

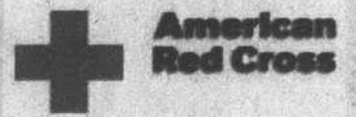


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## Schools surprised by test scores

First year raises concerns, second shows increase

By Earline White  
Managing Editor

The preliminary results for new standardized state tests have raised concerns across the state.

New testing standards implemented last year for Algebra I, II, Geometry and English I have resulted in scores lower than anticipated.

Willie Koonce, director of accountability and testing, told the local school board at their July meeting Monday night.

"Raising the standards ensures a period of adjustment," Koonce said Monday.

Students in English I scored 68 percent proficient; in Algebra I, 42 percent proficient; Geometry, 71 percent; and Algebra II, 84 percent.

### Across the region

"But the scores reflected at our schools are in line with schools throughout the northeast region," Koonce said. "Anytime something changes it takes three-to-five years for the students and staff to adjust."

"The state is requiring more higher-level thinking, which takes time for the teachers to apply that knowledge and the students to respond," Koonce added.

Koonce added that even state officials were concerned when the test results came back lower than expected.

"The state is looking into it," Koonce said of the lower-than-anticipated preliminary test results.

"We want the children to

See SCHOOLS, Page A2 >

## Happy Birthday, America!



Peter Nizborski and "Uncle Sam" prep for tonight's festivities and fireworks at Colonial Park.

**WHAT — CHOWAN-EDENTON OPTIMIST CLUB 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FABULOUS FOURTH OF JULY**  
**WHEN — 4 P.M. TODAY**  
**WHERE — COLONIAL PARK, EDENTON WATERFRONT**  
**WEATHER — SUNNY, 86 DEGREES**

## Council mulls new teen curfew

By Sean Jackson  
Staff Writer

Seeking to curb youth-related vandalism and other crimes, town officials are considering strengthening the curfew law.

"If that's what we gotta do, that's what we gotta do," Councilman Steve Biggs said. "I just know it's going to be tough."

Town councilors are considering a move to require anyone under 18 years of age to be off the streets by 9 p.m., Sunday through Thursday. Teens would be allowed to stay out till 10 on Friday and Saturday.

In addition, anyone under 18 causing mischief after hours could face criminal charges.

Edenton Police Chief Greg Bonner said violations have declined recently.

Councilman Willis Privott said that mandating everyone 18 and under be home by 9 p.m. — or have an approved reason to be on the streets — would be difficult.

But he said the town needs to do all it can to keep kids out of trouble.

"I think somebody needs to step forward and do something," about kids being out late, Privott said.

Both Biggs and Privott said they often see kids as young as 12 on town streets at all hours of the night.

Councilors noted that some parents don't monitor their children as they should, allowing them to roam the town as — and when — they please.

Councilors did not set a timeline for when — or if — they would adopt a strengthened curfew.

## Project Lifesaver: No takers for program so far

### Inexpensive wristband offers peace of mind

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

Missing: There's no more terrifying word to a family caring for an elderly relative with Alzheimer's, or a child living with autism or Down Syndrome.

Yet all across our country every day media reports tell the sad news of loved ones who disappear from home.

Some, the lucky ones, are found in time by law

enforcement officers or search parties. Others are not so fortunate.

But if you have someone who needs protecting, the Chowan County Sheriff's Office stands ready and willing to offer you some very valuable assistance through Project Lifesaver.

Deputy Sheriff Buddy Bunch heads the project on behalf of local law enforcement.

Surprisingly, Bunch said that despite doing his best to spread the word about the benefits of the program, not one person in Chowan County has signed up this year.

He's not sure why but

thinks that cost may be a concern. It shouldn't be.

"This is such a great opportunity for you to protect your loved one," Bunch said.

"And Project Lifesaver wants to make this service available to everyone who needs it, regardless of their financial situation."

### Small charge

There is a charge to participants of about \$12 per month that covers the cost of a replacement battery and wristband, which must be replaced once a month.

But there are other options for families in need of the service that are un-

able to pay.

"The program will place a wristband on your loved one at no cost to you," said Pat Davis, a spokesman for the project. "Project Lifesaver is dedicated to saving lives and doesn't want cost to be an issue with those who can't afford a bracelet."

The idea behind the program is simple — a wristband which can be worn by those with Alzheimer's and other life challenges where "wandering" may be an issue.

"The wristband contains a transmitter that emits a unique signal every second, 24 hours a day," Davis

said.

"This signal can be tracked on the ground or in the air over several miles."

"Since each wristband has a unique signal, a Project Lifesaver search team can positively locate the person who has wandered away from home or a care facility."

Bunch said he would gladly talk with interested family members, or give presentations concerning the project to local civic or healthcare organizations if asked.

He can be reached at 482-8484. All inquiries will be handled on a strictly confidential basis.

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