



"Don't be in such a hurry all the time. Wherever you're going will still be there when you get there."

— Street sweeper operator
Raymond Griffin A3

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
The good works of local service groups

CHOWAN HERALD

Special 24-page
Section Inside

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50¢

Vote for school uniforms fails 3-4

By Earline White
Managing Editor

administrators Monday night, the board voted 3-3 for uniforms.

Chairman Gene Jordan, father of a Holmes senior, broke the vote with a resounding 'no.'

"Some districts have shown improvement, but uniforms were only one part of the reforms made. There is no conclusive proof that uniforms make any difference," Jordan said prior to voting.

Board members Jean Bunch, Kay Wright and Win Dale felt that uni-

forms would be a welcome change.

"Dress is part of high expectations," Bunch said.

"I believe it would help academics," Wright said. "It doesn't matter what you wear, it's who you are."

Board members Gil Burroughs, Randy Browder and John Guard voted against the policy.

Burroughs felt that the wording of the parental survey — would you vote for a standardized dress code OR school uniform — was misleading.

Browder expressed his disappointment over not hearing from the school PTA's, which he felt represents the parents.

During the discussion, local principals were asked their opinion on school uniforms; and like the board, they had differing views.

Holmes principal Bill Moore, a native New Yorker and former principal at a school mandating uniforms, said he was not in favor of uniforms. See **UNIFORMS**, Page A2 >



Gene Jordan

"There is no conclusive proof that [school] uniforms make any difference."



Jean Bunch

"It [school uniforms] makes perfect sense — dress is part of high expectations."

School children will not be required to wear uniforms next year after a ruling Monday night by the Board of Education.

The vote came one month after a local survey suggested that over 60 percent of participating parents would like to see a school uniform policy.

Following a thirty-minute discussion between the board and local

Deputy honored

By Sean Jackson
Staff Writer

Buddy Bunch didn't take the standard route to donning a badge and gun.

Law enforcement officers most often begin their careers in their early 20s, ink on the diploma still drying.

Bunch, who was named Chowan County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year last week, spent a number of years as a business owner before becoming a sheriff's deputy.

"I came to law enforcement late in life," Bunch said. "I kept to my family commitments and private businesses" before joining then-Sheriff Fred Spruill's staff in 1995.

Bunch's son, Andy, a former winner of the award, is a veteran investigator serving under current Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin.

"I have enjoyed working with the sheriff's department," Bunch said. "It's been a great ride."

Bunch currently oversees weapons training for the department. He is also a K-

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Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Keith and Nancy Sorensen's home is one of the many local signs of the season.

Next crop may ease the sting of past summer's drought

By Connie Sage
Contributing Writer

This year's drought — the worst ever recorded statewide — resulted in below-average yields of corn, cotton and soybeans for local farmers.

But a surprisingly better-than-average peanut crop and an increase in the number of acres of winter wheat that will be planted this fall are expected to help ease the sting of poor harvests.

"It's not as bad as it could have been," said Mike Williams, director of the North

Carolina Cooperative Extension's Chowan County office in Edenton. "Most years with dry weather, certain crops are affected. This year, it's all the crops."

Last week's rain has helped, said State Climatologist Ryan Boyles at North Carolina State University. But it takes "months to get into a drought; it will take months to get out of it."

Since Oct. 23, 1.5 inches of rain was recorded at the Edenton airport, Boyles said. Bertie County fared significantly better with

3.68 inches in the same period. Statewide, rainfall averages are down five-to-15 inches, making this the worst drought in North Carolina since records were first kept in 1895. The previous record was in 1925, Boyles said.

No year-to-date rainfall figures are available for Chowan and Bertie counties, Boyles said. Since January 1, Elizabeth City has recorded 22.8 inches of rain down 18.35 inches, Boyles said.

Locally, it's the worst that 89-year-old Norman Perry, Sr. of Colerain, has ever

seen, said his nephew, Warner Perry of Edenton. Because of the drought, Warner Perry's crops yielded about two-thirds of what he typically gets from the 2,300 acres he farms in the Colerain area.

Corn crops were hardest hit for most area farmers. The average yield was 70 bushels per acre in Chowan County, according to Williams, down from the typical 115-120 bushels an acre.

It was even worse in Bertie County, where corn yield was cut more than half. The

average yield was 120-190 bushels of corn an acre, according to Richard Rhodes, that county's cooperative extension director. This year, it dropped to an average of 35-60 bushels, with as little as seven bushels in the county's western, driest areas.

Warner Perry said while there was a good corn crop the year before last, it was a "complete disaster" this year for corn grown on non-irrigated land. One Bertie County farmer mowed down 150 acres of corn, he

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Candidates have say on Edenton Commons, Lowe's

By Sean Jackson
Staff Writer

Incumbent Town Councilman Steve Biggs said he is "leaning" towards supporting a Lowe's, while challenger Terry Waff fully supports the home improvement center coming to Edenton Commons Shopping Center.

Biggs and Waff met with about 50 residents and members of the Edenton-Chowan Civic League Monday night.

The two are running in the first contested council race in 12 years.

Biggs said he isn't certain Lowe's can produce the sales dollars it is touting, while Waff said the company would bring much-needed jobs and tax revenues to the town.

"I've already voted for it," Waff said, referring to her Oct. 1 vote to recommend a rezoning for Lowe's. Waff joined four other Planning Board members in passing that recommendation to council, which could vote on the issue Nov. 13.

"I am leaning that way," Biggs said. Biggs said he wants to see a review of an economic impact study before finalizing his decision. Council is expected to receive that review Friday.

While Biggs and Waff don't wholly agree on the benefits or drawbacks Lowe's could have on downtown Edenton, they do see eye-to-eye on several other issues.

Both support an increase in affordable housing, more activities for local youth, and expanding crime-fighting programs.

Waff has been a Planning Board member for the past two years. She also serves as chairperson of the town's Main Street program. She is the broker in charge of a realty company on South Broad Street.

Biggs has served as one of council's two at-large members for 12 years. He is the economic development director for Bertie County.

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