

CHOWAN HERALD

482-4418

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

50¢

Doris Hughes, Leonard Small, Frances Inglis, John Sams, Jim Robison receive civic honors

Pages A2, C1



Franklin Jackson at the controls at 911 Inside, A3

George C. Moore eyes closing date

A few employees to transfer to company headquarters

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

George C. Moore Elastics Co. will close its doors April 27 leaving all but a few of its 85 remaining employees without a job.

The remainder of the employees—in the customer service and design departments—will be transferred to the company's

headquarters in Rhode Island. "We had hoped that we would be able to continue manufacturing a small amount of product in Edenton," a letter from the company's president, Goran Elovsson said.

"However, after months of review, we have concluded that the cost associated with the manufacture of these styles is significantly greater than the revenue it generates."

The company announced in November 2005 that many of its employees would be losing their jobs to manufacturing plants in

El Salvador.

Plant manager, Herb Netherton confirmed that over the past few years the bulk of American textile businesses have gone to El Salvador, and what is left in Edenton can't be profitable by comparison.

This is the second time the workforce has been cut since November 2005.

George C. Moore has been in operation since 1963 and during its heyday was one of the largest employers (with approximately 240 workers) and tax contributors to the town and county.

■ Second downsizing since November 2005

■ Displaced workers will have severance package

Those employees left without a job in April will be treated to the same severance package as prior employees, covered under the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), Netherton said.

Included in the package are schooling options as well as state and county benefits, Netherton

said.

Local officials say that a job fair will be planned for those displaced workers looking to retool and retrain for new opportunities.

"Losing George C. Moore in its totality is very sad," Richard Bunch, with the local chamber of commerce, said. Bunch also

said that this unfortunate situation will give business recruiters the opportunity to find a business to fill the void and put those affected back in the workforce.

The factory itself is already in the hands of a realtor and will be sold through corporate headquarters.

Schools miss the mark on state tests

New state standards cause decline of scores statewide

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

All four schools in Edenton-Chowan failed to meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) goals last spring, compared to the year before when all but one (Chowan Middle) met the goal.

New standards aiming to have all students performing at their grade level by the year 2013-2014 has recently raised the bar for N.C. students, and consequently lowered the AYP scores statewide.

"Overall, I feel that the report is positive, but it could have been better," Willie Koonce, director of testing and accountability with the school system said.

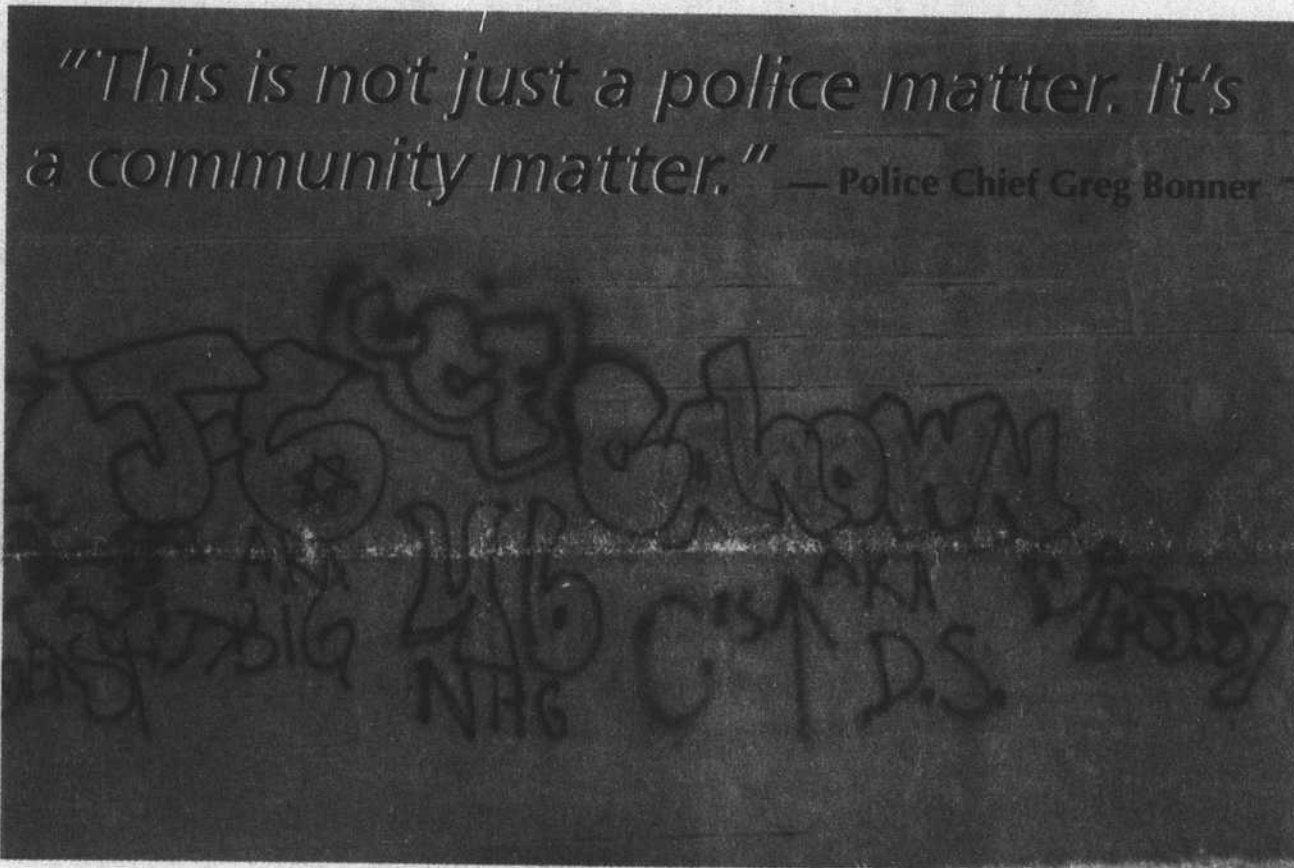
Only three school systems (Washington, Tyrell, and Watauga) in the state met the 2005-2006 AYP goals.

