

Schools open year with \$2.5 million in cuts

\$1.5 million reduction in local funding

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

What will we do if something breaks and there's no money in the budget to fix it? Will teacher training be cancelled due to lack of funds? Will students have to give up field trips this year?

Those are just three of the many questions that Edenton-Chowan Schools Supt. Dr. Allan Smith is facing as kids head back to the classroom this week.

"Certainly, we're going to have to be more aggressive in protecting the things we have," said Smith. "But even with all the challenges we will face, I'm looking forward to school starting again."

That philosophy is shared by staff, too, according to Spanish teacher Barbara Cavanaugh and Laura Houseal, who teaches a Family and Consumer Science curriculum more commonly known as "Home Ec".

While Cavanaugh has

taught a total of 13 years, seven of them at John A. Holmes, and Houseal just two at the high school, both are optimistic about the challenges they face.

"Things may be a little leaner this year," Cavanaugh observed, "but we're not going to just throw our hands up in the air and say 'I can't do this'. We will find away."

Staying on track

Keeping computers in good working order will be a priority, as well as making sure the air conditioning and heating systems operate efficiently, Smith said.

Maintenance supervisor

Brian Bass will note any necessary repairs and work orders will be issued.

"Even though we lost our county technology appropriation," Smith noted, "we are looking at ways to fund the replacement of old computers."

He said that each room in each school is inspected prior to the start of school. Additional inspections are carried out twice a year.

Smith noted that there is one bit of good news where funding is concerned. He said that several of the schools have received federal grant funds that include a technology component.

Those include the IMPACT

grant awarded to D.F. Walker and the NC Quest grant from N.C. State University funds given to Chowan Middle School. Both schools are now in the second year of their respective grant cycles.

"Our ratio of students to computers is above the state average," Smith said, "and we want to keep it that way."

He added distance-learning programs utilized via the Internet at John A. Holmes were "a vital part" of the learning process for students.

Chance to learn

The Internet, too, will increasingly play a larger role in helping teachers to take part

in training workshops and seminars.

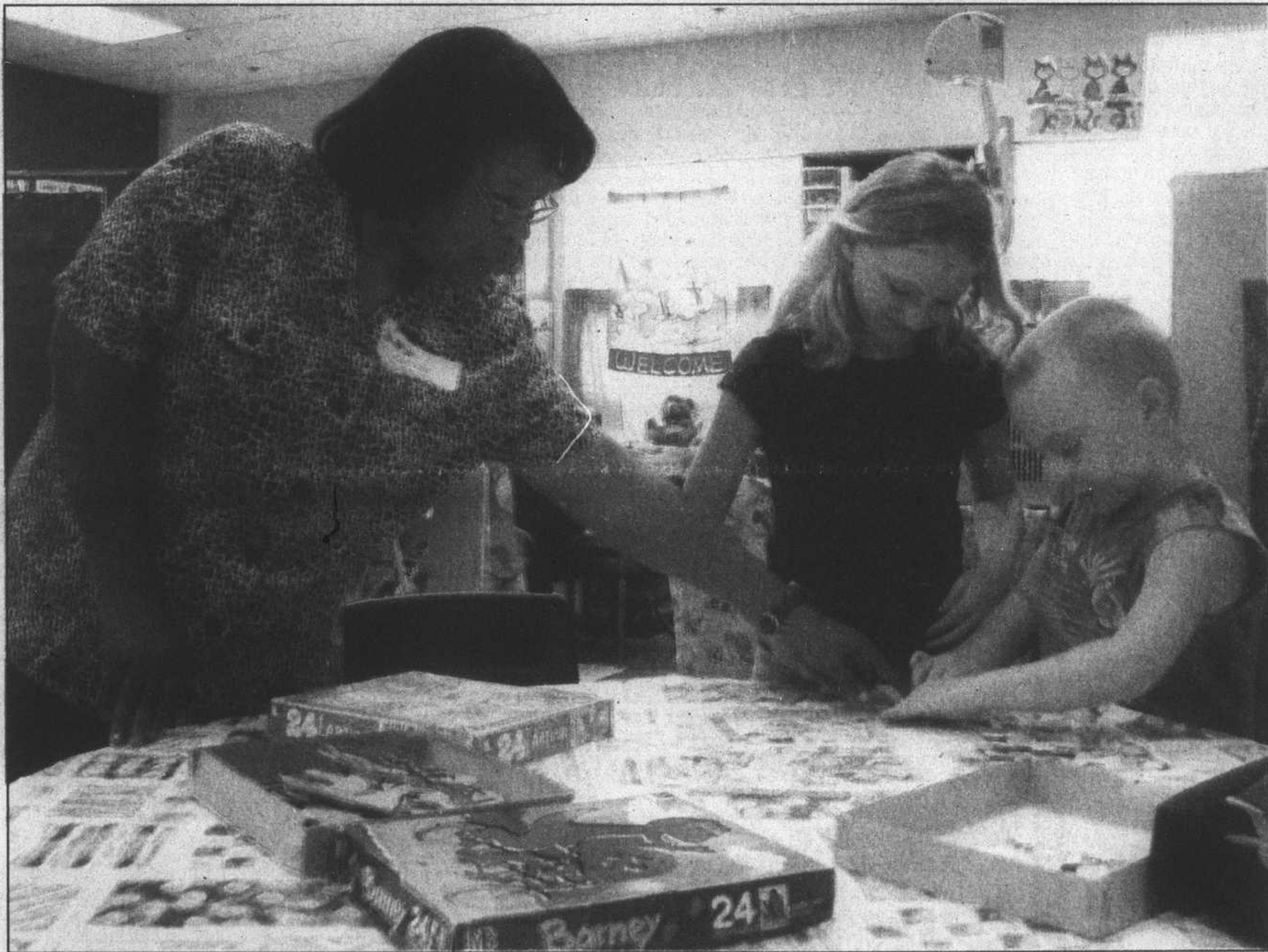
Smith said that with the lack of dollars to fund teacher travel in the coming year, educational opportunities would still be available but not in the same way as in the past.

