

CHOWAN HERALD

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Coming Next Week



Reving up for U.K. race

- **Yeopim Baptist turns 242** Community, C10
- **Alzheimer's assistance comes to Chowan** Community, C1



Around and About

From mill closings to Duke basketball, Edd Owens of Joe Lee Co. shares his thoughts

The agony of defeat
Nighthawks best Aces by 3
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Council OKs Hayes Farm subdivision

Southeast part of county becomes next step in growth process

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Town officials have given the go-ahead to developers of a large subdivision on the southeast edge of Edenton.

By approving a permit for the Hayes Farm project, the town council paved the way for hundreds of new homes and new retail development.

"When are ya'll going to start?" Councilman Sambo Dixon jokingly asked property owners and developers after council unanimously approved the permit request.

A developer replied that work would start soon.

Developer George Wood of Strawberry Hill Land Management LLC said the subdivision would include more than 350 single-family homes and another 150 multi-family units, primarily townhouses.

The town planning board had previously approved the permit request for the project, which is located on farmland bordered by Queen Anne Creek to the west and Soundside Road to the east.

The property — 163 acres — is owned by the family of Gilliam Wood.

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An afternoon with Emma

She cleans Beaver Hill Cemetery for free

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

In the golden glow of a fall afternoon, 77-year-old Emma Tripp rakes the outlining stretches of the Beaver Hill Cemetery.

As people pass her by on the sidewalk, she says hello. Most simply nod and continue on their way, a few will stop a chat just for a minute or two.

Schoolbus drivers honk their horns and the children on their way home wave out the window.

Emma smiles a crooked smile, waves, and turns back to her raking.

Everyone knows Emma. "People ask me if I get paid to do this [rake]. I tell them no, I don't need pay. Sometimes they tell me that they are going to speak with someone about getting me some pay. But I tell them that the good Lord has gotten me this far. Ninety-nine and a half won't do. They made a song in Boston about that, you know. He'll see me through."

"It [raking the cemetery] gives me an excuse why I'm not answering the phone," she jokes and pulls one of the hefty trash bags she's filled with dead leaves to the pile she just finished raking up.

Tripp admits in a whisper the real reason she takes it upon herself to clean the cemetery.

"This is my exercise," she says as she picks up the leaves and puts them into the bag, smashing the ones on top, making room for the next handful.

She's been here today for two hours already, but is nearly finished with the job.

For the past three years, Emma has become a recurring image on Martin Luther King Avenue, rake in hand, chasing down crisp, brown leaves set free by the breeze.

She attributes her weight loss — nearly 15 pounds already, to getting outdoors on breezy days like this. Her clothes, she says, are getting too big.

"But I'm not going to buy new



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Emma Tripp, 77, rakes Beaver Hill Cemetery each week, stopping to chat with schoolchildren and locals.

ones-I'll manage with what I've got."

"Plus you see the [town] workers out here raking and there's so much to do. I watch them take breaks in the shade, trying to get away from the heat. I'm just trying to keep the leaves out of my yard," she laughs.

Emma's gentle nature stems from her upbringing in the church. She has been a member, usher, elder of Providence Baptist since she moved back from Boston almost 11 years ago.

Back in Boston she worked as a housekeeper and it seems that the need to stay busy and keep her surroundings clean moved down South

with her.

Emma lives across the street in a mother-in-law addition on the house her own mother left to her.

"Everybody knows that Brooks like to talk. That was my mama's maiden name," she says after she realizes she's talked for 15 minutes about everything from cleaning heating elements in a stove to incontinence.

"Sometimes I stay on the phone until one in the morning telling people what it's like to live in the South. A lot of people have no idea. I am blessed — I've got a lot of friends."

Area police chiefs wary of gangs in their towns

"If they're wannabe gang members they are gang members."

— Rodney Hoggard,
Windsor police chief

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Two local police chiefs say organized gangs aren't in their towns, but they are still cautious about the potential for bona fide gang activity in the future.

Windsor police Chief Rodney Hoggard said his town in Bertie County has groups of youths who try to link themselves to the Bloods and Crips gangs.

"We got a so-called little gang here in town," Hoggard said, adding that the youths are more akin to wannabes and not officially connected to either of the California-based gangs.

But Hoggard doesn't take that lack of connection lightly.

"If they're wannabe gang members," he said, "they are gang members."

Hertford police Chief Dale Vanscoy said his Perquimans County town has had little — if any — true gang activity.

"We haven't seen it," Vanscoy said.

A recent visit to Hertford by a state crime-prevention expert didn't reveal any gang activities, he added.

"She really didn't see anything," Vanscoy said of Starr Barbaro's trip to his town in August.

But Vanscoy said he'll remain wary of any gang-related activities.

"We feel there's a potential, a very good potential for gang organization," he said.

Barbaro also warned of that potential, Vanscoy added.

"She says if there's wannabes, there's some potential for somebody to come in and organize them," he said.



Edenton police Chief Greg Bonner has called two bands of local youths "groups," saying neither

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INSIDE

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Holmes marked as school of progress, ABC's released

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

John A. Holmes exceeded the state's proficiency goal on the end-of-course test in 2005-2006, a recently released state report said.

Holmes' students scored 66.3 percent, six points higher than the target set by the state.

Superintendent Allan Smith said he was pleased with the results.

However, the scores are lower than last year's which

tested only eight end-of-course tests, compared to this year's scores which added three new tests, including the writing test.

"Comparing the two [year's scores] is like comparing apples and oranges," Smith said.

One year prior, students were tested in English I, algebra I and II, geometry, physical science, biology, chemistry and physics.

Had the students only been tested in those areas the scores in 2005-2006 would

have actually been even higher, Smith added.

But U.S. history, civics and the 10th grade writing test were added into the formula at the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year.

Because Holmes scored above the proficiency target, it is considered a "school of progress," meaning that teachers and teaching assistants will receive a bonus in their wages.

Holmes was not recognized last year as a school of progress.

The ABC report, which reports the EOC test results, was released Oct. 5.

Typically the report includes results for the elementary, middle and high schools, but because the new math test results will not be released until Nov. 1, the report only showed results for area high schools.

To view the results go to www.ncpublicschools.org. Click on the link to the state ABC's accountability results.

By the Numbers

How other schools scored*

2004-2005	2005-2006
Holmes 72.4%	66.3%
Pasquotank 63.6%	59.4%
Northeastern 57.7%	60.9%
Perquimans 73.4%	58.4%

* 60 percent = proficient

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