



Security program to be tested at Holmes

GPS program to monitor students, help stop terrorism

By Connie Sage
Contributing Writer

John A. Holmes High School will take part in an experiment using technology that its designers say could one day be used to thwart terrorism.

The test will use geospatial analysis techniques — similar to a GPS — and other technology being developed to collect detailed information about the school, said Eddy Goodwin of Edenton, president of I-P Systems International.



Goodwin

The data that will be modeled in three-dimension on computers that “can spin the school around, see classrooms and take them apart piece by piece to see Internet servers and fire alarms,” Goodwin said.

“I can get as detailed as how many light switches” there are in the building.

The Virginia Tech shootings that claimed the lives of more than 30 people, and attacks at other schools were the impetus behind the pilot, he said.

If the pilot program can be successfully developed, Goodwin said, it could have multiple uses, including disaster preparedness, recovery and response.

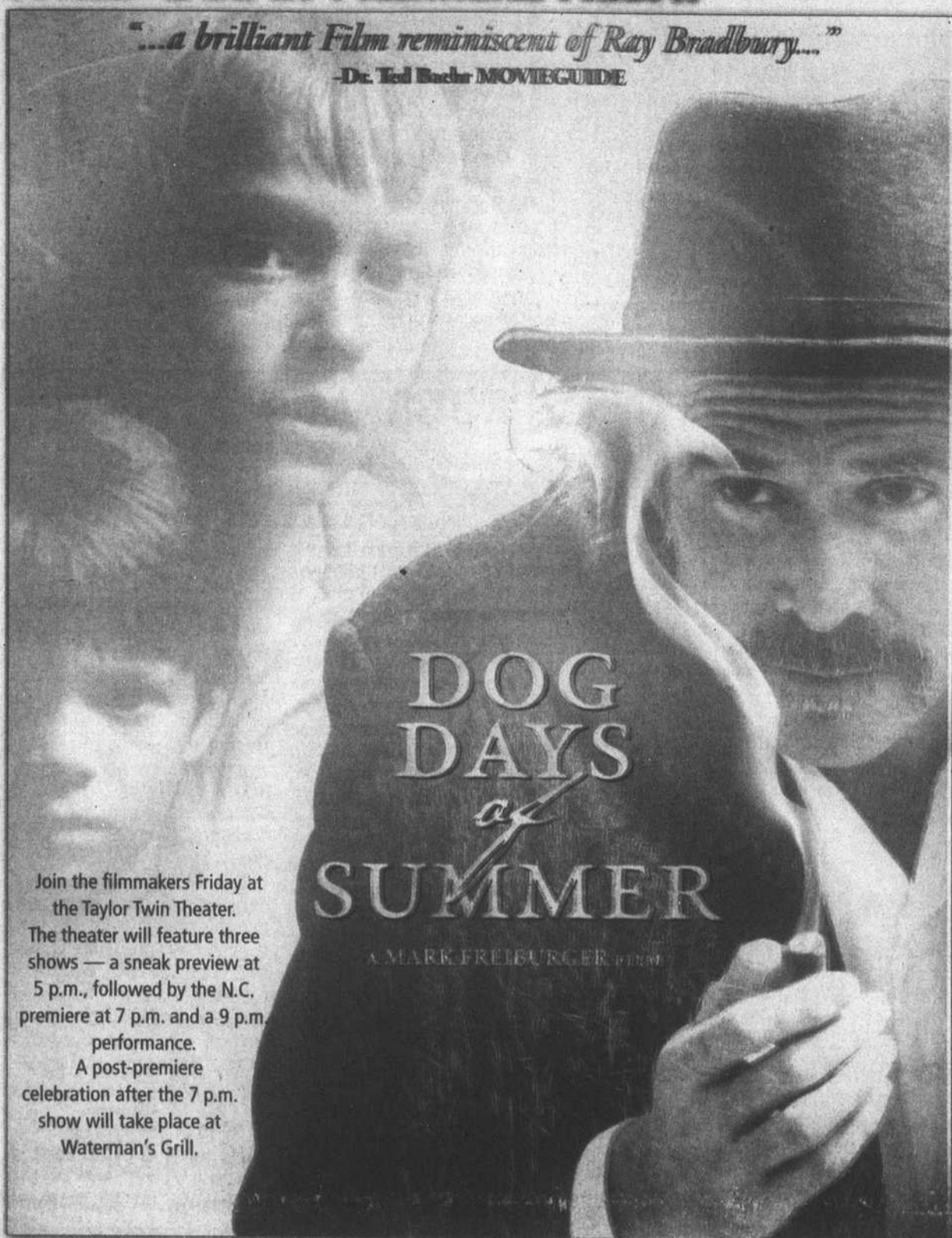
Homeland Security is interested in the technology, he said, and at least one area city plans to do a similar test next month to look at its potential use in hurricanes.

As part of the experiment, the movements of a half-dozen school administrators and at least one student will be monitored for four-to-five days next month, according to Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Al-

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A RED CARPET PREMIERE FRIDAY

“...a brilliant film reminiscent of Ray Bradbury...”
—Dr. Ted Bachler MOVIEGUIDE



Join the filmmakers Friday at the Taylor Twin Theater. The theater will feature three shows — a sneak preview at 5 p.m., followed by the N.C. premiere at 7 p.m. and a 9 p.m. performance. A post-premiere celebration after the 7 p.m. show will take place at Waterman's Grill.

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Mark Freiburger, director of “Dog Days of Summer,” says that completing his film and sharing it with the public has been a bittersweet experience.

The California premiere was held in February; the Edenton opening of the film, which was shot here, will take place Friday. Freiburger will be among those attending.

