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Hopes high for Holmes to stay at current site

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

No one who spoke at a public hearing concerning what to do with John A. Holmes High School last week wanted the current site devoid of students.

They wanted Holmes to be upgraded or have a new school tucked between North Broad and Oakum streets. The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education is mulling just what to do about the aging, 50-year-old school. Options include revamping Holmes, building a new school on the current site, or buy property to construct a new facility.

Lois Byrum, a Holmes graduate, envisions her children graduating at the same place she did.

"(And) I plan on having all my grandkids here," she told the school board. "It's like home."

Others agreed.

"I think you have possibilities of expanding the site you have now," John Mitchener

OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED FOR EXPANDING HOLMES HIGH SCHOOL

The three proposed options for expanding Holmes are:

- New school, same site: \$18 million for an 800-student capacity school, \$21 million for a 1,000-student school;
- New school, new site: \$25 million for an 800-student school, \$28 million for a 1,000-student school;
- Renovated school: \$15-\$16 million for a 1,000-student school.

Dr. Allan Smith, superintendent of schools, said last week that those cost estimates could rise by 2006-07, the year the county could add new debt for construction of a new high school, or to pay for renovations at Holmes.

III said during the 30-minute hearing.

Mitchener, a former school board member, said the school's age isn't the issue.

"It's how you maintain and take care of what you have," that matters, he said.

Superintendent Allan Smith briefed the

gathering about the issues facing the school board and the options being considered. Currently, they include renovating the school at the existing county-owned site, building a new site at that site, or buying new property on which to build a new school.

Renovating is the least expensive (\$16 million estimate) of the three, while a new school at the existing site is the next cheapest (\$18-\$21 million estimate) and the new school on new property is the most costly, between \$25 million and \$28 million estimate. Those cost estimates were proved by the state Department of Public Instruction, Smith said.

"An integral part of this decision," Smith added, "needs to be (made from) feedback from the community."

Smith said the school board hopes to reach a consensus on one option by mid-summer.

Nearly 20 citizens and local officials were on hand for the hearing at Holmes' auditorium March 24. A pair of informational meetings for the public were held the previous week.

Community honors Dr. Slade for professionalism, generous spirit

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Dr. James Norfleet Slade delivered babies, healed infected throats, soothed cuts and bruises, and mended aging bodies.

But the 73-year-old physician isn't just known for his decades of serving Edenton and Chowan County residents. There's his 1958 Chevy that he's been tooling around town in since Dwight D. Eisenhower was president. During a reception honoring the ailing Slade at Chowan Hospital Monday night, hospital president Jeff Sackrison alluded to the 415,000 miles Slade has put on the finned relic of an automobile over the years. Sackrison also pointed out that Slade married his wife Catherine the same year he got the Chevy.

"His wife (came) first," Catherine cut in, sending the more than 100 well-wishers on hand into laughter.

Slade began practicing in Edenton in 1965, specializing in pediatrics and adult medicine. He previously spent several years in specialty training at Los Angeles County General



Listening to tributes during the evening's celebration (left to right) Catherine Slade, her husband, Dr. James Slade, and their son, James Slade II. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

Hospital, having served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1958 to 1960.

Scores of friends, former patients and colleagues, and local officials joined in honoring Slade Monday. The frail but smiling Slade was joined by his three daughters, Theresa, Kathryn, and Julian as well as his son James N. Slade II. His daughters sang an a cappella

version of "Without Him," a gospel hit for Elvis Presley in 1966.

Speakers for the event also confessed that many lives would have been worse off if not for Slade's dedication over the years.

"As the son of a doctor," Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan said, "I can appreciate the sacrifices it takes" to be

a loyal physician.

Barbara Cale, Sackrison's predecessor at Chowan Hospital, recalled Slade's calm demeanor during her tenure at the hospital.

"I've never seen him lose his temper," she said.

Others said Slade's personal life was equally honorable.

"He is one of the most admired men in the area," Sackrison said.

Slade held an office on South Broad Street for decades, before retiring Jan. 1. A sign acknowledging his need to park his '58 Chevy in front of his practice testifies to the respect the town gave him.

Unfortunately, the car was damaged during Hurricane Isabel. Donations poured in Monday night from those who want to see Slade's famed vehicle repaired. People also lined up in the hospital's hallways to shake the hand and hug the neck of the man so beloved by his community.

"He was a devoted, caring, knowledgeable physician who I am honored to have worked with," Craig Miller, a former

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Friends recall Nancy Hagan's life, legacy

From Staff Reports

Shock and sorrow touched the friends and family of the late Nancy Hagan when news of the popular chef's death rippled through Edenton last week.

The energetic, creative force behind Chero's — a West Water Street eatery —

Hagan was beloved by many friends and colleagues. Rick Ebersole, co-owner of Waterman's Grill on South Broad Street, formerly employed Hagan for her catering skills.

She didn't disappoint.

"There were parties of

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Floral tributes lined the steps at Chero's in the days following Hagan's death. Artist and friend Cam Waff created this drawing of Hagan. (Sean Jackson photo)

Worker crushed by tree

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

At approximately 1 p.m. on March 29 Chowan Central Communications received a call that a worker was pinned under a tree. Hernan Ramon Garcia, 29, of Bath, NC was found by a co-worker in the wooded area off W. Bear Swamp Road in Tyner. He was there cutting trees for Pollard Logging Co. from Greenville, NC.

A co-worker stated that he heard the victim's saw silenced and went to check on him. Mr. Garcia was found under a tree. It appears that the tree fell back onto Mr. Garcia. The victim died as a result of the accident.

"This is the second logging/forestry accident since the hurricane," said Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill.

Investigating officers were Investigator Dwayne Goodwin and Deputy Sheriff Allen Browder.



Woman of the Year

Edenton BPW Club President Fran Ward, left, congratulates Barbara Burroughs who was named Woman of the Year by the club during its annual banquet March 18. The banquet was held at the Edenton United Methodist Church. (Staff photo by Earline White)

OLF lawsuit gets to federal court

BY BETH HALL
Cox N. C. Publications

RALEIGH - Plaintiffs seeking an injunction against Navy plans for an outlying landing field were heard in federal court yesterday.

As of press time, only the plaintiffs had made remarks before Judge Terrence Boyle.

A preliminary injunction would halt the Navy from moving forward with plans for an outlying landing field on 30,000 acres of land in Washington and Beaufort counties. An injunction would stop the purchase of land and development.

Two lawsuits, one representing the two counties and the other representing a coalition of conservancy groups, question the Navy's choice for an OLF at this site, adjacent to the Pocosin Lake National Wildlife Refuge, which would strip the counties of a major tax base and displace many family farmers.

An injunction is needed to stop the "bureaucratic steam-

roller" that would begin moving once the Navy purchases the first piece of land, said Kiran Mehta, representing the plaintiff. In order to issue an injunction, the plaintiff would have to prove that not issuing the injunction would cause

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