

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK . . .

Chowan COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday - 1/6

SCHOOL BOARD MEETS
The January meeting of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education will be held Thursday, Jan. 6, in the Board of Education Conference room starting at 7:30 p.m.

Friday - 1/7

BINGO NIGHT
American Legion Post 40 Family Relay for Life team is holding a "Special Bingo Night" in the back building of the American Legion in Edenton on Friday, Jan. 7, at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Legion Family Relay team. Please come support this worthwhile endeavor. For more info, call Susan Campbell, 482-2386.

Saturday - 1/8

CAMPFIRE READING
Join us at the family campground amphitheater at Merchants Millpond State Park in Gatesville, NC to read or tell your favorite story around a campfire. Park at the office on

Hwy. 158 and walk to the amphitheater (about one-third mile). For more info, call Vanessa Truman at the park at (252) 357-1191.

Tuesday - 1/11

BLOOD DRIVE PLANNED
The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive in the classroom at Chowan Hospital in Edenton on Tuesday, Jan. 11, from 2-7 p.m. Please use door by the ambulance entrance. Note change in location.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEET

The Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library Board of Trustees will meet Jan. 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the library in Edenton.

MUSIC SERIES STARTS

Chowan Arts Council and Chowan College will present the first concert of its "Second Tuesday Music Series" Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. A vocal ensemble, "Encore," will perform in the Chowan Arts Council Gallery. Free admission; donations welcome.

Upcoming Events

HORTICULTURE CLUB MEETS

The Chowan County Home Horticulture Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13, at the Edenton Municipal Building. The program will center around a group discussion of possible programs for the year 2000. Everyone is encouraged to come and bring a friend. Questions? Call Art Wadsworth at 482-2314.

BOOK CLUB TO MEET

On Jan. 18, Friends of the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library Book Club will meet at 3:30 p.m. at the library in Edenton to discuss "The Pilot's Wife" by Anita Shreve.

INTERMEDIATE STAINED GLASS

The Chowan Arts Council is offering an intermediate class in the art of stained glass with instructor J.E. Yates. This adult workshop will consist of five sessions — Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17 — from 7-9 p.m. Tuition is charged, plus a fee for materials. The class will be taught at the Chowan Arts Council. For more info, call at 482-8005.

Letters

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kids? The one location scheme works well at the middle school and high school levels.

This last solution would require an act of political will in finding the funds to implement it. Please consider this — millions set aside for something else, e.g., a new County office, etc — or investing these dollars in our future...our children.

Our response to the proposed K-2/3-5 split has been a petition (in opposition) containing huge numbers of concerned citizens' names to be presented to the Board.

Some additional observations:

• Compared to many other nations our United States scores near the bottom in Math skills. And 40% of U.S. students are reading "Below Basic" level. Our children are less well educated today than at any time in our history. Poor discipline and lack of respect for our teachers is at an all-time high. Sadly, more and more of our parents expect our already over-burdened schools to raise their children for them. Over 50% of births of children today are to unwed mothers. These are truly "children raising children," and it's only going to get worse.

Our teachers and school staff are overworked, underpaid and expected to do far too much with too little. Better pay and more classroom help are certainly serious options to be considered, regard-

less of which configuration the Board chooses. And, by the way, has anyone polled teachers and staff at both schools about possible recommendations to answer some of the serious underlying problems that a simple split won't address?

Today our Board stands at what could be a historic crossroad. Will it be "business as usual," or taking strong, bold steps to attack our problems and expecting, no, demanding that our schools not only compete with North Carolina's best, but exceed that level. It can be! Working together, that goal is within reach.

Rob Charlton Tyner

(Editor's Note: Mr. Charlton is president of the White Oak Elementary School PTA.)

Coffey

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McCulloh finally resigned the position and Iredell was appointed in his place.

One Sunday, Iredell admits he was "not going to Church, the Weather being rainy and no Ladies going from Mrs. Blair's." Another Sunday in January, Iredell "went to Mr. Johnston's office about some business I had to do for him," and expressed his remorse: "I should not much approve of these transgressions, were they to be frequently repeated. One great end of the institution of the Sabbath was to remind us that there is a God who will one day call us to account, and this reflection is a great guard to virtue — improperly neglected, we grow less averse to...the practice of Vice. But my heart does not much condemn me in the present instance. The business was necessary to be done, and the Gentl. with whom I did it an unerring Observer of all the moral and social duties of life."

Iredell frequently chastised him-

self for his shortcomings, and laid out goals for better behavior: "When I read a Book that pleases me I do not enquire, is this what I can do, but is this what I ought to do? We can all do more than we are willing to do. — Let it be our Care to bring our Conduct as nearly as possible to the highest Standard, instead of wishing to level that with ours." But he admits to horse races, attending "a little dance," and giving himself "a kind of holiday, play-

ing a Game at Billiards with Buchanan."

Like many of us, Iredell did not keep up his journal; in early February 1773, he abandoned the effort. It is a loss to history, for as Griffith J. McRee wrote in 1857: "The Journal...possesses a charming freshness of feeling and naivete of expression. Never was a sketch drawn of a purer or more innocent individual life, or of a more social, genial community."

Sense

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aren't enough to escape poverty. According to an analysis by the NC Budget and Tax Center, 78% of poor families with children included one worker. Because of the predominance of low wage jobs in NC, simply getting a job is not enough to avoid poverty.

O'Connor

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staff development or planning time."

If North Carolina is to pay some of the highest salaries in the nation, the state should demand more instructional time, he says.

(4) Hunt has been "silent on the issue of allowing unqualified or under-qualified teachers to teach students."

Dornan is a former lobbyist for the NC Association of Educators and the last two points sound like criticism of Hunt's lockstep to NCAE's directives. We won't have a real education governor until we elect someone who can stand up to the demands of the teacher's union.

Dornan says that the "First in America Initiative" has great potential, but only if it is specific in addressing a long list of education needs. "A plan that is largely an exhortation to go farther within the confines of what exists today would be a terrible waste." He doesn't predict which route Hunt will take.

But another article in the report criticizes Hunt for drafting the initiative without input from business and education policymakers. It appears that the Forum anticipates another shallow Jim Hunt public relations gimmick.

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