

Don't miss a special message from our publisher, A4

CHOWAN HERALD

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Schools' reading results slump

Poor reading skills reason for drop in meeting standards

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Supt. Allan Smith is working to improve school reading scores after all four of the county's schools failed to meet their reading goals for the year.



Smith

African-American students and those receiving free or reduced lunches are the two major sects not testing up to par on the end-of-grade and end-of course tests, according to preliminary results of the federal standard measure of Adequate Yearly Progress.

In the previous school year only one school (Chowan Middle) had failed to make AYP.

The AYP goals are established under the No Child Left Behind Act, holding each Title I school within a district (except feeder schools like White Oak) to a designated level of reading and mathematics.

"The numbers were close at the middle school, only falling one student short in

See SCHOOLS, Page A2 >

PROGRESS ON THE RISE



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Rafael Montano nails timbers as he and other crew members work to complete a home at Colonial Village, one of the new housing developments going up in Edenton.

Residential, business growth are expected to drive economy

BY REBECCA BUNCH
AND SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

In today's edition, we share with you our report on the progress of our community over the past year — and a glimpse into its future.

"Edenton Today" takes a close-up look at the hot-button issue of growth — both residential and commercial. We explain what projects are on the drawing board for the town and county in terms of new housing. And, we look at plans for a new shopping center, Edenton Commons, which will have Farm Fresh as its anchor.

Also, we share with you the results of "man on the street" interviews we conducted with local citizens — and answers to pertinent questions we posed to our town and county managers on key issues of effectively managing new growth and how they'll provide services to new and existing residents.

Residents voiced their worries and hopes with us about how Edenton and Chowan County will change over the next few years.

They want to have all the current charms with new choices about where they can live and shop.

People shared their desires for having more things for kids to do, places for them to go, and how that could keep youth from straying into trouble.

They also told us the good things that the town and county have done over the past year and how they hope those things can be done better next year.

We also profile the new building projects

that are in the works, and the new businesses that sprouted up over the past 12 months.

From a new Italian eatery in town to a photography studio in the southern end of the county, we introduce you to Chowan's newest shop owners.

Economic leaders talk about how small businesses continue to be the backbone of the local economy, especially boat builders.

We also spotlight the added services at Chowan Hospital, which will be a key player in providing health care needs for new residents.

And without question, tourism remains a strong component of the local economy. Nearly 9,000 visitors from all parts of the country came to visit our community over the past year. And officials think that number will only continue to grow.

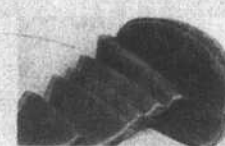
In addition, we didn't leave out the plans local leaders have for expanding the county library and building a new public safety building, both in Edenton.

While we've written a lot about young families and their hopes for the future in these pages, we've also included the new programs that are being offered to our senior citizens.

We hope you enjoy our special section.

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Inside Today



Doin' the Watermelon Hustle

Community, Page A7

Rea returns to Victory Lane at Cycle Speedway

Sports, B1



Lane out as board chairman

Council plans to meet tonight with Edenton Commons developers

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The communication snag between a key town planning official and the body that hired him is over.

Stephen Lane, former planning board chairman, was fired by the town council Monday night. Lane did not attend council's meeting Monday and a hearing on his behalf was nixed.

Lane was reportedly out of town and could not be reached for this story.

"The opportunity for his hearing before this board has come and gone," Mayor Roland Vaughan said.

Council passed a motion to end Lane's eight-year tenure on July 11, saying he had embarrassed the town with excessive questioning of developers at a planning session the night before.

Lane has said he does not regret his actions. He had a supporter of his work at Monday's meeting, Edenton pharmacist John Mitchener.

"I would like for the council to reconsider," Mitchener said shortly after Vaughan announced that Lane's hearing had been cancelled.

Mitchener said Lane had been a valuable asset to the town since his appointment in 1998. He said Lane was always prepared for meetings and voiced pertinent concerns about development issues.

"I don't think you're going to find another person who can hold a candle to him," Mitchener said of Lane.

Vaughan said the town's Unified Development Ordinance allows council to terminate a board member if there is cause found for the termination.

"The council," Vaughan added, "felt the cause was there."

Mitchener said Lane shouldn't be fired because of the July 10 planning session.

"We all have a bad day at the office from time to time," he said.

Town officials have said the issues with Lane had been an ongoing matter.

"We must conclude that we move on," Vaughan said.

Lane has maintained that he never received official word from the town about council's action against him. However, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton has said she personally left a phone message for Lane after the July 11 council meeting.

The planning board is set to meet tonight (Wednesday) to discuss the permit request from developers of the proposed Edenton Commons shopping center. It was those developers to whom Lane directed his concerns earlier this month.

Council will appoint a replacement for Lane, Knighton said Monday. The planning board would tap a new chairman.



Lane

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