

THE CHOWAN HERALD

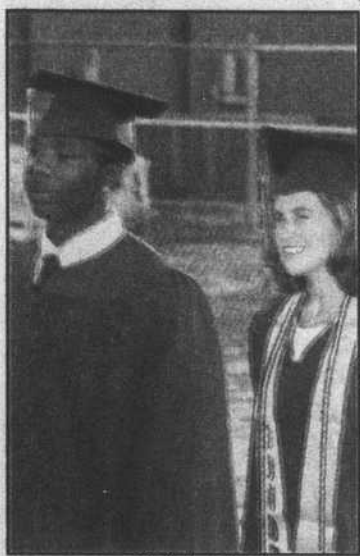
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Holmes grads set for 'real world'

Chesson urges grads to keep 'winning'



Staff photo by Sean Jackson
Andrew Blanchard, left, and Tanner Bloom prepare for the graduation ceremony.

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

To hear Tanner Bloom tell it, the Class of 2005 at John A. Holmes High School was a mix of pranksters and perfectionists whose sole goal was to overachieve.

Bloom, class valedictorian, was one of 154 seniors graduated from Holmes on Friday night. It was 13 years in the making, Bloom said, but it had been a trip well worth taking.

"Our presence here tonight," she told her fellow graduates, school staffers, and well-wishers gathered at the outdoors Aces Athletic Complex, "is totally a victory."

Parents and teachers were given high marks by Bloom. "They have suffered in our loses," she said, "and celebrated in our victories."

Keynote speaker Wes Chesson, a 1967 Holmes grad, urged the class to continue seeking victorious ways. A former NFL wide receiver who also starred at Duke during his gridiron days, Chesson noted the changes he endured during his football career. He compared the developing global — and North Carolina — economy to the shifts in playing roles he faced with the Blue Devils.

"For the past many years," he said, "North Carolina has depended on agriculture, furniture, and textiles as the foundation of our economy. Recently, however, we have seen many of these jobs go overseas to lower-paid workers, and

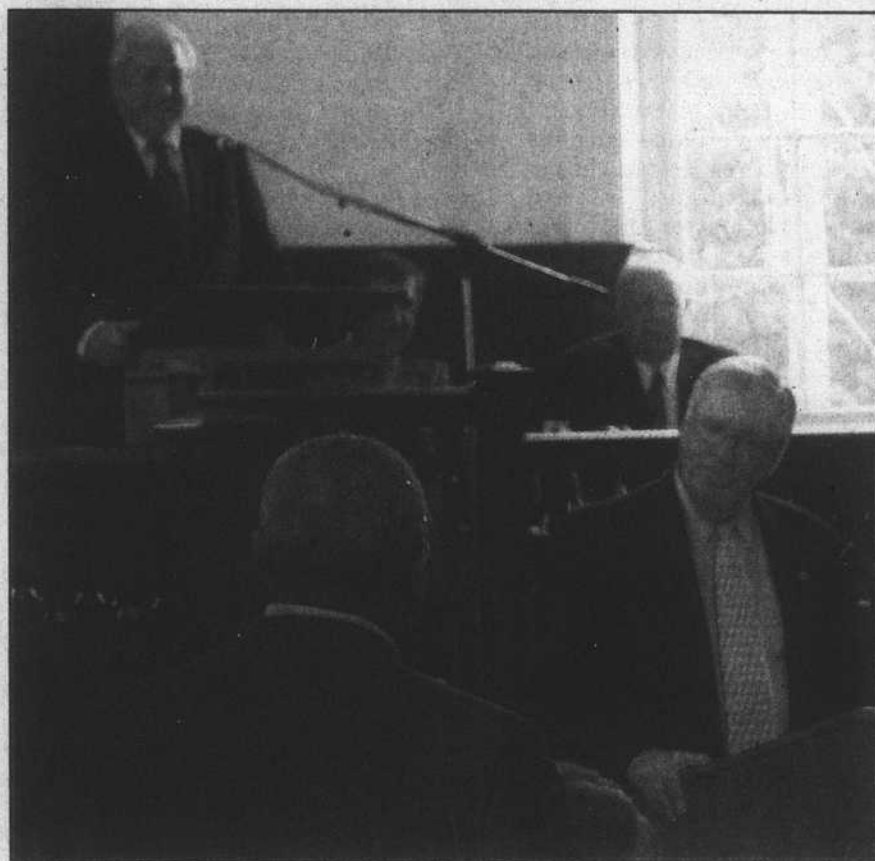
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NC House visits Old Chowan Courthouse

Local representative given the gavel; runs the show for a day

Rep. Bill Culpepper of Edenton, standing in background, shares a laugh with fellow N.C. House members during a playful debate between

Rep. Arthur Williams (right, foreground) a Beaufort County Democrat, and an unidentified representative. About 80 state lawmakers, lobbyists, and local officials gathered at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse on May 25th for the historic session.



