

CHOWAN HERALD

Town manager Anne-Marie Knighton tells how officials are handling "gang" issues in Edenton

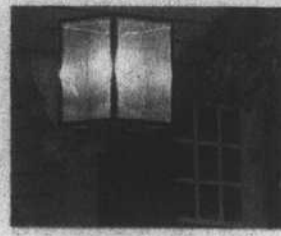


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Officials grapple with fight at JAH

Bonner: Violators will face arrest

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Police and schools officials said students who fight at John A. Holmes High School will face stiff penalties, including arrests and suspensions.

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Police chief says rival groups are being addressed
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Seven students were arrested and suspended after an early morning fight at the school last week.

Edenton police Chief Greg Bonner said his department has beefed-up patrols outside the school around dismissal time.

"We're there to prevent anything from happening," he said. School board member Tom Abbott also said violence wouldn't be tolerated at Holmes or any other Edenton-Chowan schools.

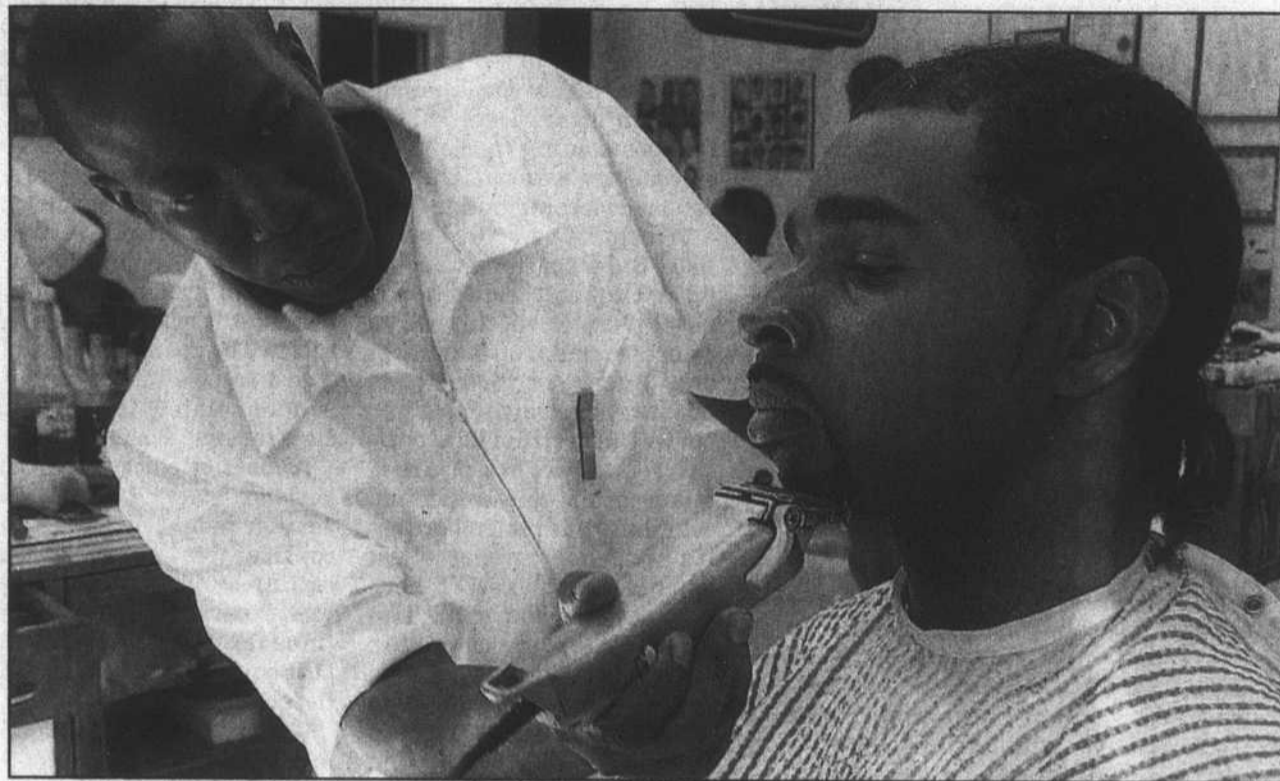
"They'll be dealt with according to the laws of this country," Abbott said of students who commit violent acts, even if that means jail-time.

"They'll get a taste of the real world real quick," he said of students who are arrested for fighting.

Bonner agreed. He has said that some of the teens involved in the Oct. 17 fight at the high school are members of two Edenton groups which have had other recent disputes.

"It's just a shame it has to get to this point," Bonner said, "before the parents and the child see the seriousness of the situation

Barbers work their magic



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Kenya Hurdle of Keystone Barber Shop trims Willie Norfleet's mustache Friday after his shift at Regulator Marine.

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

Kenya Hurdle raises eyebrows. Connie Holley's eyebrows, that is.

With gentle, precise hands, Hurdle applies the hot wax below her brow and presses paper on it. In one quick stroke, he snatches the paper from her face, ripping the hair out by the roots. Holley barely flinches.

"Only at Keystone," Hurdle says, surveying Holley's perfectly arched brows. "Keystone works magic."

