

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Steamers are back in town . . . 2-B



Holmes grad will leave a legacy of faith . . . 5-C

Mission group reaches out to help the people of Belize . . . 1-C

## Graduation is Friday night

Judge Chris Bean and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction's Elsie Leak will deliver the featured address on May 30 to graduating seniors at John A. Holmes High School's commencement ceremony, scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Students should assemble for commencement on the school commons at 6 p.m. The ceremony will take place in the Aces Athletic Complex. No tickets are required for the outdoor event and seating should be plentiful for all who wish to attend the ceremony.

In the event of rain, commencement will take place at 10 a.m. on May 31 in the Athletic Complex, with students reporting to the commons at 9 a.m. If rain persists on Saturday morning, commencement ceremonies will take place in Swain Auditorium at 10 a.m. If the ceremony is moved to the auditorium, buses will provide transportation from Holmes to Swain for seniors, faculty

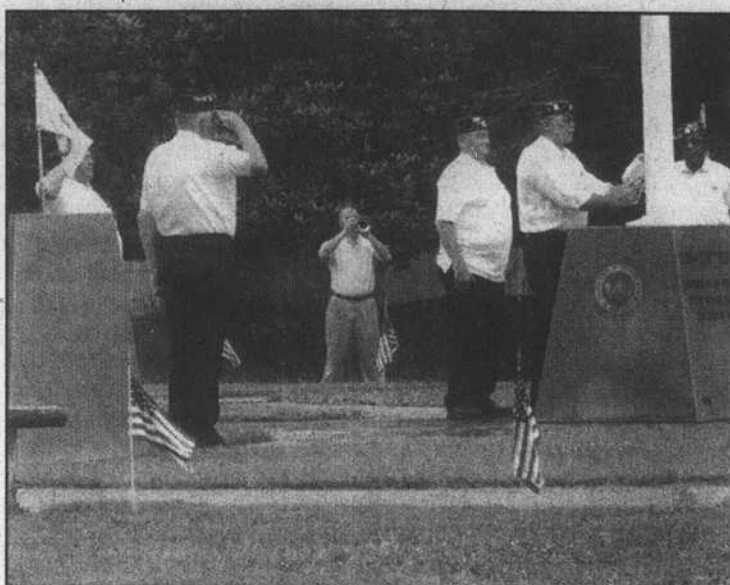
and members of the band and concert choir. The auditorium will open to the public one hour prior to the start of commencement.

Tickets will be required if the event moves to Swain, and those without tickets will not be allowed on the Arts Council premises in the interest of safety. Each senior will receive four tickets at the graduation rehearsal on Friday. School officials urge parents and their students to discuss which family members will receive tickets ahead of time.

Limited parking will be available at the courthouse and city parking lots. Parking at Swain will be reserved for buses and program participants (not graduates).

Graduating females should wear white dresses, low-heeled white shoes and conservative makeup. Males should wear white shirts, dark pants and shoes, and

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The Pledge of Allegiance is recited during a Memorial Day ceremony Monday morning at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial in Edenton. (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)

guards, which were provided by the Edward G. Bond Post 40. Wreaths were also lain by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 40 and the Edenton Tea Party, Daughters of the American Revolution. Lynn Bundy, Drama Teacher, at John A. Holmes High School beautifully performed the "Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America" for the event.

Keynote speaker of the memorial service was Rev. Thomas Biggs, Minister, of Cape Colony Church of Christ who told the crowd the true meaning of Memorial Day.

"Memorial Day is a time when we try to preserve the

memory of lives given . . . for our freedoms in this Great Nation," Biggs stated.

Biggs also told the gathering what we as Americans can do to make sure our service men and women have not died in vain. "We can stress patriotism and stress that the flag represents the blood, sweat and tears of our military," Biggs said.

Larry Privott performed "Taps" and Rev. Robert White gave the invocation and benediction. A list of men and women who died in military service from Chowan County was also read during the memorial service.

