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BRIDGE BUILDER



Pesceovich teaches Hispanics at EUMC

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BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

"The kids love Kim [Carter] because she sings to them. They like Joelisa [Drew] because she lets them do her hair. They go to Gregory [Downing] because he lets them beat him at games."

— Ashley Slade, 21st Century Program director at the club



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Boys and Girl Club volunteer Liza Boehling, right, plays a word game with club member Shasha White after lunch.

By Earline White
Managing Editor

AFTER THE FIRST couple of days volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club, Gregory Downing wanted to give up. "The kids had attitudes, didn't want to do their homework and ran around like they owned the place," Downing said. Months later, and now working as a staff member, Downing is like a big brother to the 50 or more kids that show up at the Boys and Girls Club every day. He plays basketball with them, helps them with their math problems and listens to their stories, no matter how far-fetched.

KIDS HELPING KIDS

Teen volunteers at the Boys and Girls help make a difference in local youth's lives

He calms them and keeps them focused. He feels a kinship with them, especially Keyotta Coston, a quiet child with sparkling eyes. "He used to talk to only me," Downing said of Coston. "Now he talks a little more. He's not outgoing, but he's getting there," Downing said with a smile.

Time well spent
When so many of their peers are hanging at the beach or veg-

ging out in front of the TV, some local teens are spending their days volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club. During a time when volunteerism is down among all organizations nationwide, it seems that these teens want to make a difference.

A role model
Liza Boehling, 17, just back from New York, walked into the cafeteria at the Boys and Girls

Club. Several girls lunged for her, chanting her name, pulling on her arms to get her attention. Boehling smiled at all of them, called them by name and ushered them back to their seats. A self-proclaimed lover of children, Boehling simply wants to give back to her community. She fears the direction that many of the kids may take if positive role models aren't found. And she wants to make sure that doesn't happen. "I want to show them that there's something else out there," Boehling said as a

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Detective arrested on evidence-tampering charge
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Steamers send six players and coach to CPL All-Star Game
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Council OKs new graffiti law

By Sean Jackson
Staff Writer

To would-be muralists with a mischievous bent: stay out of Edenton.

The Edenton Town Council has approved a new graffiti ordinance that makes it a crime to spray-paint on public and private buildings.

While most councilors said it's a good move in targeting recent suspected gang activities, some questioned if the new law doesn't place too much of a burden on the victims — property owners.

"This thing just gives me indigestion," Jerry Parks said of the ordinance. "I'm not sure this is the solution."

Although Parks eventually joined councilors in unanimous approval of the ordinance, which took effect last week, he said property owners could complain.

While the culprits who do the illegal artwork could face criminal charges, they would also have to pay for the removal costs.

If no suspects are charged, the property owners would be responsible for the removal work, according to the ordinance.

The property owners would have 10 days to remove the graffiti, or face a fine from \$15 to \$100.

Property owners could also pay the town to remove graffiti from their buildings.

Councilman Willis Privott questioned if it would be in the town's best interest to take a property owner to court just to recoup a small fine.

"It could wind up costing us more than it's worth," Privott said.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said town officials take the recent spate of graffiti seriously, including a



Parks

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Ryan's Grove hosts gang prevention forum

Cooperation a key to defeating presence of gangs in community

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

People of all races in our community need to work together to defeat gang violence.

That was the message delivered by Pastor George Harper during a gang prevention workshop at Ryan's Grove Missionary Baptist Church Saturday.

There is also a need for citizens to work with the law enforcement community, he said.

Harper said he had personally invited Police Chief Greg Bonner to come to the work-

shop, and that Bonner had said he would be there.

Bonner later told the Chowan Herald that unforeseen circumstances had developed that had prevented him from attending. He expressed regret he was unable to be there.

But the gathering did draw about 50 local residents who are members at Ryan's Grove and other Chowan County churches.

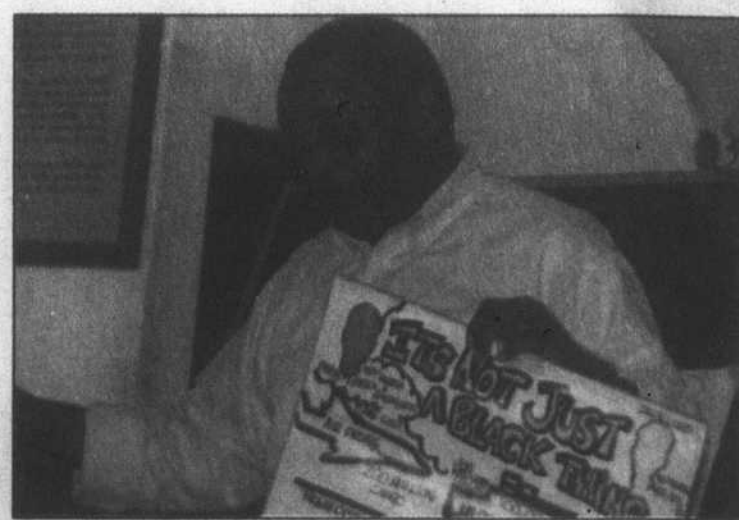
Presenter Elwood "Coach" Williams, executive director of the Southside Boys and Girls Club in Norfolk, said that the absence of anyone other than church members just drove home the point that the involvement of the entire community would be needed

to successfully combat the developing gang problem in Chowan and other area counties.

Williams said that getting rid of gangs has to begin in the home. He said that children need to be treated with love and respect, and to have the companionship of parents and others with positive values.

"These are things that a family should provide," he said. "And if we don't, we're gonna lose our children."

"Studies show that in an average week, black parents spend 35 minutes of actual family time with their kids," he added. "The family structure has broken down because everybody is too busy.



Rebecca Bunch/The Chowan Herald

Elwood L. "Coach" Williams, with the Soundside Boys and Girls Club in Norfolk, addresses the crowd.

That has got to change." Pastor Harper said that he plans to form a committee to be a force for change. Any one interested in joining the effort, regardless of race or religious affiliation, may call him at (757) 421-3474.