

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## School board adopts 100% tobacco free policy

*Promises to also look at tougher drug plan*

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Editor

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education Monday night adopted a 100 percent tobacco free policy containing the following provisions:

- Students, employees, guests and visitors may not possess, display, or use any tobacco product at any time on any school-owned or managed property. This prohibition also applies to students and any

adults serving in a supervisory capacity for Edenton-Chowan Schools in school-sponsored activities held off-campus.

- The possession, display, or use of tobacco products will be prohibited in all vehicles owned, operated, or maintained by the school system or private vehicles used to transport students.

- Persons or organizations not affiliated with Edenton-Chowan Schools who rent, lease, or otherwise temporarily occupy any school property — including school vehicles — are prohibited from displaying or using tobacco products during that period of use.

The board also agreed, as part of what board member Tom Abbott characterized as a "compassionate policy," to make tobacco-free support pro-

grams available to teachers and students in the local schools.

According to materials distributed by Abbott at the meeting, Jean Bunch, RN, the Albemarle Region Tobacco Education Coordinator, will initially teach these classes. Student programs to be offered include "Alternative to Suspension" (ATS) and "Not on Tobacco" (NOT). She is also certified to teach "Freedom from Smoking", a smoking cessation program for adults offered by the American Lung Association.

"Costs of these cessation programs are covered by existing grants and will be provided free of charge to students and adult employees," the handout states. "A mini-grant may cover the cost of lunches for students and adults if noon-

time programs re established."

Following a presentation by local tobacco farmer Joseph Goodwin, however, board members decided that the school system's drug use prevention policy also needs a second look.

"I am appearing before you to share my concerns over the board's decision to target tobacco without, what appears to me, (to be) as much concern over the possession, sale and use of illegal substances at our schools," Goodwin said during the public dialogue portion of the board meeting. "My concern comes from knowing that the sheriff's department is not allowed to perform random, unannounced drug checks using their drug dog — a resource that is already paid for and available for use in fighting drug abuse." He also ques-

tioned whether student athletes at our schools are subjected to random drug tests, which he noted has been ruled permissible by the courts.

Several board members said that they also were concerned the school system might not be doing all it could to prevent drugs' presence on school campuses in Chowan County. One member, Ricky Browder, said a number of people had asked him why the school system wasn't focusing on ridding the local schools of drugs instead of going after smokers. "Don't ya'll have anything better to do?" he said he was asked.

Dr. Allan Smith, superintendent of schools, said that while he was perfectly willing to have unannounced drug searches in the schools, he felt that the drug dog that would be used during the searches

should be brought into the schools during an assembly and introduced to the students so that they would not feel intimidated by its presence during the searches.

And, Rob Boyce of the school administrative staff, also pointed out that drug searches sometimes incorrectly identified students as having drugs on them. In one such case, in another state, he said that a female student having her period was singled out by a drug dog and later found not have been in possession of any drugs. The girl and her family sued the school district.

Following a lengthy discussion in which board member Gil Burroughs pressed for action, the board instructed Dr. Smith to come up with a plan to beef up drug enforcement efforts for the next school year.

## Woman disputes danger

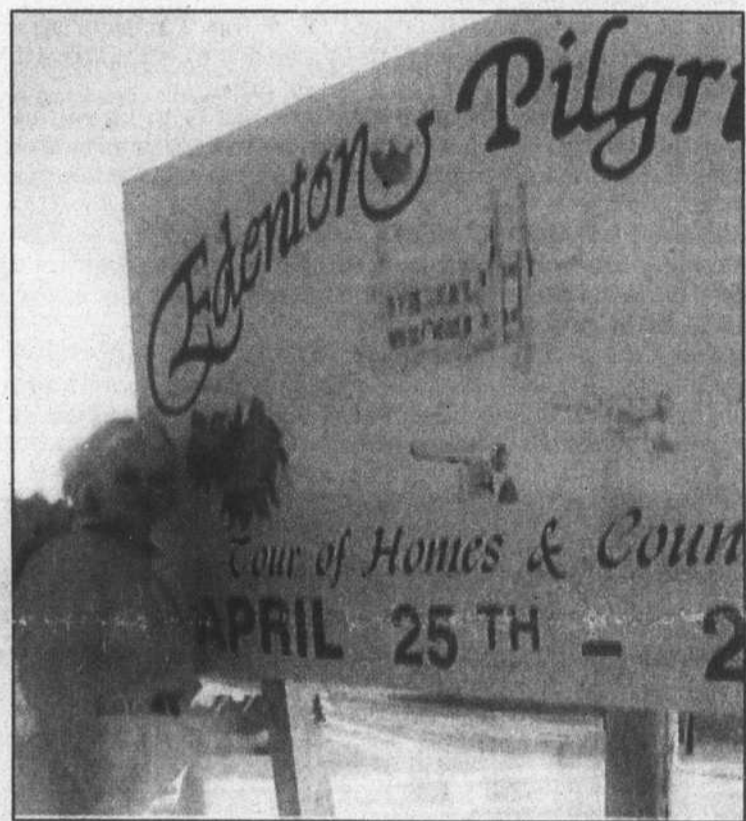
BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Editor

An Edenton woman says Chowan Animal Control personnel acted too hastily in euthanizing two family pets picked up at her home after she reported finding a dead raccoon in her yard. She also disputes that any disturbance took place between her two dogs and the dead animal.

