

## Steamers facing financial peril

Team needs \$50,000 by Labor Day

By CHIC RIEBEL  
Sports Editor, The Daily Advance

The Edenton Steamers have a challenge for the town and the area: Show us the money.

Tuesday the Steamers announced the "Support Our Steamers" fundraising campaign with a goal of \$50,000. If the campaign, which begins immediately and runs through Labor Day, fails to achieve its goal, the Steamers likely will not be playing next season.

While a press release announc-



THE DAILY ADVANCE/PHOTO

Steamers fans could find themselves without a home team next season.

The Steamers board of directors was reluctant to go public with the campaign and debated just how strongly the release should be worded. But at a board of directors meeting attended by the Daily Advance on Monday night, words like "dire," "crisis" and "now-or-never" were used by board members to describe the seriousness of the situation.

"We have to commit to the league that we will play next

See STEAMERS, 2A

ing the campaign lacks threatening language, the reality is that declining revenues over the past few years has jeopardized the existence of the 13-year-old team that plays in the Coastal Plain League, a summer wood-bat baseball league for college players.

## Holmes, CMS miss AYP mark

Grade schools hit targets

From staff reports

Half of the Edenton-Chowan schools failed to meet Annual Yearly Progress targets for the 2009-10 school year, according to the N.C. Department of Instruction's preliminary report released last Wednesday.



Smith

If approved by the state board, this will mark the fifth consecutive year that John A. Holmes High School failed to meet the federally mandated AYP, Superintendent Allan Smith insists, however, the high school is showing progress over years past.

"John A. Holmes met all of its academic targets," Smith said. "They made 15 out of 17 targets."

Last year, Holmes did not meet its academic goals.

Where Holmes got tripped up this year lies within the various subgroups required to qualify for testing, Smith said.

"We had two subgroups that did not meet the percentage of those being tested," Smith added. "I'm disappointed that we got caught with the coding technicalities."

He explained that various subgroups are counted multiple times in different categories, which can translate into a greater difficulty with meeting progress targets. For example, a student with economic disadvantages who also experiences learning difficulties is likely to be categorized in several subgroups, including one for race and another for student body. Such multiple subgroups inflates testing percentages.

Chowan Middle School also failed to meet AYP, despite making it last year. Although it met 19 of 21 targets, the missed goals were academic. Chowan Middle's stumble comes in the same year when the school was named a School to Watch.

"Interesting enough,

See AYP, 3A

## Get ready for some football



STAFF PHOTOS BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Edenton head football Coach Wes Mattera teaches his Aces defense how to fight off a block to gain position for a tackle during drills, Monday morning.

## New coach kicks off Aces football

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

It's hot and humid, but that doesn't slow Edenton Aces new football coach Wes Mattera from bouncing from drill to drill as he prepares his players for another season on the gridiron. Between teaching offensive and defensive techniques, Mattera, 33, barks out instructions amid tough love zingers aimed at getting his team mentally tough.

*"It's a violent game. If you're that big and soft—maybe you should find another sport."*

**Wes Mattera**  
Aces football coach addressing player at recent practice

"It's a violent game. If you're that big and soft—maybe you should find another sport," Mattera hollered toward a player la-



Edenton head football Coach Wes Mattera is preparing his team for a new season.

zily finishing a blocking assignment.

Another one not ready for the drill was ordered to the back of the line where he'll give his freshman coach a set of pushups.

Three other athletes eager to show their prowess stand by a fence where they only watch and hope for a chance Tuesday. The players were barred from practicing Monday because they showed

up late.

Away from the practice field, Mattera talks both calmly and methodically about player expectations. He understands the fine line between boosting a kid's confidence and breaking his spirit.

"Before you can break them down, they have to know you care," Mattera said. "They have to

See COACH, 2A

## Pilot: Jordan died prior to impact

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

The surviving pilot of the June 7 fatal plane crash at Northeastern Regional Airport believes his flight instructor probably died prior to the fiery impact.

*"On that particular takeoff he was silent."*

**Joseph S. Konicki**

Discussing a June 7 fatal plane crash

Joseph S. Konicki, 48, said Monday night that William Thomas Jordan acted out of character from their earlier interactions that evening and that he failed to take any corrective steps before the Beechcraft slammed into a wooded area adjacent to the runway.

During the start of the instructional training that included other takeoffs and landings, Konicki said Jordan, 69, had been talkative and engaging. But, when the lesson continued for the final takeoff, Jordan's demeanor suddenly changed, Konicki said.

"On that particular takeoff, he was silent," Konicki said. "He never said a word—never tried to take control of the aircraft," Konicki recalled.

Other than informing Konicki that he would handle control of the engines on liftoff, Konicki said Jordan said nothing else.

See PILOT, 2A

## Chowan's jobless rate ticked up in June

NC's unemployed drops 4th straight month

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

Any rejoice from the news that the state's unemployment rate dropped for a fourth consecutive month to 10 percent for June, quickly tempered locally as Chowan County's jobless rate ticked up during the same period.

Chowan had been keeping pace with the state's steady pace of im-

provement, but June experienced a spike when the county's rate increased to 10.2 percent—up from the 9.9 percent in May, according to statistics released by the N.C. Employment Security Commission on Friday.

Ricky Coletrain, manager of the Employment Security Commission in Chowan County, said Monday that there has been a surge in new unemployment claims here. Additionally, Coletrain said others whose benefits ended have been awarded exten-

sions. Some of those who have fallen between the conclusion of unemployment benefits and the start of an extension filed new claims, Coletrain said. Consequently, Chowan's increase from last month ends a three-month string of declining unemployment.

Statewide, the jobless rate fell from 10.4 percent in May to 10 percent in June.

Chowan's modest fluctuation has been due to the area's mild hiring practices.

"You can't make employers start hiring," Coletrain said.

"People are still skeptical. They don't want to hire six or eight new employees and then layoff three. Instead, they'll hire two or three new ones."

Often times, however, unemployment data is misleading, particularly when unemployment benefits expire and the unemployed are still unable to land work, Coletrain said. Those unemployed workers tend to drift out of the system's data.

But, Larry Parker, spokesman

See JOBLESS, 3A