Up the stairs, in the narrow hallway, the folding chairs just outside of Keystone Barbershop are filled with boys and men, waiting for their turn in the chair. With three pumps (of the chair), and a handy booster seat in some cases, Hurdle and shop owner, Vernell Coston, transform the scruffy into the clean cut; all in preparation for the weekend.

Jeremiah Boyce, 6, asks his mom for a quarter for a gum ball from the antique machine in the hall. He paces back and forth in the hall, in and out of the shop, back and around again, with the green ball filling nearly his entire mouth.

Jada Privott sits in the chair quietly beside her mother, swinging her legs out of boredom, waiting for her brother, Anthony, to be called.

A.J., with his chipmunk cheeks and never-fading smile, doesn't mind the wait. He sits listening to the old men talking about cars and sports while they flip through magazines — *Sporting News, Time, Men's Health*.

Like the hardware store and the coffee shop, the barbershop has long been an open forum for social commentary.

In every town the barbershop serves as a gathering place where locals gather for haircuts, shaves, trims, and more importantly, to exchange the news of the day.

Terrance Dillard, a tall man with

hard eyes, walks in, cellphone to ear and signs the roll.

What's been going on, the barber asks as he buzzes A.J.'s head.

Dillard shakes his head, saying that he's been working on a dirt bike all day. The piston and rings are shot and it'll probably cost 100 bucks to fix, he says.

His phone rings and Dillard walks back down the stairs to sit on the brick stoop out front.

"It's all what you put in it," Hurdle says of barbering as Willie Norfleet sits in the chair getting an edge up and shave — \$6 each. Hurdle leans down, razor in hand and straightens the hairline on Norfleet's forehead.

Norfleet, still in his Regulator uniform, jokes with Hurdle between razor strokes. Hurdle turns the razor upside down and edges the line once more. Norfleet sits quietly, sure not to move as Hurdle and Coston work their Keystone magic.

Candidates: Uniforms could quell violence at high school

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A majority of Edenton-Chowan County school board candidates think that a new policy requiring students to wear uniforms at the high school could help end violence there.

Polled by *The Chowan Herald* this week, three of the four candidates said uniforms could improve both safety and test scores at John A. Holmes High School.

One candidate, Win Dale, said the topic has surfaced often since he's been campaigning.

"The issue of school uniforms has been a hot topic among voters I've spoken with," Dale said, "with the majority supporting uniforms."

Two other candidates said the issue needs to be discussed, while the fourth candidate declined to discuss any safety concerns stemming from last week's fight, which resulted in seven arrests.

The debate about uniforms has surfaced recently in the wake of last week's — and other — fights involving two rival groups that include some Holmes students who wear clothing colors associated with organized gangs.

Uniform opinions

Tom Abbott, Dale's opponent for the board's at-large seat, said he would vote for a policy change requiring students wear uniforms if his constituents favored such a move. But Abbott is not convinced that uniforms would be a cure-all for safety concerns at Holmes.

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North Carolina prison inmate says Bloods will never be defeated.
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School board hopefuls gearing up for election day

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

On Nov. 7, Chowan residents will cast their ballots in five local elections including county commissioner, sheriff, clerk of court and the two locally contested races — school board and soil and water commission.

Newcomer Jean Bunch of the Rocky Hock/Center Hill/Wardville area is going up against incumbent Randy White who has served 12 years on the school board.

Another newcomer, Win Dale, is running against incumbent Tom Abbott who has served six years on the Board for the at-large precinct.

The Chowan Herald: As the new millennium takes hold, what do you see happening with 21st century education?

Bunch: "Students will compete for colleges and universi-

ties not only amongst their peers, but with students across

the nation, the world. Competing in a global market should be in the forefront of our minds as we increase the standards for testing."

White: "There are several issues we need to look into including teacher retention, building projects, and technology.

Hiring and retaining good certified teachers are a must. The cosmetic reno-

vations at Holmes are a great thing but we need to look toward expanding Holmes to add more classrooms. And it is time to take technology up another level — I don't know what that means exactly at this point but we have to be ready to jump."

Abbott: "We have to go beyond the industrial model of education — kids are not widgets and we do not bolt information onto them and pass them along. Education needs to be about higher order thinking skills, global awareness, civic engagement, and career preparation. These 21st century skills will have to come from integrated learning, making con-

nections and mastering the curriculum. We have to make sure we teach the whole child in preparation for global competition."

Dale: "My vision of 21st century education includes diversified teaching skills and the blending of electronics and technology into the curriculum. In the next 10-20 years there will be more computer technology, online classes, possibly classes on Podcast — teachers will have to adapt and change."

TCH: In all rural areas, teacher turnover is a big problem. What are your ideas on finding and keeping those certified teachers?

Bunch: "We need to act on responses (of those teachers who remain and those who have left the system). If the teachers are saying that there is a problem finding housing, getting pay raises, with their classroom size, whatever, then we need to work to solving those issues. It's one thing to ask and not do anything, but another to take action."

White: "One thing we have to promote is home-grown teachers — those people who have a tie to the community. If they [teachers] are not from here it is harder to keep them here. And we have to work with the county commissioners to increase supplements to help keep teachers here."

Abbott: "We need to look at the environment of the schools — are they a good place to teach? We need to make each teacher feel that they are valuable to the school and the community, making

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