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## Report cards to be sent

Gov. Mike Easley has declared Feb. 20, 2003, as North Carolina School Report Card Day. Principals across the state have been asked to send home copies of the North Carolina School Report Card in the week surrounding that date.

This report card includes important information about school performance, class sizes, attendance, school safety, instructional resources, and teacher quality. Report card data are available for each school, for each school district, and for the state's education system as a whole.

In announcing this project for parents, Governor Easley

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## Going on animal safari

Mrs. Ashley's first grade class at White Oak Elementary School had an animal safari on Feb. 17. The students presented animal research and handmade projects representing their animals. (Photo by Gail Bain)

## NE Partnership says charges by DFI unfounded

BY JOANIE MORRIS  
Cox NC Publications

A lawsuit brought by DFI Group, a commercial and industrial development company based in northeastern North Carolina, accuses Edenton-based Northeast Partnership of conspiracy to put the company out of business and take over the firm's ethanol plant in Beaufort.

Neither DFI Group CEO William Horton or the company's lawyer, Scott Wilkinson, could be reached Monday for comment on the suit.

However, Rick Watson, who heads the Northeast Partnership and who is named individually in the suit, said its

accusations are unfounded. "There's not an ounce of truth to it," Watson said Monday afternoon.

"It's a wrongful action lawsuit against us and there's not an ounce of it (that's) true," Watson said. "All we've done is try to help" Horton.

Watson declined further comment on the lawsuit, but said the Partnership's Raleigh-based attorneys, Sanford and Holshouser, "will have it over-turned in a very short period of time."

Ernie Pearson, an attorney with Sanford and Holshouser, said he is unsure of exactly what Horton and DFI are alleg-

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## Health Care Foundation elated to receive grant

### Bunch to be educator for teen effort

The North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission awarded \$6.7 million in grants to 27 local coalitions to be used over the next three years as part of a statewide campaign to help prevent North Carolina teens from using tobacco products.

The Chowan Regional Health Care Foundation was awarded a \$300,000 Community/School Teen Tobacco Prevention grant for use over a three year period for grades 6-12 in Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington counties, and Lawrence Academy in Bertie County. The funds will be used for program development of local cessation programs.

Helena Szczesny, executive director of the Chowan Re-



Jean Bunch, left, talks with Helena Szczesny, executive director of the Chowan Regional Health Care Foundation, and Dr. Charles Willson, a commission member and professor of pediatrics at East Carolina University School of Medicine and president of the NC Pediatric Society.

gional Health Care Foundation and administrator for the grant, has announced that Jean Bunch, a registered nurse at Chowan Hospital and a

proven advocate in youth tobacco prevention, will serve as the fulltime tobacco educator for this program.

"We are very fortunate to

have someone with Jean's expertise, motivation and enthusiasm to develop the Community/School Teen Tobacco Prevention initiative for our communities," said Szczesny. "Jean received the prestigious NC Medical Society's 2001-2002 Tobacco Control Community Award, which recognizes individuals or groups for their efforts in promoting tobacco prevention among youth. I am pleased to be associated with such a wonderful program that will help educate our youth about the harmful effects of tobacco products enabling them to make informed choices, which will help improve the quality of their health over the long term."

Dr. Charles Willson, a commission member and professor of pediatrics at East Carolina University School of Medicine and president of the NC Pediatric Society, commented, "Jean is a leader in smoking prevention and cessation programs at the local community level. The Health and Wellness

Trust Fund Commission is delighted to support and expand these efforts to reach children before they start to smoke. We need to de-glamorize smoking

and educate our youth about the harmful effects and the addictive nature of tobacco

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Members of the Dream Team at Holmes High School in Edenton who serve as American Cancer Society teen facilitators for the TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use) Program include: Anecia Wills; R.H. Partin as the yucky cigarette; Judson Smith; Cal Walters; Carol Busby; Ashley Brown; and Alex Bean. Looking on is a White Oak Elementary student.

## DAR to support literacy

Donna Koppelman, Newspapers in Education coordinator for the Chowan Herald, recently spoke before members of the Edenton Tea Party National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and came away with a check signifying their commitment to supporting literacy efforts on behalf of local children.

During her dynamic presentation, Koppelman explained that there is substantial evidence that using newspapers in schools contributes to students' reading and writing skills and knowledge of current events. She also said that it has been shown by providing schools with newspapers,

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Chowan Herald NIE Coordinator Donna Koppelman, left, accepts a check from Sandy Sperry, First Vice Regent, Edenton Tea Party Chapter NSDAR. The chapter has agreed to sponsor a Newspapers in Education (NIE) class in the local schools to help promote literacy among children.

## Chowan 4-H youngsters are focus of Achievement Night

An entire year's worth of 4-H accomplishments crammed into one night of celebration! That's what took place on Monday, January 27 when Chowan County 4-H held its annual Achievement Night. This was a special event for 4-H'ers and their families, designed to recognize achievements and remember another year of 4-H adventures and experiences.

The event is planned each year by the Chowan County 4-H County Council. This group of young leaders makes presentations, selects 4-H'ers to provide entertainment, and helps plan the program. Many residents of Chowan County have fond memories of their 4-H accomplishments. "In 2002 the 4-H youth development movement celebrated its centennial as one of our nation's longest serving youth organizations," noted 4-H Agent Amy Damrow.



Chowan 4-H'ers proudly hold their awards presented on Achievement Night by the Chowan County 4-H Council.

Awards included ribbon distribution and the naming of County Champions for project record books. Recognition was also given to 4-H club members who had perfect attendance at

meetings in 2002. This year the Rocky Hock Wildcats were given the club community service award for making and

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The Edenton American Legion Post 40 will be sponsoring a  
**PANCAKE, EGGS AND SAUSAGE  
BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER**

(for the American Legion Post 40 Baseball Team)

**Saturday, February 22, 2003  
7:00 a.m. to 11**

American Legion Post 40 front building located on W. Queen St. Ext. US Business 17S.

For ticket information contact Jim Haskett at 221-4781 or Scott Freese at 337-4027.

**EAT IN OR TAKE OUT.  
\$5.00 DONATION**