

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Wednesday, January 7, 2004

Vol. LXXI, No. 1

Published in historic Edenton . . . The South's prettiest town.

Single Copies 50¢

School board approves renovations at Holmes

BY GLENDA JAKUBOWSKI
Contributing Writer

The Edenton - Chowan Schools Board of Education voted unanimously at its January meeting to proceed with "priority one" renovations at the high school this summer.

The renovations will address immediate needs of the Exceptional Children's and guidance programs at John A. Holmes, as well as provide additional temporary classroom space for so-called "floating" teachers, said superintendent of schools Allan T. Smith. The estimated cost for the projects would total between \$138,000 and \$250,000. The money would be transferred from the system's Current Expense Fund Balance to its Capital Outlay Fund.

"The Exceptional Children's program is in dire need of fa-



A Holmes student exits one of the school's temporary classrooms. Holmes will add four new temporary classrooms and renovate Guidance and Exceptional Children's program facilities by the start of the 2004-2005 school year. The school board plans to discuss long-range plans for the school at a retreat later this month.

ilities that better meet the instructional needs of our students," Smith said. "This need is particularly acute for students with moderate to severe disabilities and for other EC students pursuing the Occupational Diploma."

The proposed renovations would take place in space currently used for the Vocational Agriculture program, which will move to College of the Albemarle facilities in fall of 2004. The renovated space will accommodate three instructional areas for the EC program: an independent living area, a pre-vocational area, and a traditional classroom.

Structural work would include installing air conditioning, new lighting and bathrooms; lowering ceilings; and installing handicap-accessible ramps to entrances.

The board also approved with the vote renovations to create a "guidance suite."

The guidance suite would be created in the two adjoining classrooms currently used by the Exceptional Children's program. The suite would consolidate all student guidance services in one area for a more student-centered, comprehensive program, Smith said.

"With minimal renovations we can bring all of the counselors and support personnel into one area," Smith said. The school will restructure its guidance program to remove much of the administrative and clerical duties from the counselors, allowing them to give more time and services to the students, Smith said.

The renovated space would accommodate the two Hol-

mes guidance counselors, the career center, a reception area and storage space for student records.

The board vote also made way for the purchase of four additional temporary classrooms for the high school campus, bringing the total number of temporary classrooms, or "huts," to 10.

"A major problem at the high school is the lack of available classroom space," Smith said. Four Holmes teachers currently do not have permanent classrooms and must "float" from one empty classroom to another each period, toting their teaching materials on carts. The additional huts would alleviate the need for more classroom space.

"While temporary classrooms are not ideal, they do provide a much-needed home

base for the floating teachers," Smith said.

Smith plans to petition the Chowan Board of Commissioners at its February meeting to authorize the transfer of the necessary funds from the Current Expense Fund Balance to the Capital Outlay Fund to finance the projects.

With the county commission's approval, the school system can then finalize the renovation plans with the architect, Exceptional Children and guidance staffs and parent representatives. The school system plans to open the projects up to bids in March and award contracts at the board's April meeting. Renovation work would begin no later than the day after school lets out. The school system plans to complete the projects by the start of the 2004-2005 school year.