"We will still try our best to help teachers take part in those types of opportunities," he said. "We will just have to use a bit more creativity."

He cited as an example a recent Title I initiative that allowed travel for four members of the Edenton-Chowan Schools family. Those four came back to Chowan County

See FUNDING on Page 7A

Back to the grind



EARLINE WHITE/THE CHOWAN HERALD

Teaching assistant Pearlle Parks (left) helps Jamie Seymour, 9, and her new student Thomas Seymour, 5, put together a puzzle. This is Parks' 30th year teaching.

Harvin awarded \$126K for incident

By Reggie Ponder
The Daily Advance

An Edenton man wounded in a 2005 shooting incident in which his ex-wife's lover was killed has been awarded \$126,000 in damages, according to a civil judgment filed in Camden Superior Court.

The judgment entered by Superior Court Judge Jerry R. Tillet in Camden County Thursday found that Thomas K. Harvin III had met the burden of proof by greater weight of evidence that Dawn Teachey had entered into a civil conspiracy with Stacey Bayles to cause bodily injury to him.

"I feel that Judge Tillet's ruling has vindicated me," Harvin said Friday. "There's no doubt in my mind that Dawn was behind the whole thing."

Harvin and Teachey are divorced. Teachey has been described in court records as having been involved in a romantic relationship with Bayles.

Tillet's judgment cites cell phone records and witness testimony as evidence that Teachey and Bayles had planned an attack on Harvin.

In a struggle between Harvin and Bayles outside Teachey's home on Ivy Neck Road in Camden on April 7, 2005, Bayles shot Harvin in the face with a .22-caliber handgun. Harvin then wrestled the gun away from Bayles and shot her fatally.

District Attorney Frank Parrish later determined Harvin acted in self-defense.

Teachey was charged with conspiring with Bayles to have Harvin killed. Parrish dismissed the charges against Teachey in April 2006.

Harvin, who has a bullet lodged in his face from the shooting and has been treated for post-traumatic stress disorder. The \$126,000 he was awarded are compensatory damages, the court judgment states.

Branch W. Vincent III, the attorney representing Harvin, declined to comment on the judgment or any aspect of the case.

Edward O'Neal, the attorney representing Teachey, could not be reached for comment.

Teachey also could not be reached for comment.

People hope to keep ECDC alive with city support

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Those hoping to keep the Edenton-Chowan Development Corporation alive are looking to the Town of Edenton to provide life support.

That support would come in the form of an annual \$36,000 appropriation that is expected to be voted on at the council's September board meeting.

The county, which had provided \$46,000 in annual funds for the ECDC, recently pulled out of the agreement and

removed its two representatives from the ECDC board.

At Monday night's Town Council meeting, councilors got their first look at the organization's proposed budgets for 2009/10 and 2010/11. They also received copies of current ECDC bank records and a list of specific goals for FY 09/10.

Getting started

A reorganization of the ECDC began with the group opening its own bank account and hiring its own accounting firm.

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce loaned the ECDC \$4,100 in start-up money so it could open a checking account.

The county's July contribution to the ECDC - \$3,833.37 - also went into the account.

Paid out during the month were \$2,000.02 each for July and August on a bank note for a spec building owned by the ECDC; \$2,477 in liability insurance; \$386.91 in insurance for the spec building; and \$200 for July CPA fees.

As of Aug. 24, that left a total of \$869.42 in the ECDC's account.

Yet to be released is a \$10,500 contribution in funds from the town. Those funds will be paid out once the town votes to approve the expenditure. The remaining town funds will be paid out in increments later this year.

Continuing on

Noticeably absent from the plan presented Monday night was any funding for a director's salary.

In the past, Chamber Director Richard Bunch has also served in that capacity for the ECDC.

During the past year the Chamber received about \$30,000 for ECDC work, including lights, phone, insurance, and other basic operating costs. Of that amount, about \$20,000 was used to pay Bunch's ECDC salary.

At Monday night's meeting officials said they hoped Bunch would continue to assist the ECDC with economic development efforts in an unpaid capacity.

Bunch was not at the meeting and declined to comment when contacted afterwards except to say that the Chamber still strongly believes in economic development and will continue to carry on those efforts.

Helping out

Part of the ECDC's survival strategy will rely on a newly forming group called the Committee of 100 being organized by Mayor Roland Vaughan.

Vaughan serves as chairman of the ECDC board.

Being developed as an effort to acquire public funds to help replace those withdrawn by the county, the Committee of 100 will be made up of local citizens who wish to contribute to help keep the ECDC alive.

Anyone interested in contributing to the effort may send a check to the Edenton-Chowan Development Corp., P.O. Box 245, Edenton, NC 27932.

Contributions are tax-deductible since the ECDC is a 501-c-3 nonprofit organization.



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