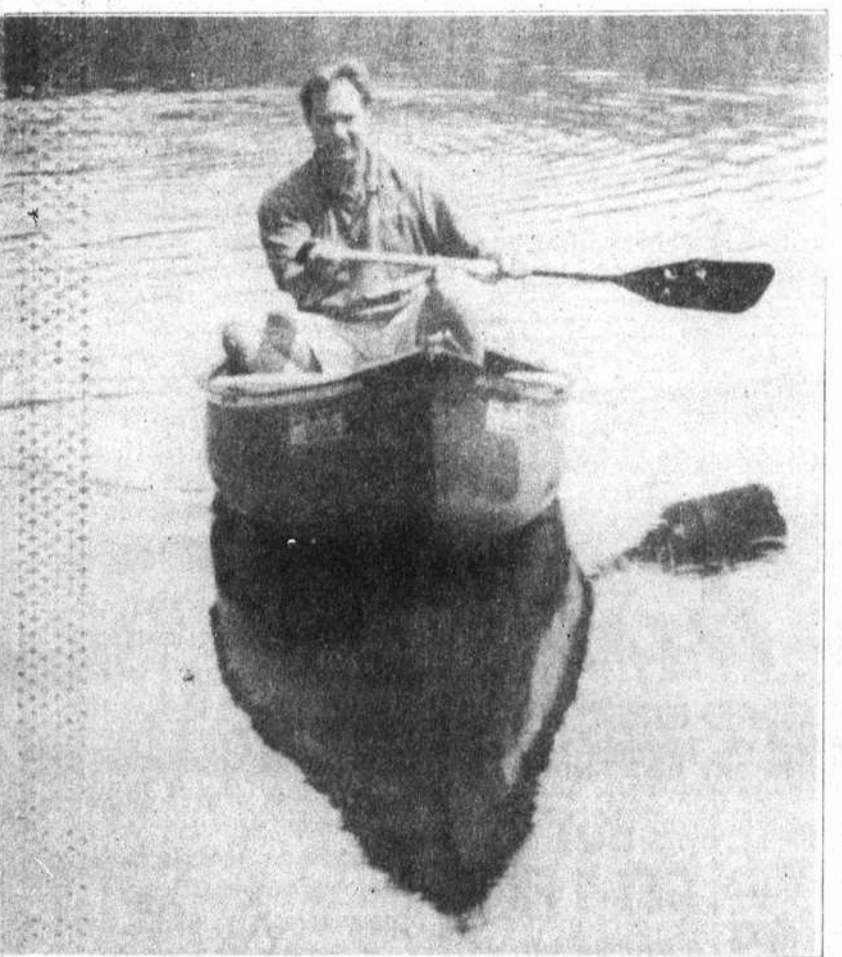
Prior to the public forum, the mayor of Edenton will take Norman on a tour of the downtown area, featuring meetings with local merchants who stand

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CELEBRATING THE FOURTH

Two-year-old Evan Copeland had fun on the pony ride during the Fourth of July festivities at the Edenton waterfront Saturday. Guiding Evan along is his mother, Kristy Copeland, who accompanied the youngster through the activities which were enjoyed by all. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)



Peter Bogus

Sound Country Celebration being organized

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Eco-tourism: Responsible travel that conserves the natural environment and sustains the well-being of local people.

That's the definition Peter Bogus offers for eco-tourism. Bogus, who owns the Trestle House Inn bed & breakfast on Soundside Road, has been instrumental in organizing the inaugural Sound Country Celebration to be held on the

Edenton waterfront Nov. 14-15.

The festival, he said, will include a wide variety of outdoor activities and entertainment for people of all ages, but will focus on water-related activities such as canoeing and kayaking.

"The festival is going to pretty much take up all of the town's waterfront," he said. "It's going to be like an Edenton party, an outside kind of thing."

There will be no admission charge for the festival.

Tentative plans are to have canoe and kayak races on Saturday, Nov. 14. Both categories will include divisions for novice, expert and a business challenge. Single and tandem boats will participate in all races. The expert races will be sanctioned by the North Carolina Canoe and Kayak Association. The races will be open to the public. A registration fee of \$10 per boat will be required. Local agencies, including College of The Albemarle, and in-

dividuals are donating a limited number of boats for public use. A rental fee will be charged for those boats, said Bogus.

The business challenge race will be similar to the format used in the America's Cup Challenge, he said.

"The winning business will keep the trophy for one year, just like the America's Cup," Bogus said, who is an avid kayaker and canoeist.

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Bay Challenge Races to be held this weekend

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Sun, fun and sailing. These three ingredients for a wonderful weekend are sure to create a pleasant memory for participants in this weekend's Edenton Bay Challenge.

Weather permitting, the two-day event, July 11-12, is scheduled to contain 50 boats, with participants coming from as far away as Florida and Maryland.

Four types of boats will take part in the races. Thistle, Tanzer, Moth and Sunfish boats will all take to the waters of Edenton Bay this weekend. An open class is also scheduled for competi-

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11-12 YEAR-OLD EDENTON ALL-STARS

These are the 15 members and coaches of the Edenton all-star team which will compete in next week's tournament. See related story and picture on page 3-A. (Photo by Sean Jackson)

Tourists spend millions here

Domestic United States travelers spent more than \$12 million in Chowan County in 1997. More than 150 residents are employed in tourism-related jobs, and tourism brings in approximately \$610,000 in local tax receipts.

Statewide, domestic travelers spent nearly \$10.2 billion, an increase of 4.13 percent over 1996. In North Carolina, employment increased 3.09 per-

cent to about 171,000 full-time positions.

"From restaurants to motels and golf courses to outdoor activities, tourism touches our community in so many ways," said Pete Dail, chairman of the Chowan County Tourism Development Authority, in announcing the results. "It is a

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