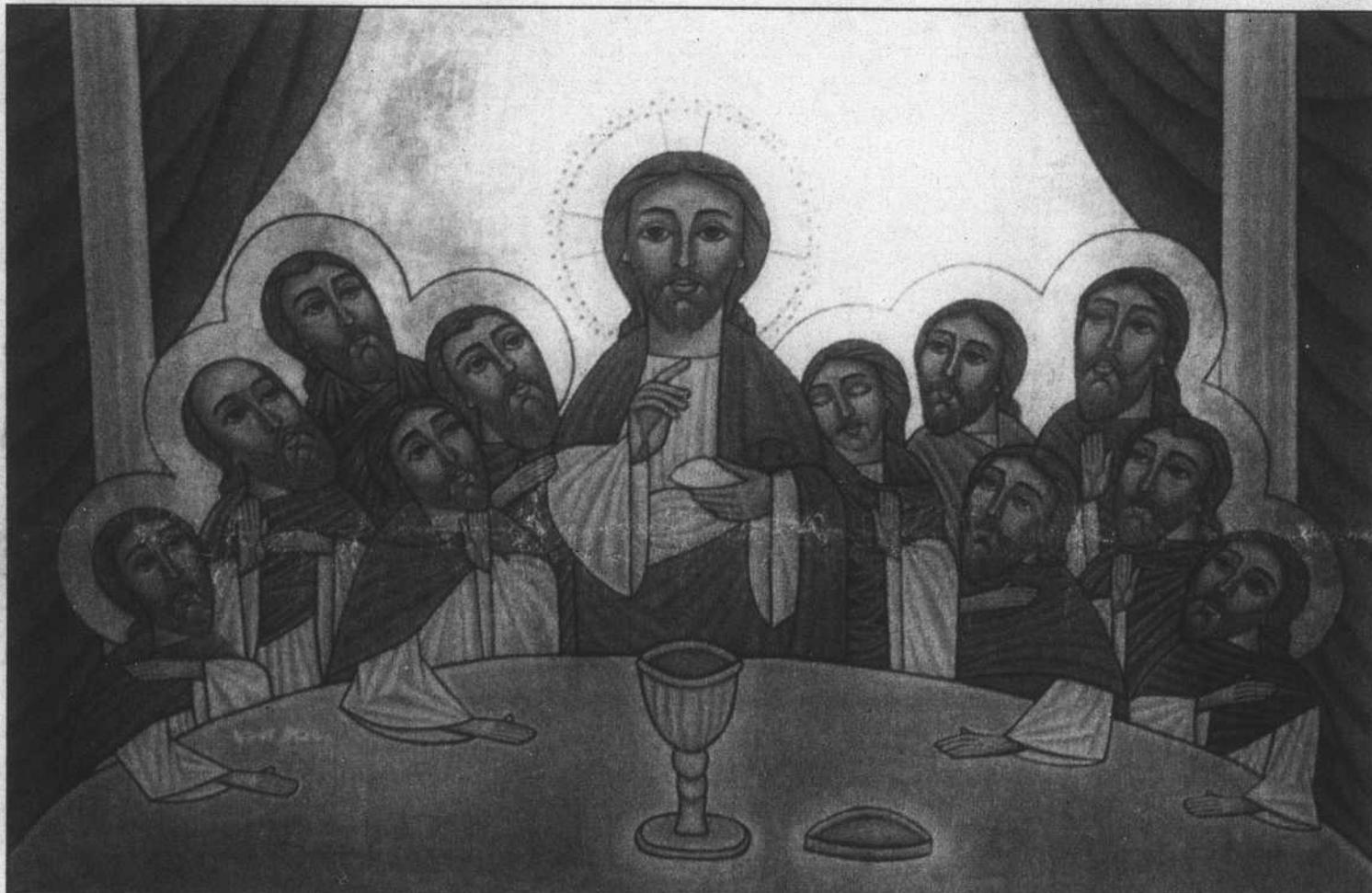
Arts NC to record stories

BY VERNON FUESTON
Contributing Writer

Local citizens whose lives have been touched by the arts are invited to share their stories on January 13 at the Chowan Arts Council from 1-3 p.m. to kick off a statewide arts awareness campaign. The campaign will ultimately serve to inform state and local government of the value that the arts play in people's lives and communities across North Carolina. Prior registration is suggested.

Arts North Carolina will be sponsoring "Telling Our Stories," a public meeting on the role of art in all its forms in the lives of people throughout northeastern North Carolina. Five other such forums are scheduled through February in Kinston, Greensboro, Asheville, Boone and Clayton. Edenton's forum will be the first in the series.

