

Area schools receive \$1.5 million

By Cathy Wilson
The Perquimans Weekly

Lightning does strike twice. In fact, when it comes to million dollar IMPACT grants, lightning has struck in the area three times.

For the third year since 2003, the Northeast Impact Consortium of which Edenton-Chowan schools is part, will receive a federally funded IMPACT grant to help pro-

vide technology for the classrooms and enhance staff development.

The Northeast Impact Consortium, comprised of D.F. Walker Elementary, Perquimans High, Middle and Grammar schools, will receive a total of \$1,499,220. D.F. Walker Elementary School in Chowan County will benefit from \$328,305.

Perquimans County High School is slated to receive

\$640,400, Perquimans Middle School-\$242,520, Hertford Grammar School-\$277,995.

Walker principal Sheila Evans said her team is currently looking at providing net-book laptops for students at the school. Staff development will also occur, she said.

At Perquimans County High School, each student will be issued a laptop computer much like students are

issued text books at the beginning of the year. The students will be expected to take care of the computer and return it at the end of the school year.

At both Perquimans Middle and Hertford Grammar schools, the funds will be used to update equipment and provide mini-laptop computers in mobile labs that are carried from classroom to classroom for use by the students.

"We call ours COW - computers on wheels," said Diane Meigs, principal at Hertford Grammar School.

Staff development will also occur at each school.

The competitive grant process, obtained through extensive grant writing and rigorous interviews, is based on the school system's average daily membership.

The money is funded through the competitive

North Carolina Enhancing Education Through Technology grant and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Statewide, 31 schools received IMPACT Model School grants for a total of \$13,123,434.

The consortium received a \$1.04 million grant last year that provided SMART boards (interactive whiteboards), video projectors, laptop computers, speakers, digital cameras, and scanners.

Report: Decrease in teacher turnover

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

A Teacher Turnover Report presented Sept. 3 to the State Board of Education found that fewer North Carolina teachers left their classroom jobs during the past year.

Of those who did, about 22 percent said they were leaving to take teaching jobs elsewhere.

Retirement was listed as the number two reason.

But in the Edenton-Chowan Schools retirement topped the list. And that's a good thing, said Michelle Maddox, personnel director.

"When you look at longevity, especially at the high school, we've had a significant number of retirees," she said. "That means we've had many teachers who started out with us, and have spent their entire teaching career here."

Maddox added that among younger teachers who do not spend their teaching career here, those who start here generally stay for four or five years before leaving for jobs elsewhere. She said that's a trend she expects to see continue to grow in the future.

"I think seeing teachers spend their entire career in one place is becoming a thing of the past," Maddox said.

She said that in addition to retirement or leaving to take another job, other reasons have included leaving due to family relocation or leaving the classroom to take an administrative position.

Factoring out those who listed retirement as their number one reason for leaving, Maddox said, would leave the local school system with about an 11 percent turnover rate. Including the retirees, she noted, pushed Edenton-Chowan's rate to 16.4 percent in the turnover report.

"If you take the retirees out of the equation, I feel our numbers are probably average," she noted.

According to a press release, the statewide report showed local school systems with an average teacher turnover rate of 12.72 percent for 2008-09.

Local school district turnover rates ranged from a high of 25.69 percent in Jones County to a low of .75 percent in Camden County, the release said.

Keeper of the Light



EARLINE WHITE/CHOWAN HERALD

Madison Phillips looks out from the second floor of the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse which sits on the downtown waterfront. The lighthouse received \$1.2-million dollars in federal stimulus funds from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation for exterior restoration.

Lighthouse gets \$1.2M for restoration

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Madison Phillips is a fan of all things historic.

And when the chance came for him to become involved in taking care of the Roanoke River Lighthouse that now sits in Colonial Park on the downtown Edenton waterfront, well, he just couldn't pass up the opportunity.

Phillips, whose familiar presence at the site has led some to dub him its lighthouse keeper, said he has put out over 2,000 brochures telling the story of the lighthouse since the summer of 2007 when it was moved to its current location.