## Tribute is paid to our veterans

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL  
Staff Writer

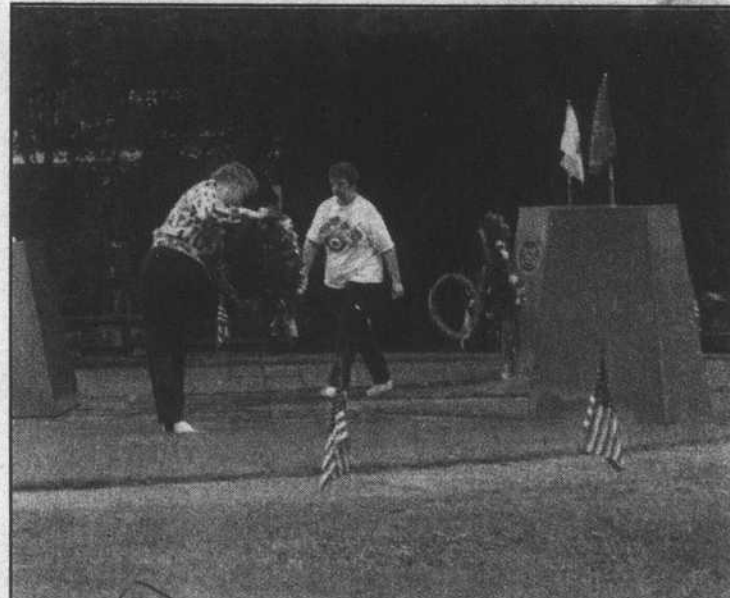
Eighty to one hundred people showed up to pay tribute to service men and women that gave the ultimate sacrifice on Monday, May 26 at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial in Edenton.

George Stokes, Master of Ceremonies, from the Edward

G. Bond Post 40 American Legion, reminded the crowd that although the occasion was somber there was still reason to be thankful.

"We have a lot to be thankful for today," Stokes noted. "We have gone through another war without another name being added to the list."

Service and memorial wreaths were lain by the color



Beth Taylor places a wreath on behalf of the Edenton Tea Party Chapter DAR. (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)

## Northeast Partnership briefed on area business

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Managing Editor

William "Bill" R. Horton, president of the DFI Group Inc., gave a special presentation at the Northeast Partnership's month meeting last Wednesday in Edenton. The focus of his remarks was the ethanol projects his company expects to carry out at new sites in Williamston (Martin County) and Beaufort County.

Horton noted that while ethanol-based research has been around for a while, financial support for such endeavors is much stronger in the Midwest where the results of such research are better known.

"It's not a new industry," he said, "but the technology has changed."

Horton said many in the agriculture field became interested as they began to look for



Chamber Director Richard Bunch talks William R. Horton, president of the DFI Group Inc. following a presentation Horton gave at the Northeast Partnership meeting last Wednesday. (Staff photo by Dave Crawley)

something that could replace tobacco as the primary cash crop for farmers. Since that time research has led to such genetically enhanced/engineered foods and "enhanced value crops" as corn and cotton. Horton said that other creations have included oatmeal-type cakes that can be sent to Third World countries to help meet nutritional needs there.

He said, however, that one of the difficulties with developing this technology is the lack of available grant subsidies that would help move it along.

Horton said that his company expects to make use of the availability of natural gas in Martin County and to utilize a wood-fired boiler in Beaufort County under a 10-year contract. He said that the permitting process on the Beaufort site, on which DFI has an option, is expected to take 8-9 months. In contrast, Horton

said the deal for the Martin County site was expected to be finalized the day after the Partnership's meeting took place.

Partnership Chairman Bob Spivey said he was delighted to learn of DFI's plans, particularly given the importance of agriculture in the region. "We are excited at the prospect of what this could mean to our farmers and northeastern North Carolina," he said.

Horton said the support of entities such as the Northeast Partnership, county commissioners, and town councils in our area could be an important means of showing that there is an interest in these types of projects. "Any type of endorsement would help," he said.

Spivey responded by asking the Partnership's board of directors to approve a motion of support for DFI. The motion passed unanimously.



## Learn to sail

This fleet of sunfish sailboats is preparing to venture into Edenton Bay in last year's summer sailing program sponsored by the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department. Any boy or girl in the 6th through 12th grade can sign up for one of the weeks of lessons offered by the Recreation Department. Call or come by the Rec. Dept. to register for this activity or many others offered during the summer months. (Photo by Robbie Laughton)

## Koonce is new principal at Chowan Middle School

Edenton-Chowan Schools has named current assistant principal Willie Koonce as the next principal at Chowan Middle School. The Board of Education approved Koonce at its May meeting by a unanimous vote.

"Mr. Koonce is a proven leader," said Edenton-Chowan Schools' superintendent Allan T. Smith. "His peers recognized Willie's qualities as an educator when they named him Administrator of the Year for Chowan County in 2000-2001. We are fortunate to have someone of Mr. Koonce's caliber taking the helm at the middle school."

Koonce began his teaching career here in 1976 at Chowan High School after receiving a



Willie Koonce

bachelor's degree in math and science from Elizabeth City State University. He received his master's degree in school administration from East Carolina University in 1995.

and became the assistant principal at Chowan Middle School in that year also. Koonce has been assistant principal at Chowan for the last seven years.

Koonce will succeed current Chowan principal Brenda Winborne, who will retire with the end of this school year. Winborne said she was "delighted" with the decision to make Koonce her successor.

Mr. Koonce has a genuine love for the school, the students, the staff and the community," Winborne said. "I know that he will lead the school to even higher levels of performance."

Koonce said his philosophy

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2003!