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It's Back to School time again!

As blue skies battled rain clouds for dominance on the second day of the first full week in August, about 2,500 students, 390 employees and 44 yellow school buses all headed to school on the first day of classes for Edenton-Chowan Schools.

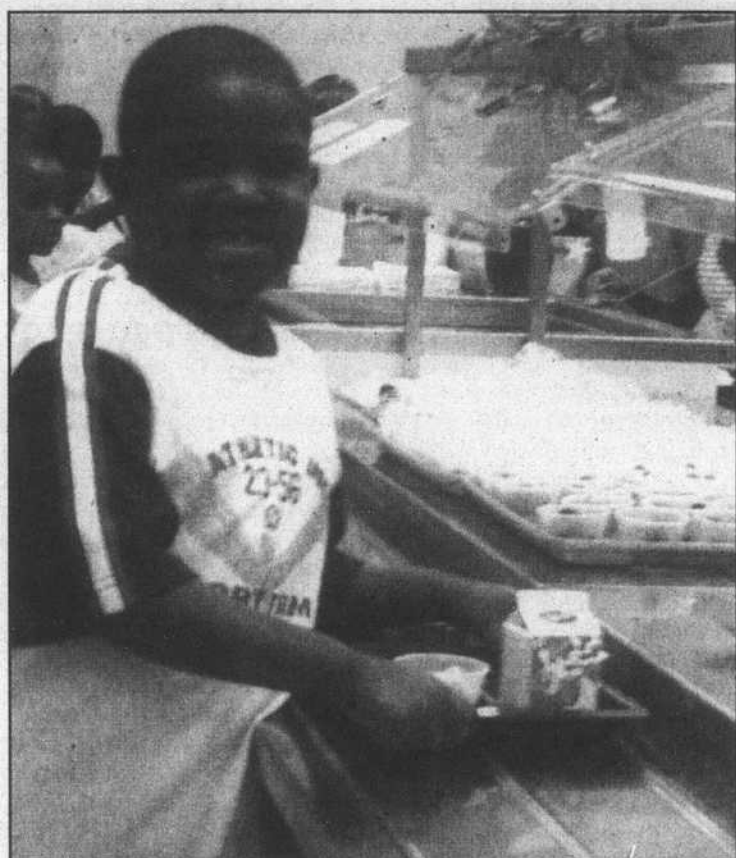
Students, teachers and staff throughout the system agreed the first day back from summer vacation went smoothly.

"It's been going real well," said John A. Holmes High School secretary Mary Granby. "We're afraid to say anything, it's going so great," she added, laughing.

Although the system has new students, new teachers, and in the case of the high school, newly renovated classrooms, there are some things about school and school children that never change.

"My favorite part of the day is lunch," said White Oak School first-grader Hunter Yount, voicing student thoughts since time immemorial. Hunter proclaimed both the first day of school and his teacher, Connie Ashley, as "really great."

Next door at D. F. Walker School, fourth-grade teacher April Sheets didn't waste any time before teaching



White Oak School first-grader Miquel Raynor samples his first school lunch of the new year. (Story and photo by Glenda Jakubowski, Edenton-Chowan Schools)

employability skills to her class. One after another, Sheets' students practiced answering the classroom telephone in a businesslike manner.

"Good morning, Mrs. Sheets' room. Blank speak-

ing. How may I help you?" one student said, reading from the script written on the white board.

"Blank?" Sheets questioned, as the student laughed good-naturedly. "Is your name 'Blank?'"

Over at Chowan Middle School, band director Mike Fussell balanced a homemade sub on a paper plate as he talked about how the day had progressed so far. "It's been great," Fussell said.

"I expected the sixth-graders to be a little scared, and they were. I expected the seventh-graders to be a little more rowdy, and they were, and then they settled down and we had a great class," he said. Fussell would face his eighth-graders after fortification-by-sandwich.

"Great" seemed to be the theme word for the day across the system. It was certainly the way Chowan sixth-grade student Shantella Hurdle described her day after overcoming what she thought would be her biggest middle school obstacle: opening her locker.

"I was really worried," said Shantella. "But I got it!"

Like Shantella, students, teachers and administrators throughout the system will face and overcome many challenges in the coming year. But if the first day of school is anything to judge by, the results should be, well, "great!"