AYP measures the yearly progress toward achieving grade level performance for each student group in reading and mathematics. Schools must test at least 95 percent of students in each group and each group must meet the tar-

See **SCHOOLS**, Page A2 ▶

Police can't believe nobody saw 'so much writing being done'

"This is not just a police matter. It's a community matter." — Police Chief Greg Bonner



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

About 23 feet of graffiti was recently painted on the rear of Ellis Carpet & Tile Co. in Edenton.

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Edenton police are investigating who is responsible for painting possible gang graffiti on the back of a town business.

Chief Greg Bonner said it's unclear who spray-painted a 23-foot long collection of words, numbers and images on the back wall of Ellis Carpet & Tile Co., located at the intersection of North Broad Street and Paradise Road.

The rear of the building faces Badham Road.

"I suspect it's somebody that lives over that area," Bonner said.

Some of the symbols resemble

those used by the Crips, a California-based gang, officials said.

Police will continue interviewing residents of the area to try and determine who is responsible for the graffiti discovered Thursday, Bonner said.

So far, no leads have surfaced, much to Bonner's surprise.

"It's unbelievable to me that, as much writing was done, that nobody saw them do it," he said. "That goes to show you how unconcerned the (surrounding) community seems to be."

"This is not just a police matter," he added. "It's a community matter."

Bonner said he hopes the graf-

fiti is painted over soon.

For Lori Lassiter, general manager of the business, painting the building has been an issue since before Christmas, when workers began fixing up the building's exterior.

The business is still in the process of finishing the work.

"When something like this happens," Lassiter said, "it's just like, why bother?"

Lassiter also wonders why nobody saw the graffiti going up.

"That took a while," she said. "That took some work."

Anyone with any information about the graffiti can call the police department at 482-5144, or at the anonymous line at 482-5147.

Edenton PD still waiting on SBI report from Thanksgiving Day blaze that destroyed home

Cause of Historic District fire remains unknown

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

It's been more than two months, but investigators have yet to determine if a Nov. 22 fire in Edenton was the result of arson.

Police Chief Greg Bonner said his office has not heard back from the State Bureau of Investigation's Arson Unit, which is probing the blaze that consumed a home on South Oakum Street.

Bonner said the SBI has not in-

dicated when his department would hear the results of the investigation.

"It depends on how backed up they are," he said. "Often times, it takes a while to get a response from the state, with the amount of cases they have to investigate."

Without that report from the SBI, Edenton investigators have not been able to determine if the fire was intentionally set, Bonner added.

Fire erupted inside the 114-year-old home at 210 S. Oakum St. early on Thanksgiving morning.

Investigators were on the scene the following Monday. But they had to call off their on-site probe hours later after an interior chimney and

part of the roof began to collapse.

The house was demolished that afternoon and the lot was cleared the following day.

Police detectives have interviewed Tina Rodriguez, the owner of the home, as well as her friends and family.

Rodriguez was restoring the front of the home while living in the one-story rear section. Electrical service to the front of the home had been disconnected since the repairs began, officials said.

Rodriguez was the only person in the home when she was awakened by a smoke detector.

A police investigator has said no evidence was found that an accelerant was used to aid the blaze.

Sandy Point could mean \$800M tax boost for county

Project would double current Chowan tax base, Copeland says

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The Sandy Point subdivision could double Chowan's real estate tax revenues, County Manager Cliff Copeland said.

The waterfront development is located on the Albemarle Sound, and is slated to add roughly 1,600 homes and condos to the county's tax rolls.

That could add roughly \$800 million to the county's tax base, a figure comparable to the county's current total, Copeland said.

Then there's the retail side of the project—shops are planned for the center square—and the spin-off stores and jobs associated with such a large development.

"The economic impact will certainly be substantial," Copeland said.

The project was sidetracked last summer and fall while developer Sam Young wrangled with the discovery of protected aquatic grasses where canals were supposed to be dug.

Last month, state officials approved Young's plan to replace any grasses destroyed by the installation of the canals—which would serve an inland harbor and boats docking at home-front slips.

While the development will bring in dollars to county coffers, Copeland's also aware of the potential need for more services for the new residents.

But he doesn't see Sandy Point straining the county's operations. "It will not place a burden on county services," he said.

Copeland wouldn't speculate on the potential for future tax cuts—which would have to be approved by the county Board of Commissioners.

"I hope that it can ensure that we can limit tax-rate increases in the future," he said.

But he did say additional revenues could be used to improve county services, as well as for needs in the Edenton-Chowan Schools System.



Copeland

INDEX

A Local
Land Transfers A5
Opinion A6

B Sports
Recreation News B1
Nascar B2

C Community News
Upcoming Events C2
Church briefs C3
Obituaries C6
Church C7

D Classifieds
Buy/Sell/Trade D1
Service Directory D2
Employment D4



6 89076 44813 0
©2006 The Chowan Herald
All Rights Reserved