Culpepper lauded for efforts to bring representatives to Edenton

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

It was a break from the grinding routine of hammering out a state budget, and the N.C. House of Representatives made the most of its historic session in Edenton on May 25.

Escorted to the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse by state Highway Patrol Troopers on motorcycles, roughly 80 House members packed into the historic building for a 75-minute session.

The end result was the passing of bills naming the Venus flytrap the state's official carnivorous plant, and the Fraser fir as North Carolina's official Christmas tree.

It was the first time in 262 years that the state's largest governing body had met in Edenton — since the Colonial Assembly met at the Georgian courthouse prior to the Revolutionary War.

Much of the credit was given to Rep. Bill Culpepper, an Edenton Democrat, for bringing the House to the historic building, which re-opened last October after a \$3 million renovation.

"It's just been wonderful," Rep. Richard Morgan, a Moore County Republican, said to Culpepper during the session. "We appreciate so much you giving us this opportunity to visit."

Morgan noted that Culpepper is the third generation of his family to serve in the House, following in the tradition of his grandfather, William T. Culpepper, and father, William T. Culpepper II.

The House's Rules Committee chairman, Culpepper seemed to relish a very special moment. Just 22 minutes into the session, House Speaker Jim

Black handed the gavel over to Culpepper, who presided over the rest of the session.

"I've always wanted to get in this seat up here," Culpepper quipped.

Representatives approved three resolutions, including one that honored the memory of some of Edenton's historical leaders and the significance of the 1767 courthouse, as well as a resolution honoring the UNC Tar Heels basketball team that captured the NCAA title in April.

Six bills were also passed, most being sent to the Senate

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Lighthearted House visit not popular with one Republican legislator

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

It was 10 years in the making, cost nearly \$50,000, and has drawn the ire of at least one Western North Carolina Republican.

But the 80 or so members of the state House of Representatives who held session in the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse on May 25 made nearly as much humor as they did history.

To Rep. John Rhodes, a Mecklenburg County Republican, it was a "weird, stinky situation," he told a reporter last week.

To Rep. Bill Culpepper, a Chowan County Democrat, it was the culmination of a decade of hard work to bring the House to Edenton.

To Rep. Richard Morgan, a Moore County Republican, it



Rhodes

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Vets, families remember fallen

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

"I remember growing up in the years following World War II—my aunt holding a picture in her lap shedding tears over the photograph of her oldest son who died when his ship was blown up; my uncle having problems readjusting after what he witnessed in the Army; my father proudly speaking of his brother and others who served in the military—these are the things that impacted me," said Rev. Don English, speaker at the fif-

teenth Memorial Day Service on Monday.

Hundreds gathered at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial to honor those who loved and served America and gave their lives in defense of the homeland. Retired servicemen stood alongside families of those who are currently fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan for the same freedoms that our forefathers did. Children listened as English spoke of freedom. "Freedom is never free," English said, quoting John Claypool, "it always costs something in terms of

struggle, agony and effort." "Memorial Day is not so much of a celebration," English continued, "but an observance of America's finest sons and daughters that died for the freedoms we enjoy today I challenge all of the young people to visit a family, city or national cemetery marker and think of the lives of fallen soldiers who died for us and our freedom. Their race, sex, creed and religion is not important. What is important is their service to our country. And re-

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Staff photo by Susan Moore

Hundreds gathered at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial on Monday to observe Memorial Day.

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Dr. Hines says goodbye to patients, dental practice

Domestic Violence workshop sharpens focus

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Domestic violence not only affects the family in which the crime occurs, but the entire community. With the emergence of new laws on the books it is crucial that law enforcement and family advocates fighting for the victim's rights are kept abreast of those important new regulations. A regional seminar held last week was aimed at doing just that.

Last year in North Carolina there were 81 homicides resulting from domestic violence disputes, reported Sgt. John Guard of the Pitt County Sheriff's Dept. Domestic Violence Unit at a Domestic Violence and the Law seminar.

Albemarle Hopeline hosted the seminar in Elizabeth City and



Guard

Hertford for all interested persons of the law including officers and security personnel. The objective was to provide

current information on laws and practices as well as to fulfill new legislative requirements for DV training.

"When I started on the force there was no block instruction on what to do with Domestic Violence calls, but with the creation of Domestic Violence units there are standard measures officers must take to ensure safety for the victims while applying current laws and practices as they relate to the investigation."

"Our job is not to bust up families," said Guard, who grew up in Edenton, "but to make the homes violence free. Why do I continue to work in

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Steamers set to start



Staff photo by Earline White

The Edenton Steamers swing into action in Manteo on Thursday, and open their home season the following night at Historic Hicks Field. First pitch is set for 7 p.m.