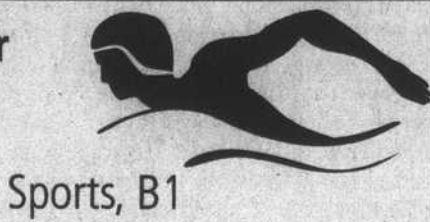


Aces join other local schools in the pool.



Sports, B1

Vision for a new church

Larrell Freeman is creating new worship center

Inspiration, C8



The "Edenton" returns

Civil War cannon dedication brings out the good ol' Grays.

Community, C1

School leaders grappling with course changes

New curriculum guidelines could increase dropout rate, officials say

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

State education officials are considering curriculum changes that would require local high school students to follow a more stringent course of study in mathematics and foreign languages.

Rob Boyce, assistant superintendent of the Edenton-Chowan Schools, said the proposed changes could most directly impact the 25-30 percent of students who will be required to take more high-level math classes.



Smith

He and Supt. Dr. Allan Smith also have other concerns.

Smith said that a major worry is the potential for the dropout rate to increase. It is currently 5.9 percent.

Smith said that having to add more math and language teachers when there is already a "critical shortage" in North Carolina could also cause big headaches. "I don't have a problem with the plan in principle," he said. "But in my mind, it is more important that we do this thing well rather than quickly."

Under the plan, a College/University Prep option would be implemented beginning with the 2008-09 entering freshman class that would require a student to pass algebra I, geometry, algebra II and one higher level math course, such as calculus.

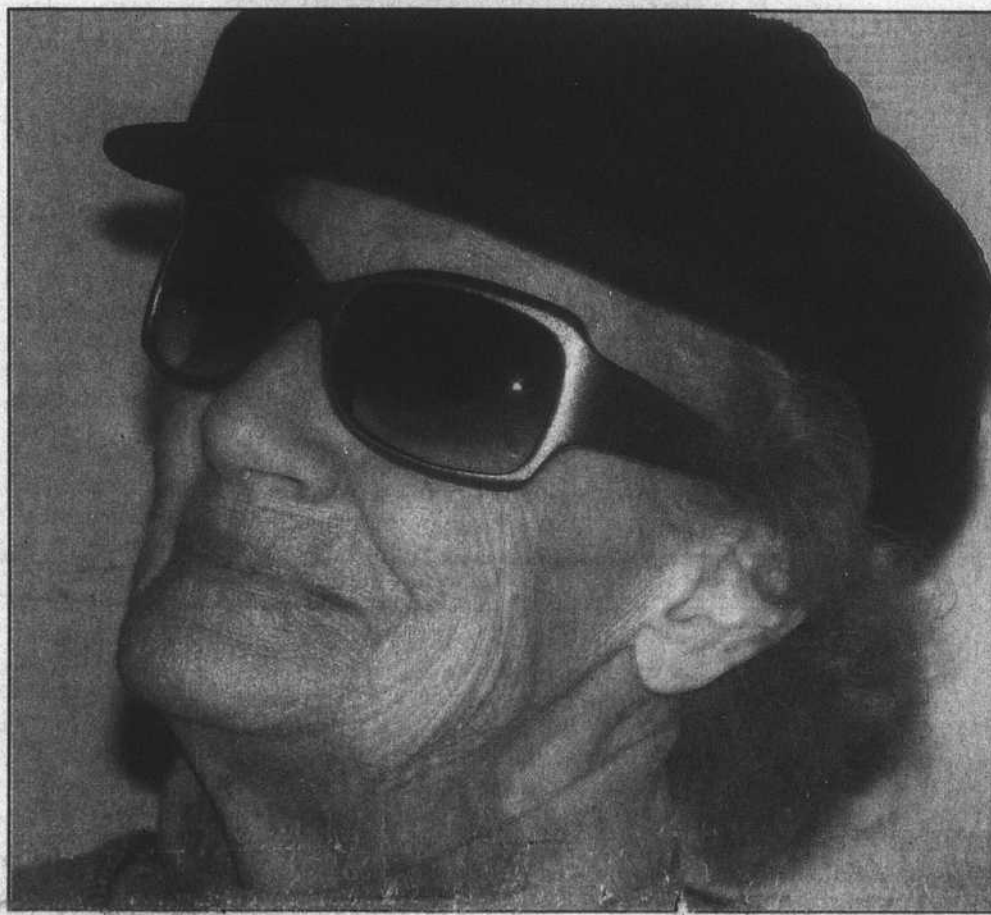
Current guidelines allow students to select less demanding math courses and still meet graduation requirements.

The plan calls for the next school year to serve as a transition time when students could select from either the College/University Prep or the existing College Tech Prep options.

When asked about the fate of technical math, a course of study favored by students in the Tech Prep curriculum because it links algebra and geometry with practical

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A night out with the VIPs



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Nell Moore has been losing her eyesight for five years.

