

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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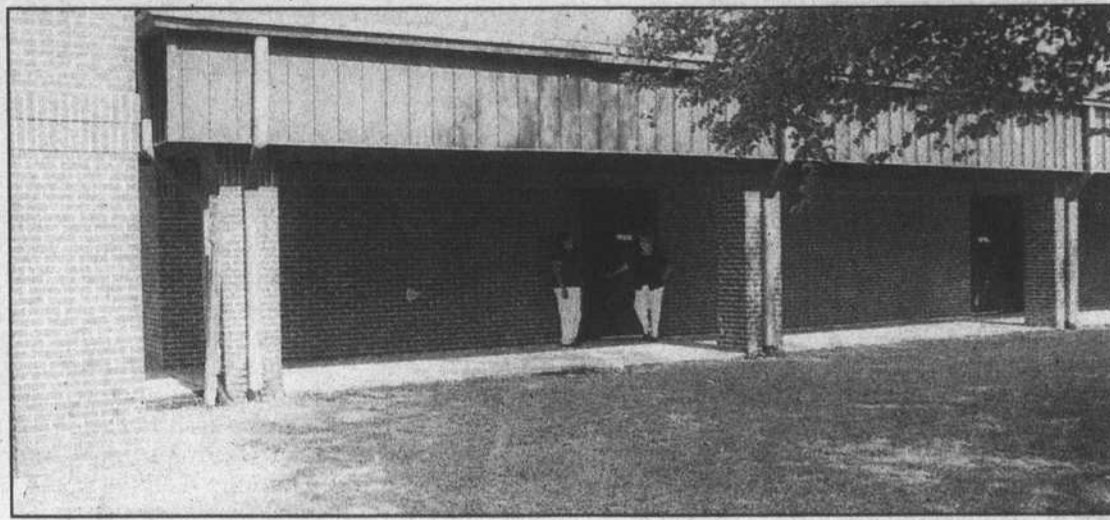
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New polling places for East, West Edenton voters



East Edenton voters will now cast their ballots at the old D.F. Walker School (see photos above) at the Edenton High/D.F. Walker Alumni Building, 824 North Oakum Street, Edenton. (Staff photos by Bud Weagly)



West Edenton residents will now vote at the Chowan Agriculture Center on North Granville Street, across from the Chowan Medical Center. (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Managing Editor

Chowan County voters who cast their ballots in East or West Edenton are being assigned new polling places. According to Chowan Board of Elections Director Rebecca Lowe, voters in those areas will soon receive official notification of the changes.

Effective immediately, the East Edenton polling place has been changed to the Edenton High/D.F. Walker Alumni

Building at the old D.F. Walker School, 824 North Oakum Street in Edenton.

West Edenton voters will be casting their ballots at the Chowan County Agriculture Center Building at 730 North Granville Street, across from the Chowan Medical Center.

Lowe said the action was taken for several different reasons. "We changed these locations in an effort to better serve the voters of Chowan County," she said. "Accessibility for the handicapped was an

issue at our old East Edenton location, while the West Edenton site was not climate controlled. Those things will not be an issue at our new sites."

Other precinct locations for Chowan County voters will remain unchanged. They are: Rocky Hock - Rocky Hock Rescue Squad Bldg; Center Hill - Northern Chowan Community Center; Tyner; Wardville-Gliden Rescue Squad Bldg., Hobbsville; and Yeopim - Airport Terminal Bldg., Edenton.

Murder trial starts

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

A jury was selected for the trial of Hertford resident, Jermaine Porter during Superior Court on Tuesday, September 2.

Porter was charged on October 18, 2002 with first-degree murder in the death of Albert D. Young, who was

See MURDER Page 3-A

School year gets off to an interesting start in '03

Walker celebrates being 'School of Distinction'

D.F. Walker students—all 560 of them—recently celebrated the school's recognition as a School of Distinction under the state's ABCs accountability system.

Schools of Distinction earn the honor for having at least 80 percent of their student scores at or above proficiency on state end-of-grade tests given to third and fifth-graders, as well as meeting growth standards in students scores.

Student representatives from each class decided how the students would celebrate their success—and they were very specific.

"The students decided they wanted a day without home-

work, for (teacher assistant) Sue Brothers to write and lead cheers for the schools, and schoolwide extra playground time," said Walker principal Sheila Evans.

"They did such a good job all year, not just on the end-of-grade tests," Evans said. "I couldn't be prouder of them."

To earn recognition as a School of Excellence, a school must have 90 percent of student scores at or above grade levels, as well as meet its growth targets. The Walker staff and students are up to the task, judging by the cheers echoing off the school walls.

