



### Casting call issued here

The Edenton Little Theater, in conjunction with the Chowan Arts Council, is planning to present the musical comedy, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," April 16-17, at the Swain Auditorium.

"A Funny Thing Happened" opened on Broadway in 1962 and ran for 964 performances. The musical is a zany farce set in ancient Rome. A slave and scam artist, Pseudolus, attempts to win his freedom by brokering the sale of a virgin. The broad comedy, burlesque humor and clever vaudeville-inspired production numbers make this show a perennial favorite.

The cast calls for 11 men and seven women. Auditions are scheduled for Monday, Jan. 11, and Thursday, Jan. 14, at Swain Auditorium, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

All individuals interested in performing or helping in any capacity with the production should plan on attending the auditions or may contact the Chowan Arts Council at 482-8005.



### SHARING HER FAMILY TREE WITH OTHERS

Native Australian Fiona Scott, who now makes her home in Edenton, shares her family tree with members of the Hornets 4-H Club. Scott is an ancestor of King Robert the Bruce of Scotland. The Hornets are researching their family ancestry using the 4-H curricula "Family Heritage." Hattie Boatwright is the club leader.

### Local residents and 4-H group honored at awards ceremony

North Carolina First Lady Carolyn Hunt presented the annual Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service for the eastern region Dec. 7. A total of 228 awards were given to individuals, groups and businesses at the Dunn Center on the campus of North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount.

"On behalf of Governor Hunt, I am proud to honor each of you for your dedication and commitment to helping others," said Mrs. Hunt. "North Carolina has a long-standing tradition of volunteerism and I thank you for keeping the Tar Heel volunteer spirit alive. Through your work you are creating a brighter future for our children."

Chowan County recipients included: Kyra Ellison Hicks; W. Earl Smith; and the 4-H Active Youth and Parents

(AYAP) Community Club volunteers. In addition to Hicks and Smith, AYAP volunteers on hand to accept their award on behalf of their organization were Hattie Boatwright, Janice Faye Gregory, and Leticia Wills.

Linda Povlich, director of the Governor's Office of Citizen and Community Services, was master of ceremonies. Dr. John White, president of NC Wesleyan College, welcomed award recipients and their guests to Rocky Mount. The invocation was provided by Rev. Kirk Oldham, chaplain at the college.

Entertainment was provided by the Tar River Children's Chorus under the direction of Patsy Gilliland. This talented group of 50 young people performed "The Sleigh," "I Love a

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### Accomplishments of school system a focus of Kiwanis program

Making his second appearance before an audience of local Kiwanis members, Chowan County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Allan Smith recently provided an update on some areas of interest.

Introduced by member Jim Carnrite, himself a former school superintendent, Smith's opening remark was that, since coming to the area earlier this year, "I have been most impressed with the quality of our staff, both the support members and the teachers themselves. Typically what gets into the press is the bad news, but I have lots of good news to share concerning the system."

One item to be especially

proud of is the achievement of fourth graders in math, where they made the highest gain in the country. Other measures of improvement also fall in the positive column, and "the perception of North Carolina public schools is rising with the public as well."

Smith went on to say that for the past two years, there has been a decline in violence in North Carolina schools, with the record even better than average in Chowan County.

"While even one is too many, there were only six instances classified as violence last year. That works out to 2.4 per thousand students; 6.3 was the state average. Of the 117 public

school districts in North Carolina, we were the sixth lowest. That speaks well for the system. The vast majority of our students are serious and want to do well. So we are getting more and more students making higher scores."

More than 50 percent of juniors and seniors now are taking SAT tests and the scores are going up.

"More students are opting out

of the general curriculum and are taking more demanding subjects," said Smith. "We have not had to have outside help, unlike some districts, though we still have not made enough progress, since there are still some students who have not made the gains they should. We're working to remedy this. We must also strive to help the high flyers do even better - while not forgetting the aver-

age student either."

Technology advances, especially in computers and accessing the Internet, is another area now being emphasized in the Chowan school system.

Turning to a subject of great concern, Smith said, "What scares me most is the shortage of certified, high quality teacher applicants. It's just hard to attract them to rural

northeastern North Carolina if they prefer the larger cities. So we will have an increasing outreach effort to get them to come."

Smith concluded his presentation by saying, "We are not a wealthy school district, therefore we need to find still more creative ways to stretch the dollar."

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