



REBECCA BUNCH/THE CHOWAN HERALD

Creating quite a splash during Saturday's Special Olympics Polar Plunge at Colonial Park were ballerinas Haley Koppelman, Ellie Whichard, Emma McCarthy, Theresa Strzyzewski, Molly High, Natalie Bass, Brianna Boyce, Brianna Argenti, Annie Gray Dixon, Hannah Nixon, Emily Snell and Ashton Copeland. Their spirits were not broken, despite the 20 degree water in the bay.

## Polar Plunge reaches \$10,000 goal

### Fire dept. raising money for equipment

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

Louis Nixon, chief of the Center Hill Crossroads Fire Department, looked for all the world like a new dad on Saturday.

He was sporting a happy smile as he proudly showed off the two newest additions to the "family" — two new trucks that will allow the all-volunteer fire department to do an even more professional job in fighting fires in the future.

Truck 21 came first. The tanker/pumper truck arrived last April, followed in February of this year by Truck 25, an equipment/rescue truck.

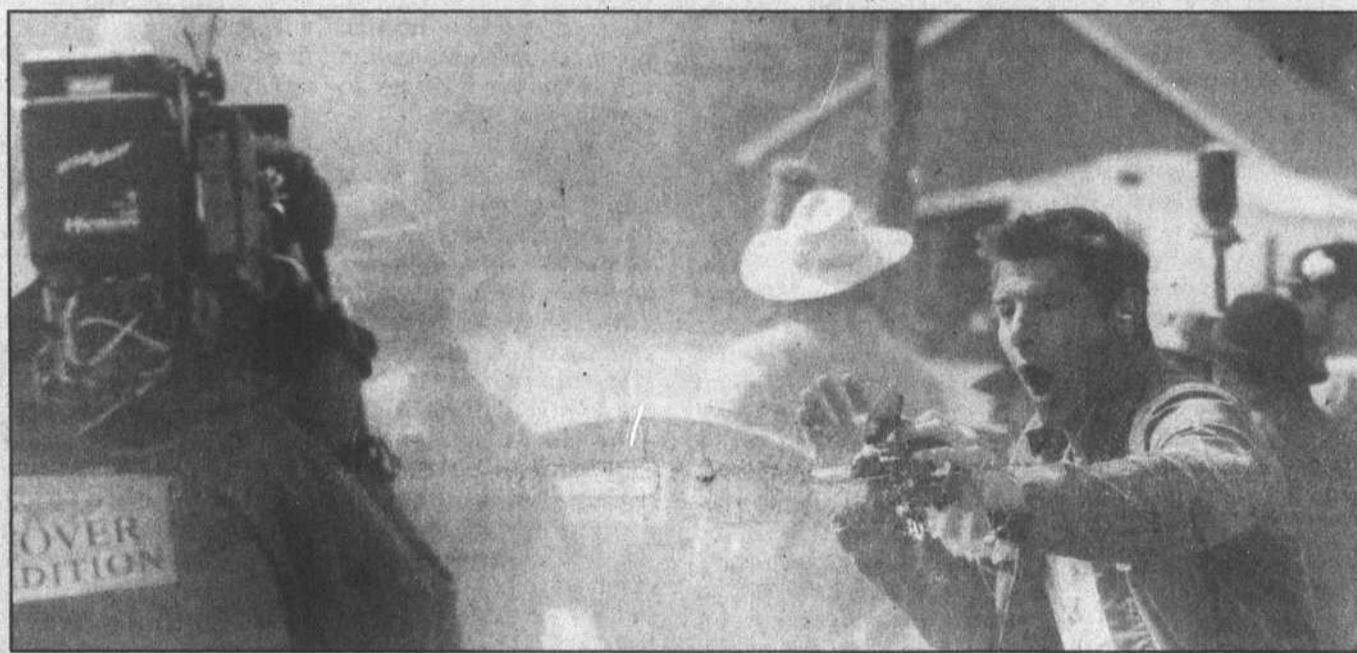
Both, he said, are based on state of the art technology.

They were the star attractions at a barbecue plate fundraiser the department was hosting that day.

While the county paid for the two trucks with a USDA loan, which was approved over two years ago, the fire department made a commitment to do fundraising to pay for the equipment aboard truck 25.

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### EXTREME MAKEOVER CREW DEMOLISHES JAMESVILLE HOME IN STYLE



VERNON FUESTON/THE CHOWAN HERALD

Ty Pennington during an action sequence, shrouded by smoke as cannon fire, during filming of Extreme Makeovers.

## Construction moves steadily on Cooper home

By Vernon Fueston  
The Chowan Herald

Over 500 volunteers showed up for the demolition of Jeff Cooper's home in Jamesville, Sunday.