He described reaction to the film as positive in California.

“It seemed to touch some hearts, which the people in that community need,” Freiburger said. “Hollywood can be a dark place and a lot of people there need some hope.”

“The praise we received about

the film and its story/message from some usually cynical people made me feel like we did something right.”

Freiburger said he has high hopes that the people of Edenton will also embrace the film “because without them this film would not have been made. It has just as much of their personal stamp on it as it has mine.”

And, he said, his concern for “Dog Days,” his first feature film, went beyond the technical aspects of the production. He felt adopted by the community during his time here and wanted to produce a film the whole town could be proud of.

“I have never felt so accepted by a group of strangers as I felt there,” Freiburger said. “I think it's unmatched by any other

town in the world and I hope the people ... realize how lucky they are to live there.”

The production was not without headaches, however, including the lack of a producer or distribution deal when the film was started. Freiburger said those are mistakes he won't make again.

He added that a filmmaker has to really feel passionate about what he's doing or it's not worth the effort.

“It takes your entire heart, soul and strength to get something like this completed as it is such a complex task ... you have to be in love with the story you're telling, otherwise, I just don't think it would be worth making a film.”

3 days, 4 armed robberies

“It is very unusual for this [number of incidents] to occur.”
— Police Chief Greg Bonner



By Earline White
Managing Editor

Prior to Saturday, Edenton police had investigated only two armed robberies since January.

Since then, police have added four more investigations to the books.

Saturday morning, police responded to a call of an armed robbery in town.

A young man visiting his friend on Dillard Avenue was approached by an armed man and ordered to give up his wallet.

The two struggled. More suspects came out from the back of the home and began strangling the victim with a rope.

The young man was then knocked unconscious with a handgun.

He was transported to the hospital and later released.

Police chief Greg Bonner said he knows who the suspects are and at least four or five will be charged in the case.

Later Saturday night, at about 8:30 p.m. Saturday, a male brandishing a handgun walked from the Super 8 Motel parking lot, approached two locals parked in the Edenton Tractor parking lot nearby and demanded money.

After obtaining a wallet, the suspect ran back to Super 8 and got into a vehicle with two others, fleeing the scene.

Minutes later, when the men pulled back into the Super 8 parking lot, the victim was following close behind in his vehicle.

The victim rammed the suspect's vehicle with the passengers still inside.

The armed suspect got out of the vehicle, fired shots at the victim and then fled across Hwy. 32 towards Hampton Inn.

Local law enforcement arrived at the scene and the sheriff's K9, Rico, trailed the suspect into the woods.

Shots were fired at the dog but luckily only grazed the dog's ear.

Apprehended were Corie E. Barry, 19, of Lewiston, Jonathan R. Welch, 21, of Edenton and Laron C. Eason, 20, of Bertie.

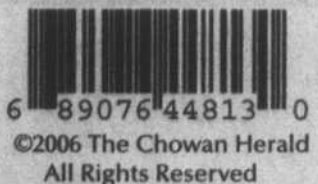
Barry was charged with armed robbery, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and possession of stolen property. He is being held in lieu of a \$100,000 bond at the Chowan County Detention Center.

Welch and Easton were charged with aiding and abetting an armed robbery. They are also being held under \$20,000 bonds.

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Recycle trash for cash

Recycling up from 967 to 1,409 homes in March

By Connie Sage
Contributing Writer

In the seven months since the town and county beefed up its trash recycling program, \$1,600 in cash prizes have been awarded.

The contest to lure locals to separate eggshells and chicken bones from recyclable soup cans and newspapers appears to be working.

In March, an average 1,409 homes recycled each week in the joint town and county, compared with 967 in October, said county Finance Officer Lisa Jones.

A prize for participating
Numbered tickets are given to local participants who recycle — those living in town use a blue container; county residents take their trash to one of four drop-off sites.

Each week a number is drawn out of a big bowl and the winner has two weeks to claim the cash. The winning ticket number is posted on the town and county Web sites, at the county's convenience centers and in this newspaper.

Sometimes residents don't bother to find out if they've won and the award goes unclaimed, Jones said.

Town and county officials hope to continue the drawing, at least through this fall, while encouraging residents to sign up for the recycling service.

“We're making an effort but we have a ways to go,” said County Manager Cliff Copeland. “People don't realize we actually get paid for recycling.”

Expense turns profitable
The county pays \$57 a ton and the town is charged \$42 a ton to See TRASH, Page A2 >

Chowan, Edenton celebrate opening of new safety center

By Earline White
Managing Editor

Outgoing Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland joked Thursday that he would leave it up to his successor, Peter Rascoe, to figure out how to pay for the new \$11.5 million safety center.

Copeland and Rascoe were among the 200 county and town officials, residents and state dignitaries attending a grand-opening ceremony for the 35,000-square-foot facility in Edenton last week.

Chowan and Edenton officials, residents and state dignitaries cut the ribbon Thursday on the new Chowan County Public Safety Center and Edenton Police Department.

The project, which began con-

struction in 2006, has been a focal point for local government since Hurricane Isabel roared through Chowan County in 2003.

During the devastating storm, flood waters from nearby Edenton Bay rushed into the police department and communications center, causing both to be evacuated.

“It's a situation we did not want repeated. This building is the result of lessons learned, thanks to Isabel,” Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton said.

A commendable project
The project has been called a first-of-its-kind in the state — a commendable unification of town and county services.

State Rep. Tim Spear, D-Washington, applauded the cooperation be-

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Looking for something to do on Saturday nights that involves the entire family?

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Gates open at 6:00 PM

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