Belinda Washlesky

Guild briefed on Main St. benefits

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

Belinda Washlesky, executive director of the new Edenton Main Street Program, met with business and property owners of the Marketplace Guild about what is in store for Edenton during the next year as a Main Street community.

Washlesky discussed the four-point approach that the Main Street Program addressed: design, promotion,

organization and economic restructuring. According to Washlesky, the state doesn't provide funds but they do offer other incentives.

"The state gives us technical assistance and support," Washlesky stated. "They also hold seminars and workshops for Main Street participants free of charge."

Washlesky's office will be housed upstairs at the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Com-

See GUILD On Page 3-A



Carrie Byrum and Beth Elliott study the inscription on marker in a local cemetery. (Staff photo by Tamika Spruill)

Duo working on site survey of cemeteries

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

"I think history is important and a lot of times people

don't think about their family history or past," says Carrie Byrum when asked why she's

See SURVEY On Page 3-A



Bill offers benefits for region

Congressman Frank Ballance visited Providence Burial Ground Tuesday morning to tell Chowan County officials and residents of a bill he is sponsoring that would make the northeastern North Carolina sixteen-county area a National Heritage Tourist Site. If passed, Ballance said, the result would boost eco-tourism in the region. (See next week's Chowan Herald for additional details) (Staff photo by Bud Weagly).

See OPINION On Page 3-A

CHPP meeting to be held locally

BY ANGELA PEREZ
Staff Writer

Hot and crispy fried flounder for supper. Little periwinkles clinging to salt marsh grass. Great blue herons stalking an oyster bed at low tide.

All of these are reasons the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) believes the public should be interested in the preservation of the marine habitats of Coastal Carolina. Constantly under threat of being destroyed, these delicate places are vital to maintaining the unique way of life of coastal communities.

If natural beauty and an insatiable appetite for seafood aren't reasons enough, the fact that commercial and recreational fishing industries contribute about a billion dollars



Fishing has historically played a major role in Chowan County's economy. Shown here are fishermen from the Greenfield Fishery in 1905 pulling in their seine nets. These nets were enormous, often up to 2,700 yards in length. In the mid-1800s, nets were often set from two large rowboats, each manned by a captain and ten oarsmen. Once nets were set, boatmen ate, slept, or loafed until the fish were ready to be landed. (Photo courtesy of Frances Inglis)

a year to the state's economy should certainly peak public interest. The N.C. coastal region includes almost 4,000 miles of estuarine shoreline which provides such important fish habitats as salt marshes, freshwater swamps, and mud flats.

In order to protect and to preserve these special places, the N.C. General Assembly assigned NCDENR the task of formulating the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) which will examine the six critical marine habitats of the coastal area: water, wetlands, underwater grasses, ocean hard bottom, soft bottoms, and shell bottom. The plan will describe these habitats in detail and their role in marine fisheries. The CHPP will also

See MEETING On Page 3-A

Patel shot during attempted robbery

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

Late last week Rajnikant Patel, 63, of 1390 N. Broad Street, was shot in the mouth during an attempted robbery.

At 12:35 a.m. Friday morning, Edenton Police responded to a call about a shooting at the Colonial Motel located on 1390 N. Broad Street. Upon arrival officers found that Patel, owner of the motel, had been shot in the mouth.

Patel was able to tell police that two black males entered the motel and requested a room. After filling out the registration card and paying for the room, one of the black

males put a small caliber handgun through a crack in the security window and shot Patel in the mouth.

Police are unsure whether or not there was an exchange of words between Patel and the assailants or if Patel gave any resistance.

Patel was transported to Norfolk Sentra Hospital for surgery. According to Edenton Chief of Police William Bonner, Patel's injuries were serious but not life threatening.

So far no arrests have been made but two black males who were apprehended by Elizabeth City Police on separate charges are being questioned as possible suspects.

Public opinion crucial

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

Six area counties solidified their opposition to Washington County and any other northeastern North Carolina area being a preferred OLF site during Thursday's OLF Steering Committee meeting in Edenton.

The Navy is expected to make a decision about the location of the OLF site sometime after Monday, Aug. 18. Even though Washington County is the preferred site, Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton reminded Committee members that at the Navy's briefing last week they told the crowd "that all

See OPINION On Page 3-A