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

TYNER — Nell Moore doesn't like sitting home alone every day and night. Although she's 87, Moore's got things to do, people to meet.

The only catch for the retired Chowan Hospital nurse is that she can't see well enough to drive anymore.

But the Rocky Hock Lions Club took care of that problem Monday night by inviting Moore and nearly 20 other blind and visually impaired people out for a holiday dinner.

"It's so good to feel like you've not been put up on the shelf," Moore said as she waited for her coffee to cool atop her table at Nixon's Restaurant.

Her friend, Pattie Byrum — another VIP, or visually impaired person — felt the same way.

"It makes you feel special," said

Byrum, 88, who is retired from the Chowan County tax office. Moore agreed.

"We usually sit home at night," she said in-between flashing wide smiles and trading off jokes with Byrum.

Getting out for a night was a big boost to others on hand for the fourth annual dinner. For Anne Knox, it was a good night for two reasons.

Knox, 66, got to participate from both sides. Not only is she a member of the Rocky Hock club that aids the blind, she also was born with retinitis pigmentosa and is almost totally blind.

"When you don't have eyes," Knox said, "it's difficult to get out."

Knox echoed the feelings of others that it's also special to socialize with other visually im-

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Madge Bunch



Anne Knox



Betz Blowe

Students found with knives at J.A. Holmes

Three arrested on weapons charges so far this school year

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

Three students have been charged with allegedly possessing weapons at the high school since November.

In previous years, one weapon per year has been typically discovered at the Holmes campus, school officials said.

All three incidents occurred within three weeks of each other.

Tanji Collins, 18, of Oak Grove Road was arrested Monday for allegedly possessing a knife.

The knife was discovered by SRO/Deputy Greg Whitehurst said. Collins was released later that day on a \$500 unsecured bond.

Donavan Troy White, 17, of Granville St. was charged with having a weapon on campus Nov. 20. The folding knife in his sock was discovered during a pat down prior to his being taken into police custody for questioning regarding a Baltimore, Md., homicide, sheriff's officials said.

White is charged with allegedly murdering a Baltimore resident in October. He is now in a Maryland district jail awaiting his next court appearance Dec. 19 for the alleged murder.

Gerald Tobias Tripp, 18, of Colony Drive was charged with possessing a weapon on educational property Nov. 16. He was back at school on Tuesday.

The weapon was discovered in the hands of a fellow student, a juvenile and resident of Wingfield Road, Whitehurst said. The second student had not been charged as of Tuesday morning.

At least one of the incidents has prompted the school system to change its protocol when accepting new students.

Supt. Dr. Allan Smith said that more persistent questioning of the school system which the student left will become customary.

Smith declined to say what, if any, new security measures may be taken as a result of the charges, including the possibility of metal detectors in the school.

Smith added that metal detectors are not seen as a good alternative. Most law enforcement officers, he said, do not give credence to metal detectors.

"Are we finding knives, weapons on a regular basis ...

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INSIDE

Gunshots heard near Holmes send students, faculty hurrying into school.

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Goodwin takes helm as Chowan County's new sheriff

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

With four young children, the 53rd elected Chowan County Sheriff, Dwayne Goodwin, plans to focus on youth and community for the next four years of his term.

Goodwin was officially sworn in as sheriff Monday on the steps of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse.

With him were his children, wife and family.

"I've known Troy [Toppin], Glen [Perry] and have worked with Fred [Spruill] for the past 15 years," Goodwin said. "Each man was a great leader in the community and I hope to bring out the

best qualities of each of them."

Goodwin ran in the spring primary against a democratic opponent, Edenton Police Det. Sgt. Rhonda Copeland. Goodwin won by a landslide, subsequently running unopposed in the November general election.

Goodwin follows in the footsteps of retired Sheriff Fred Spruill, who for the past 20 years has worked to bring in grants for the county for new officers, communication towers, and equipment.

Spruill's fifth term as an elected official ended Nov. 30. Goodwin was sworn in at midnight that day.

He was sworn in again

Monday morning by Richard Parker, chief resident Supreme Court Judge in Currituck, along with other area sheriffs.

Goodwin seemed happy, but overwhelmed as Judge Chris Bean officially swore him in.

"I'm not going to get emotional," Goodwin said as he stood before more than 100 friends and family, "but it means the world to me to have all of you here supporting me today."

Goodwin invites citizens to continue their proactive role against crime.

Among the top priorities on his agenda is strengthening the community/citizens watch programs throughout the county.



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Dwayne Goodwin was sworn in as Chowan County Sheriff Monday afternoon. His wife, Kristie, stood by his side and carried a single red rose to symbolize Goodwin's father, Commissioner Wayne Goodwin, who passed away in Oct.



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