



## 3 local schools make ABCs

**CMS earns high marks**

By KRISTIN PITTS  
The Daily Advance

The majority of schools in the area's five school districts made expected growth on state standardized testing last year, while nearly half exceeded expectations by achieving "high growth" and three achieved the highest sta-

tus awarded for test performance, state officials announced Thursday.

In the Edenton-Chowan Schools, three of the district's four schools met or exceeded their growth targets on the testing. Only John H. Holmes High School failed to meet its expected growth target, according to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

Edenton-Chowan Superintendent Allan Smith

said that he was pleased with the district's results on the ABCs.

"I am very pleased with the rate of growth that was demonstrated in virtually all grade levels and content areas," Smith said. "All in all, I



Smith

was pleased to see that the rate of growth was very high."

When asked about the high school's performance, Smith said it had come very close to meeting expected growth.

"It was extremely close," Smith said.

News of Holmes' latest academic misstep comes less than two weeks after learning that the high school failed to meet Adequate Yearly Progress tar-

gets for the 2009-10 school year, marking the fifth straight year. Smith, however, touted Holmes' progress with AYP.

Every Edenton-Chowan school with the exception of John A. Holmes High School, which had a composite score of 77.6, made expected growth. Chowan Middle School, with a composite score of 76.6, was the only school to report high growth. D.F. Walker Elementary had a compos-

ite of 66.8 percent while no composite score was listed for White Oak Elementary School on the DPI website. The middle school, D.F. Walker and White Oak were earned "School of Progress" status.

All four of the schools in the Perquimans County Schools met their expected growth targets for student testing performance in 2009-10, according to the

See **SCHOOLS**, 7A

## American Legion Expo Time



Proud grandad Matthew Sopher of Washington, (top) is joined by grandsons Nathan Sopher, 3, and Jake Souza, 10, as he sits in the driver's seat of a McCormack Farmall tractor during the American Legion Expo. Riders from the Northeast District 4-H Equine Drill Team (above) run through their paces in the show ring at the American Legion, Saturday afternoon.

STAFF PHOTOS BY REBECCA BUNCH

## Superintendent suspends former school administrator

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

The former school administrator that filed suit against Edenton-Chowan schools said she has been suspended without pay and is set to be fired.

Mary L. Felton said Superintendent Allan Smith informed her on July 23 that she was suspended without pay for what he deemed to be her insubordination. She added that Smith also informed her that he was going to recommend her termination. Felton has refused Smith's request that she obtain a counselor's

*"They're attempting to enforce one part of the contract while ignoring another part."*

**Mary L. Felton**  
Former school administrator

license to complete her transfer from an assistant principal at Holmes High School to a career development coordinator at Chowan Middle.

"I feel it was unreasonable for what the board asked me do," Felton said Monday.

The Board of Education has kept unanimous step with Smith's recommendation that Felton be transferred - a move Felton considers a demotion

and a violation of her employment contract.

But, court records show that the school system claims such transfers are within the boundaries of the contract, provided there is no change in the rate of pay. Felton was earning \$4,950 per month, plus a local supplement paid twice yearly. Felton alleges that school board policies preclude systems from assigning administrators to positions where they are not properly licensed.

"They're attempting to enforce one part of the contract while ignoring another part," Felton said.

In a June 23 affidavit of Michelle Maddox, schools human resources officer, she counters that again the system is within its rights.

"Employees can be transferred to positions whereby they do not have a license as long as they are eligible for a provisional license," the affidavit reads. Edenton-Chowan schools arranged for Felton to get proper licensure at the system's expense, but that Felton cancelled the provisional license, court records show.

See **STEAMERS**, 7A

See **FELTON**, 4A

## Steamers to play for championship

By CHIC RIEBEL  
Daily Advance

They're back.

After completing a two-game sweep of Gastonia in the semifinal round of the Petitt Cup playoffs Monday night, the Steamers will make their first appearance in the finals since winning their second straight Coastal Plain League title in 2005.

In doing so, the Steamers fulfilled a mission outlined by left fielder Peter Barrows after Game 1 of

the Gastonia series.

"We want to play as many games as we can here to help them raise money," said Barrows, referring to the Steamers' fund-raising drive that needs to bring in \$50,000 by Labor Day to ensure the cash-strapped franchise will play again next year.

During Sunday's 2-0 win over Gastonia at Hicks Field, the team announced it had reached 20 percent of its goal.

Pending the outcome of Game 3 of the Peninsula-

Forest City semifinal series, which was scheduled to conclude Tuesday night, the Steamers will have at least one more home game to help sustain interest in their fund-raising efforts.

If Peninsula is the opponent, the Steamers will open on the road with Games 2 and 3 at Edenton Friday and Saturday night. If Forest City makes the final, Edenton will host the opener Thursday, then go on the road for the rest of the series.

For results of the Penin-

sula-Forest City matchup, go to [dailyadvance.com](http://dailyadvance.com).

In Monday's victory at Gastonia, the Steamers trailed 1-0 in the eighth inning when they scored five runs.

Brian Billigen ignited the rally with a bases-loaded single that careened off the first base bag and plated Billy Burns and A.J. Rusbarsky. Jake Magner then followed with a three-run home run that scored Billigen and Brian Blasik.

## Concert promoter sentenced

From staff reports

An Edenton concert promoter was sentenced Monday to 2 1/2 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to wire fraud whereby he bilked investors of nearly \$1 million, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

John Burton Vick, 37, was sentenced in a federal court in Greenville. Vick is also required to adhere to a

supervised release after his prison term and ordered to pay restitution.

U.S. Attorney George E.B. Holding announced that Vick pleaded guilty on April 12 that included a probe by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. At that time, it was revealed that Vick duped investors and defrauded the Danville Harvest Jubilee, a non-profit organization, amid promises that he would deliver a concert featuring Big and Rich in the summer of 2009 in Danville, Va.

Danville Harvest Jubilee paid Vick \$75,000, followed by another \$10,000, which was supposed to be put into

escrow to use as a deposit for the artists, the release stated.

Instead, Vick used the proceeds to pay off unrelated debt. The concert never occurred and the Danville Harvest Jubilee never repaid.

Evidence also revealed that Vick duped other investors, including some from Wyoming and California, who were on hand to testify at the sentencing phase. Vick had also repeatedly promoted fictitious concerts by Tracey Lawrence. Vick used the money to pay himself and others a salary and personal debts unrelated to the concerts.

## Heat takes toll on many

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

With most of the dog days of August still ahead, the general consensus is that this has been one of the hottest summers already.

For most it's a judgment call, but with the rest of the country experiencing record heat typically found in the South, some national meteorologists have called this summer the hottest on record.

Between the frequent perspiration and soaring electric bills here in Edenton-Chowan, locals attest

See **HEAT**, 7A



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Gene Perry looks over corn plants at the Pasquotank and Perquimans farm tour, July 30. Heat has damaged much of the area's corn crops.

