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Partnership strengthens education opportunities

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — High school graduates often need remedial math and English in college. They can lack some of the most basic skills in the workplace. And local officials want to change all that.

Seeking to better the workforce and hone the academic credentials of local high school students, educators, elected officials and business leaders held a mutual meeting here last week.

With businesses becoming more hi-tech, and well-paying jobs growing increasingly competitive, preparing high school grads for careers will only be more challenging. And College of The Albemarle, Edenton-Chowan and Perquimans County schools want to perfect their affiliation with each other. The three parties formed an alliance eight years ago, College Tech Prep Partnership.

Lynn Hurdle-Winslow, vice-president of corporate and continuing education at COA, re-

played a quote typifying a situation the partnership wants to stamp out.

"Too many people want to carry the stool, when it's the piano that needs to be moved," she said.

Essentially, the partnership wants to move graduating seniors into college classrooms and workplaces where they can flourish. An the Early College program can help, said Rob Boyce, an assistant superintendent with Edenton-Chowan Schools. That program allows high school students from Chowan and Perquimans to take college-level courses through COA.

Currently, Chowan students in grades 9 through 12 can take automotive, construction, and computer science courses. Perquimans students can enroll in culinary arts courses offered at COA's Chowan Campus. All courses are accredited and can be transferred into other degree programs.

In addition, the courses are free to high school students. Schools even pay for textbooks, Perquimans High School guidance counselor

John Wells said.

Wells was one of the facilitators for the 2-hour discussion period of the meeting. Groups of six to eight rated the results of the Edenton/Chowan Business and Education Summit held last year. The results, compiled from surveys, included such issues as testing competency and graduation requirements, employer's needs from workers, and the strength or weaknesses of the Early College program.

The March 5 gathering rated how important they felt the issues raised by the 2003 business summit survey were, a process that included in-depth discussions.

Any suggestions posed to the partnership will be considered while the Early College and other programs are fine-tuned, Hurdle-Winslow said. So far, officials said, the programs are meeting their goals — one step at a time.

"We know that we're going to have to measure our success in small increments," Boyce said.

Groups were also asked for guidance regard-

ing dropout rates, which are especially high for freshmen. The state Department of Instruction's latest figures indicate that 20 percent of freshmen quit school. Yet the overall dropout rate for the 2002-03 school year decreased, the fourth consecutive annual decline.

At Wells' table, most didn't like the idea of corralling ninth graders into freshmen-only classrooms. The cost of doing so, they said, would likely outweigh the potential benefits of keeping 14- and 15-year-old students away from bullying and intimidating by upperclassmen. Others felt freshmen needed to be separated from bigger, older students during the crucial 9th-grade year.

Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton, one of about 60 on hand for the meeting, applauded the partnership's efforts. "My hat is off to everybody who is working so hard on this seamless educational process," she said.

For more information about the College Tech Prep partnership or the Early College Program, call John A. Holmes High School at 482-8426.

16-mo. old dies in tragic mishap

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A 16-month old Chowan County boy died early Sunday night after being accidentally run over by his mother.

Kamari Iqeez Boone, who turned 1 on Oct. 13, was pronounced dead at Chowan Hospital, sheriff's office investigator Andy Bunch said Monday. The child apparently fell out of the car being driven by his mother, Jacobie Nadine Boone, 23, and was run over, Bunch said.

The accident occurred at Sandy Terrace Drive, just west of Edenton. It was reported at 4:55 p.m.

Jacobie Boone, who lived with her son at 3303 Joyful Lane, has not been charged in the accident, Bunch said. The cause is currently being ruled accidental. An investigation is ongoing, Bunch added.

Kamari Boone is also the son of Andrew Felton of Edenton Manor Apartments.

Deputies Allen Browder and Howard Askew responded to the scene.

Award-winning C-SPAN bus will visit high school

The award-winning C-SPAN School Bus, a 45-foot television production studio and demonstration center, continues its trek around the country with a visit to John A. Holmes High School in Edenton. The bus's visit to Edenton is sponsored by Mediacom where C-SPAN is found on channel 34.