See STORIES On Page 3-A



New exhibition to open this Friday

The public is cordially invited to join the Chowan Arts Council for an opening reception this Friday, Jan. 9, with Egyptian-born artist, Wasef Matias. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Chowan Arts Council Gallery in Edenton. Renowned for his art in Europe and across Egypt, Matias now resides in North Carolina. His creative works employ the ancient techniques of egg tempera, mosaic, and gold leaf to create icons for the Coptic Christian Church, one of the oldest Christian sects in the world. Above, his rendering of Christ with His disciples. (Contributed photo)

Planning board okays Coke Ave. as practice site

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A Gates County dentist just needs the blessing of the Edenton Town Council to bring the fourth such practice to town.

The planning board approved Dr. Jerry Bradley's plans to build an office on Coke Avenue. Bradley, of Hobbsville, is a public health dentist in Gates who plans to go into private practice. He would become the fourth dentist in Chowan serving a population of about 14,500. The proposed office would be near the soccer complex on the east side of Coke Avenue.

"I think it's going to be a right nice thing," Percy Halsey, a Coke Avenue resident, told Bradley and board members.

Another Coke Avenue resident agreed.

"A building like that," James Lewis said Monday night, "will help the community

more than it will harm it."

Bradley said Monday that he hopes to begin work at the site by May.

"I have a lot of patients that come from Chowan County and Edenton to see me now," he said.

"It's definitely a service that we need in this community," board member Craig Miller said of a new dental practice.

Councilors will have to approve Bradley's request for a conditional-use permit to begin construction. He plans to build a 3,500 square-foot office.

Edenton-Chowan planner Elizabeth Bryant said Bradley will have to provide landscaping at the site. He will also be responsible for installing a five-foot-wide sidewalk in front of his office along Coke Avenue.

In June, a proposed mini-storage complex near the site was rejected by council.

See PRACTICE On Page 3-A



Chowan County set up drop-off sites like the one above where area residents deposited tons of storm debris. The county also organized two rounds of pick up for every road in the county. Unfortunately, many landowners took advantage of the service and deposited massive amounts of debris that were not from the storm. (Photo by Angela Perez)

Convincing FEMA tough task

BY ANGELA PEREZ
Staff Writer

A major question to be addressed for early 2004 is whether or not FEMA will reimburse 100% of the county's claims for Hurricane Isabel-related damage, according to Chowan County officials. Peter Rascoe, Special Projects Director for Chowan County, has

been assigned the arduous task of convincing FEMA to reimburse the county for the maximum amount of federal disaster funds available.

As of December 30th, 2003, the county paid out \$1,356,467 in storm-related bills. Although it has received \$1,639,809 so far in federal and state aid, Rascoe stresses that the county is still not in the

clear. "From these numbers," says Rascoe, "it may look like we are ahead. But we are not. We still are looking at about at least \$700,000 to \$800,000 more in storm-related expenses."

Rascoe says that many of these expenses are proving extremely difficult to convince FEMA to pay for. "We have to

See FEMA On Page 3-A

Shooting involves brothers

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A Tyner man was hospitalized after allegedly being shot by his brother the day after Christmas.

According to Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill, Luther Perry, 49, was at 2009 Perry Gordon Road when he was shot with a 12-gauge shotgun by Isaac Perry, 45, also of Tyner, at approximately 6:24 p.m. on Dec. 26. Deputies Greg Whitehurst and Kenny White joined detective Andy Bunch at the scene. The incident occurred after "an argument between the two" brothers," Spruill stated in a press release.

"It was just an argument," Spruill said Monday when asked about the nature of the alleged disagreement between the brothers.

Luther Perry, of 106-B Center Hill Church Road, received wounds to his upper chest and left arm. He was initially taken to Chowan Hospital for treatment. He was later transported to Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, where he remains in fair condition, a hospital spokesperson said late Monday.

Isaac Perry, of Perry Gordon Road, who had left the scene of the alleged shooting, was located shortly afterwards, Spruill stated. He was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury with intent to kill. He is being held under a \$75,000 bond.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

New Year's baby arrives3-A



Dannely teaches us to live the American Dream 5-A

Liberty Village opens to protest OLF 5-A

Edenton Aces claim 3rd spot 8-1