Now that plans to restore the exterior of the lighthouse are moving ahead through the use of \$1.2-million "shovel ready" project federal stimulus dollars awarded by the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, Phillips is already envisioning a great future for the structure.

"There are a lot of people who will come to see the lighthouse," he said

enthusiastically. "They'll do it on their vacations, things like that."

Mark Williard of the Raleigh-based architectural firm, Williard & Ferm Architects, PA, has been working to create plans for the exterior restoration based on old photographs of the lighthouse.

Additional study will be required before a restoration of the interior can be attempted.

"I could not find any drawings of it (lighthouse) in existence," he said.

Williard said he found the project "very interesting" and was glad to have been chosen to work on it.

After months of spending two or three days a week at the site, he has created a three-dimensional model for the two-phase project that he plans to unveil locally in October.

"This is the last square-sided, screw-pile lighthouse still in existence in the United States," he said. "That makes it something very special."

Bids for the project will be awarded no

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Hospital prepares for new MRI suite

From staff reports

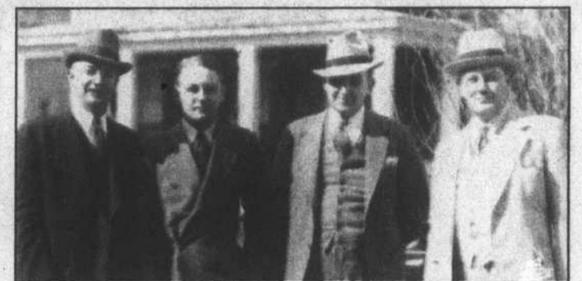
Chowan Hospital announced plans last week to build a permanent, open magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) suite on the front lawn of the site. Construction is expected to begin later this fall with the building becoming operational in the summer of 2010. The suite will be the only fixed, open MRI unit of its kind in the area.

Proposals have the new MRI suite located in the current helipad landing area. This will necessitate relocating the helipad to the rear of the hospital, closer to the emergency department. Construction for the new helipad will begin in early September.

In order to accommodate the new helipad, which will be located partially in the emergency and outpatient parking lot, a new larger parking area will be constructed. During construction, various employee parking spaces behind the administration building will be converted to temporary patient parking. In addition, signage to direct patients to the new parking areas, will be posted.

During construction the unpaved access road east of the EMS/Rescue Squad building will be closed to through traffic. For the duration of construction, this road will be designated for EMS and emergency vehicles only.

From the Herald archives....



Do you know who, on what occasion this photo was taken? Let us know...chownerald@nccox.com.

Harrell wins best in show in Cary arts festival

From staff reports

When William Ray Harrell was young his father could keep the youngster occupied with just a stick and a pocketknife. Today, during pretty much all his free time, Harrell still carves away. A home, boat and cabinetmaker, Harrell leaves little wood in his path.

Wormy maple, red cherry juniper and black walnut trees are a few of his favorite things.

But it wasn't until the Chowan Arts Council's People's Choice awards in which Harrell won second place did his love of wood expand into another ring.

Harrell has worked at Al-bemarie Boats for 22 years moving from a builder to the assembly manager. In 11

months he built a two-story home accentuated by hand-crafted moldings, furniture, frames on Emperor Landing Road.

Then Harrell built a woodshop behind, where he spends most of his time.

Distinct hollowed vessels of all sizes are displayed throughout Harrell's house and shop. He said he prefers the natural beauty of a piece that requires no glue. "I like danger," Harrell said jokingly of his delicate burl-turning hobby.

The beauty of a 24 in. wormy maple burl vessel was recognized as Best in Show recently in Cary during the Lazy Days Arts Festival. Nearly 400 vendors participated.

Harrell was elated; after all it was only his second show, after the People's Choice last year.

"I bet I met more than a thousand people," Harrell said of the festival. "And that was despite the rain which came out in the afternoon."



Harrell



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CHOWAN COUNTY SHRINERS ANNUAL FISH FRY \$7.00 per plate • EAT-IN or TAKE-OUT MASONIC LODGE 215 E. Water St., Edenton FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 • 11AM-2PM & 4PM-7PM