The kickoff for Extreme Makeover: Home Edition's project went off with a bang, complete with a battery of cannon and Civil War infantry. The sequence was filmed as part of the show scheduled to air later in the year.

The show, hosted by builder Ty Pennington, is shown on ABC and builds new homes for deserving families after demolishing their old ones.

Four cannons manned by Civil War re-enactors along with one cannon owned by the Cooper family, participated in the "demolition" of

the doublewide trailer. Cooper had requested that the family's cannon be used to take out their old home, which will be replaced during the episode.

Cooper lives in the home along with his wife, Clara and their two children, Windy and Aaron. A Gulf War veteran, Cooper suffers from severe symptoms caused by Gulf War Syndrome. His son also lost part of an arm and sustained severe injuries after being run over by a garbage truck.

Cooper has been active in lobbying the state legislature on behalf of veterans. Their mobile home had deteriorated to the point that it attracted the attention of Extreme Makeover's producers.

The project is manned by hundreds of local volunteers, many

from Edenton where the project was organized.

Edenton Builders, a local construction company, will build the home. Over 5,000 volunteers signed up for the project, though not all could be accepted to work on it.

The home was demolished by standard construction methods after the cannons fired blank ammunition at the trailer, sparing damage to nearby structures.

Contributions for the project are still being accepted through the show's Web site, [www.extremeheros.com](http://www.extremeheros.com).

Visitors are welcome at the site in Jamesville from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. after checking in at the project's headquarters, the DFI manufacturing plant just east of Jamesville on Hwy. 64.

60 participate as warm weather draws crowd to waterfront

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

Summer-like weather proved lucky for organizers of the Special Olympics Polar Plunge held Saturday at the Edenton waterfront.

Sixty brave souls — groups and individuals — of all ages

jumped into the waters off Colonial Park to help raise money for special needs kids.

Linda Hobbs, Student Services/Exceptional Children's Director for the Edenton-Chowan Schools, said the event raised just over \$10,000 this year.

Last year's Plunge, the first held here, was held in frigid temperatures under rainy skies. Forty people took part, raising about \$8,000.

Dr. Allan Smith, superintendent of schools, gathered with some friends and made the first jump.

His group was followed by others decked out in colorful costumes and wigs, including Jean Bunch of Chowan Hospital.

"I also participated last year, and knew it was something I wanted to do again," Bunch said. "It was for a great cause, the chance to help some very special people, and that's what propelled me more than anything."

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## Two Edenton-Chowan schools recognized as Super Safe last year

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

Two of Chowan County's four public schools were among the 45 honored in Raleigh last Friday as Super Safe Schools this year.

White Oak Elementary

School and Chowan Middle were recognized during the 2009 Safe Schools and Character Education Conference.

White Oak also made the list last year, along with D.F. Walker Elementary.

Walker and John A. Holmes High School both applied this year but neither was chosen for the honor.

Holmes did not apply last year.

In congratulating the recipients, state Superintendent

D.F. Walker and Holmes were not chosen for honor

dent June Atkinson noted that it takes a combined effort for a school to achieve that level of success.

"Keeping our schools safe and healthy requires a team effort from parents, schools and communities," she said.

"I commend all of these partners as well as our Super Safe Schools for work-

ing so hard throughout the year to create learning environments in which all students can excel."

How they won

Schools designated to receive the honor must demonstrate decreased incidents of crime and violence.

They must also "have made extra efforts to maintain a safe, orderly and caring learning and working environment," according

to a news release issued by the state Department of Public Instruction which announced its selections on Feb. 23.

Part of the process involves having parents, students and staff answer questions involving school safety.

At D.F. Walker, for example, 41 percent of students said they felt "very safe," while just over 60 percent of parents said they thought their children felt very safe

at the school. Sixty-six percent of staff answered affirmatively.

White Oak and Walker have both had zero incidents involving violence at their schools this year. Holmes reported a handful of incidents.

Kerri Albertson, director of media relations for the school system, noted that the Super Safe School designation "isn't as much about the number of incidents last

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Ride your bike,  
wear green  
and help  
fill  
county event.

Downtown Dog Walk • Raffle  
Goodie bags for 1st 100 registered  
Children's Area with Jump  
Food, Pet Pageant, Agility

This Saturday, March 14  
Pot-A-Palooza Festival  
PET & PEDAL PARADE & DOG DAY OUT

Demos and much more.  
Parade registration begins  
10am corner Queen & S. Broad  
Parade at 11:00  
Festival til 2, at Colonial Park

For additional information call  
Jennifer Moore 482-2952 or  
Stacy Clarke 482-2951  
Coordinated by  
Destination Downtown and  
Edenton-Chowan Recreation Dept.