On March 19, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., the bus will visit John A. Holmes High School at 600 Woodard Street, Edenton, NC. During the visit, the bus staff will provide tours and discuss the importance of balance in disseminating information, especially during an election year. The students and teachers will also be introduced to C-SPAN's 2004 Vote '04 and introduced to C-SPAN's education initiatives including Electoral College Poster and Campaign Cam. Local officials

have been invited to visit the bus.

Now on its eleventh nationwide tour, the C-SPAN School Bus continues to visit cable communities to introduce students, educators and viewers to the political process and C-SPAN programming. While aboard the bus, visitors will learn more about the network's philosophy, programming goals, information/education resources and critical viewing techniques.

The C-SPAN School Bus embarked on its first tour in November 1993 and was joined by a second Bus on Jan. 1, 1996. In 1995, the C-SPAN School Bus received the Golden CableAce and Beacon awards for its contribution to the community and for bringing the political process to life for educators, students and viewers.



Edenton's most famous historic site was the victim of a weekend break-in. A pane of glass was broken to gain entry. Police Chief Greg Bonner said that an attempted robbery may have been the motive for the crime; an investigation into the break-in is continuing. (Chowan Herald file photo)

Police say attempted robbery was probable motive for site break-in

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A historic home on Edenton's waterfront was the site of a break-in over the weekend and police are hopeful they'll nab the suspect.

Edenton Police Chief Greg Bonner said someone broke into the Barker House, most likely Saturday night. The break-in was reported to police Sunday, Bonner said. The suspect entered the home, a cornerstone of the town's Historic District, through a door that faces Edenton Bay. A pane of glass was broken to gain entry, Bonner said. An estimated \$200 damage to the door was reported, Bonner said. The door is actually part of the front of the home, although visitors typically enter through a door on the opposite side of the structure — which faces South Broad Street.

In addition, a birdcage on the first floor was also damaged.

The cage typically holds visitors' donations to the historic home.

"It's possible someone had seen money in there," Bonner said of the birdcage, "or knew that it (often) holds money and broke into the building for that reason."

The suspect also apparently rummaged through a desk and file cabinet drawers. Bonner said Monday that there is no evidence that anything was stolen from the home.

Although there were no identified suspects at press time, Bonner said police were still investigating the break-in.

"I feel pretty sure we'll find out who broke in there," he said.

Located at 509 S. Broad St., the house was moved to its waterfront location in 1952. The home was built in 1782 and enlarged in the 1820s. It was once the home of Penelope and Thomas Barker. Penelope Barker was the purported leader of the Edenton Tea Party in 1774.



Members of the Planning Committee for the Celebration of the Reopening of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse gathered on the courthouse green to kick-off the event planning. (Staff photo by Angela Perez)

Work on courthouse set to end in summer 2004

By ANGELA PEREZ
Staff Writer

Friday, October 8, 2004 has been designated the official date of the public reopening of the restored 1767 Chowan County Courthouse, according to county officials. In January, the N.C. Repair and Renovation fund granted the final amount of \$199,895.00 needed to finally complete the restoration of the courthouse. Contractors and county officials

estimate that the historic site will be completed by June 30, 2004. Public events surrounding the reopening are being scheduled around the official opening date. Local, state, national, and foreign officials are being invited to attend and the Edenton Historic Commission is planning a formal gala on the courthouse green that evening.

The total cost spent on the restoration project, which was begun in 1991, has been

\$3,236,673. The majority of the funds were granted through state and federal sources.

"If you only had one sentence to best sum it up, I would say that it is the most intact colonial court house in America," said Linda Jordan Eura, Historic Edenton Site Manager. "And now we will be able to show it to visitors so they can appreciate the history. A lot of people in Eden-

See SUMMER On Page 3-A

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Aces trump the tigers in '04 season opening...11-A

Holmes begins a newspaper.....3-C

Quilts "speak" of the past.....2-C

Read Across America comes to Edenton ..1-C