"We will be a School of Excellence," Evans said, "because you are excellent students."



Walker staff and students celebrate their success

SAT scores for Edenton-Chowan Schools are out

The College Board released the Scholastic Aptitude Test scores for 2003 on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

College-bound seniors taking the test last year at John A. Holmes High School received an average combined verbal and math score of 976. The top 10 percent of Holmes students taking the test averaged a combined score of 1281. The average combined scores for the state was 1001, and for the nation was 1026.

"We continue to be pleased with the number of our students taking the SATs," said Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Allan Smith. "Well over half our seniors

took the test last year. This is an indicator of the number of our students who intend to further their education after they leave the Holmes family. We know they'll make us proud."

Holmes principal John Williams echoed the superintendent's pride in the entire scope of student achievement at the school. "I'm so proud of our seniors," Williams said. "You'll see that more of our kids are taking the exam than ever before."

Williams also singled out for special thanks Karen Molloy, Holmes' career counselor, who teaches an SAT preparation

See SAT On Page 3-A

Missing man sought by authorities

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Managing Editor

The Chowan County Sheriff's Office is seeking help from area residents in locating a local man who has been reported missing.

Haywood Lee Johnson, a 49-year-old black male, was reported missing June 16 by his mother, Lois Johnson. Subsequent efforts by local law en-

forcement authorities to locate Johnson are continuing.

According to Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill, Johnson said the last time she had heard from her son was June 5 when he called her from his brother's house.

Spruill said that officers investigating the case also spoke with Haywood Johnson's sister-in-law, who told them she last saw him on the day he

made the call to his mother.

"Upon checking 2111 John Hill Lane and talking with a neighbor," Spruill said, "our investigators were told that she had let him stay in a house behind hers because he had no place to stay and that the last time she had seen him was June 12."

Spruill said that Johnson was then listed with the National Crimes Information

Center as a missing person "in case he was located in another jurisdiction."

There had been some initial reports made of Johnson being spotted in the vicinity of Elizabeth City, but according to the Chowan County Sheriff's Office, those reports are now believed to be incorrect.

Anyone with information on Johnson's whereabouts is asked to call (252) 482-8484.

Injuries sustained in accident

An Edenton man was hospitalized with unspecified injuries following a two-vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 17 in Perquimans County Tuesday.

Danil Francis, 31, of 101 Tiptoe Road, was injured after his sports utility vehicle collided with a tractor-trailer near U.S. 17's intersection with N.C. Highway 37 about 5:20 p.m., Trooper K.R. Briggs said.

Details about how the acci-

dent occurred are still under investigation, Briggs said.

Both Francis and the tractor-trailer's driver, 68-year-old Tom Sawyer of 1270 N.C. Highway 343 North, Camden, were traveling north on the four-lane road when one vehicle apparently sideswiped the other, Briggs said. The trooper wasn't able to say at press time Wednesday which driver hit the other.

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Prank results in lockdown

BY RYAN BURR
Cox NC Publications

John A. Holmes High School went into lockdown Friday when a student called from inside the school saying that an armed person was on campus, police said.

Edenton Police Department and the Chowan County Sheriff's Office responded to the school and determined the claim to be false after an investigation, according to Sheriff Fred Spruill. She was apprehended and a juvenile petition will be issued.

Since the student is only 15,

her identity could not be released. Spruill said she was turned over to her parents after questioning.

Spruill said that no weapon was found on the suspect, and that no one else was involved in the prank phone call. No injuries were reported.

The student made the call from a pay phone located in the school cafeteria, Spruill said.

The incident happened around 3 p.m. as students were being dismissed for the day, said Glenda Jakubowski, public relations director for the Edenton-Chowan Schools.

"We pulled all the kids back

into classrooms," she said. The lockdown was lifted at about 3:10 p.m.

"Law enforcement was there literally within a minute," Jakubowski said.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Supt. Allan Smith said, "We had procedures in place, we followed them, and they worked. Having said that, we will study this situation and learn from it so that we can be even better prepared in the future."

Smith sent a letter home with students Friday explaining the situation to parents.

Special feature in today's paper

In recognition of National Literacy Month, *The Chowan Herald* has a number of special features today. First of all, NIE students begin receiving their newspapers today, and so Donna Koppelman's column offers a special scavenger hunt for them. A "Making the Grade" supplement offers suggestions for reading success for both parents and students.

The Student Herald makes its debut for the 2003-2004 school year, and it will showcase student work weekly.

Additionally, our local education leaders offer a few thoughts about the 2003-2004 school year. Enjoy!

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