In written comments submitted to The Chowan Herald, Sylvia Pritchett says this is what happened Monday, March 3.

"I woke up (and) let my dogs out like every morning, out my back yard that is fenced in," she wrote. "They might have stayed out for about 20 minutes." Pritchett said she then got dressed and ready to go to Elizabeth City where she intended to purchase additional fencing to put at the bottom of the old fence in her yard "because my two dogs every now and then (would decide) to crawl under and then go

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## Pilgrimage weekend nearing

Martha "Marty" Badger, chairwoman, shows off one of the lovely signs announcing the coming of Pilgrimage weekend, April 25-26. The annual tour of historic homes and public buildings draws thousands of visitors from across the country. Mary Lou Baldi is serving as vice-chair of the event. For more details, see next week's Chowan Herald and its springtime edition of the Albemarle Magazine. (Staff photo by Marge Soper)

## Second man faces charges

One person's charges on felony arrest charges were reduced during Chowan County Superior Court last Tuesday for a shooting incident that occurred last October, while another individual sought in that case was arrested Sunday.

Jamel Rhyshiem Boyce, age 20, of Edenton, was charged by grand jury indictment with three counts of assault with a

deadly weapon with intent to commit serious bodily harm, and discharging a weapon into an occupied vehicle. Boyce assaulted two officers sent to arrest him, and one officer was treated and released from Chowan Hospital in connection with the incident. As a result, Boyce faces additional charges of assault on the officers. He is scheduled to appear

in court April 22 on those charges.

He is currently being held in the Chowan County Jail under a \$54,000 bond, according to Edenton Police Chief Greg Bonner.

Another individual charged in the shooting incident, which took place at Chowan Court

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## African-American images to be part of Symposium

A "picture is worth a thousand words" is an understatement when you catch a glimpse of African-American life in early photography.

The forms of early photography that were introduced during the mid-19th century were the daguerreotype (1839), ambrotype (1854), tintype (1856), carte de visite (1859), and the cabinet card (1866). Of these forms of photography, the daguerreotype was and still is considered the most beautiful and fascinating form of historic photography that exists today.

These images hold a photographic view of African-American life both real and hidden during this era. Because very little photographic evidence of African-American images exist prior to the Civil War, the images that have survived are either in museums, private collections, or stored away by family members. Even after the Civil War,

African-Americans did not have the time, money, or freedom for portrait sittings. Consequently, little photographic evidence remains to bear witness to the lives of four and a half million Americans of African descent.

Dennis O. Williams of Raleigh, NC and Craig James of Benson, NC passionately collect these rare pieces of photographic history. They will display their photographic image collections of African-American life before, during and after the Civil War in Edenton, for the Harriet Jacobs Symposium.

The Symposium, which examines the life of this former slave who became an author, abolitionist, and reformer begins at 9 a.m. April 4, at the Historic Edenton Visitor Center and continues through April 5.

Register by faxing your request to (252) 482-3366 or if you wish you may transmit it via e-mail to harriet.jacobs@ncmail.net.



## Spring sunshine

Beautiful flowers are one of the first signs that Spring has finally arrived. Recently, Edenton photographer Blair Currie found Freddie the Frog and his girlfriend relaxing among the daffodils in Evelyn Harmon's garden.

## Grandma prays for safe return of grandchildren

BY MARGE SOPER  
Correspondent

Norma Bulls is a very proud grandmother and she has every right to be just that. Norma has three grandchildren and all three are presently serving in the military.

Norma's granddaughter, SSGT Tanya Everett Queiro is a Marine and she is married to a Marine, SSGT Jose Queiro. They are presently stationed at Camp LeJeune and live in Jacksonville, NC. Tanya, since January has been attending special training at Patrick Henry AFB and will be returning home in April. The couple has three children and SSGT dad has had to be both mom and dad while Tanya has been away. When both parents are in



SSGT Tanya Everett Queiro and SSGT Jose Queiro  
US Marines

Granddaughter and Grandson-in-law of Norma J. Bulls

the military this is not an unusual situation. Grandma Norma says that "Tanya always loved sports and loved

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**"WAR IN IRAQ COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE"**  
will be held **ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN EDENTON** **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**  
WEDNESDAYS FROM NOON UNTIL 12:15 P.M. UNTIL THE WAR IS OVER. For more information, call 482-3522.