



## Edenton-Chowan schools fail fed's AYP

By **REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

Preliminary data for the 2010-2011 school year shows that all Edenton-Chowan schools failed to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals set forth by the federal government.

The results will not become official until they are approved by the State Board of Education on Aug. 4.

According to information shared with the local Board of Education Monday night by Willie Koonce, director of testing and accountability for the school system, each school fell short of meeting targets set for them under AYP.

D.F. Walker Elementary School met 13 out of 21 targets under AYP, while Chowan Middle School met 19 out of 21 of its goals. John A. Holmes

### About AYP

According to the state Department of Public Instruction, AYP evaluates the progress of students at the local, district and state level against target goals set in reading and math. It is a component of the No Child Left Behind Act adopted in 2001 that requires a specific level of progress to be demonstrated annually.

High School met 14 of its 17 targets. Since testing does not start until third grade, White Oak was not ranked.

Koonce noted that in

order to achieve the AYP standards, each school must meet 100 percent of its targeted goals. Should the results for Holmes be certified, it will mark the

sixth consecutive year that the high school has not met federally mandated goals under AYP.

Koonce said that every three years the standards for AYP are set at a "more rigorous" level.

"It's a moving target," Koonce said. "Our kids are doing as well as any kids in the state."

Superintendent Allan Smith said that he expected "a huge number of schools in the state" not to

meet AYP.

Last year, D.F. Walker made AYP. Chowan Middle narrowly missed AYP by the same margin as last year. Holmes failed to meet AYP by two targeted goals.

School board member Gil Burroughs noted that over the three-year period covered in the presentation, "the numbers are all over the place."

See **AYP**, 5A

## ADJ pact spares Chowan \$8M jail

Transport costs still unknown

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Editor

Not having to build a new \$8 million jail will most likely determine whether Chowan County opts to join the Albemarle District Jail.

Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said that while all parties are still comparing figures about whether partnering with ADJ is financially feasible, not building a new local jail appears to be the most appealing advantage.

"Our jail was built between '78 and '79. Our jail is more than 30 years old with more than 30-year-old problems," Goodwin said.

Designed for 24 inmates, but already bordering at its 40-inmate capacity most of the year, Goodwin said the time has come for Chowan to explore jail alternatives.

"You have to look long term," he added. "A new jail would cost roughly \$8 million. We can't afford that right now."

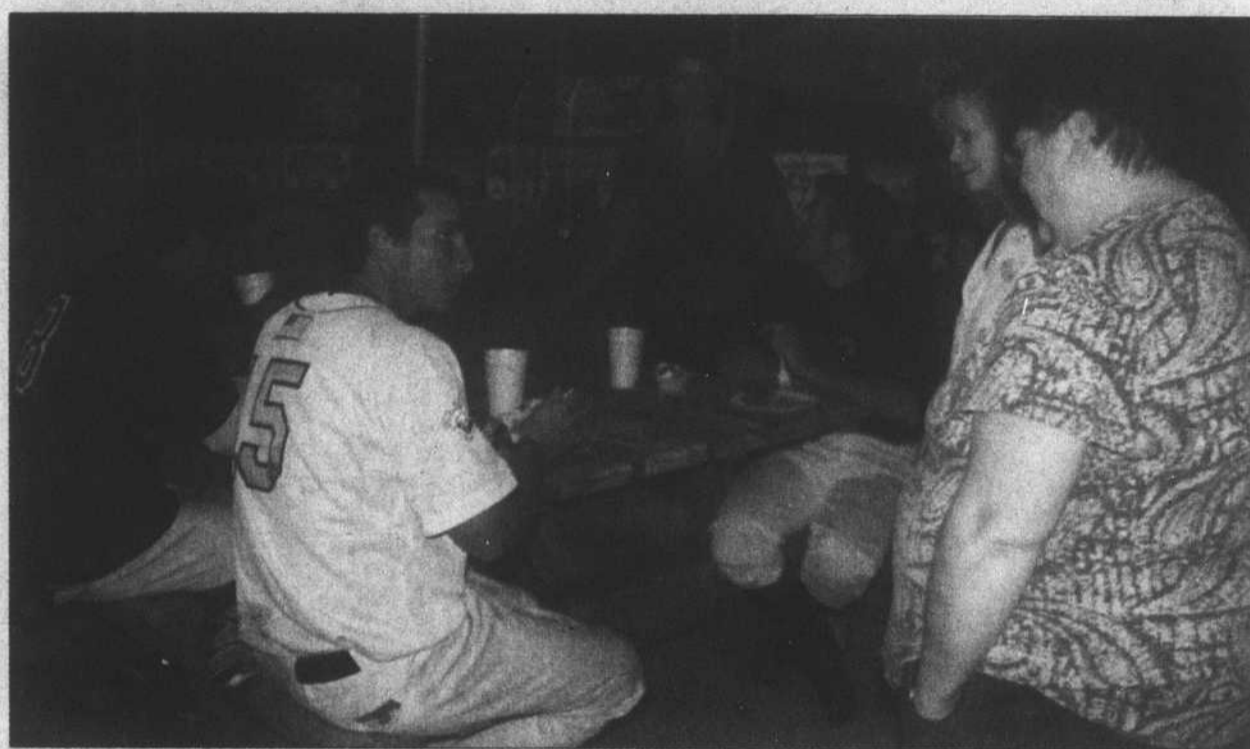
Pasquotank County's ADJ has been courting Chowan over the years about housing its inmates and those talks have not only renewed in recent weeks, but are gaining momentum.

Goodwin said it costs \$800,000 annually to operate Chowan's jail. It appears there could be some marginal savings at ADJ because the larger facility has service contracts based on a larger number of inmates.

"Some of the small things they would be able to do cheaper because of volume," Goodwin said.

See **JAIL**, 2A

## CHURCHFIELDSMEALS



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Steamers players enjoying their dinner take a minute to talk with Open Door Church members Beth Brabble, Shirley Waff and Mary Waff.

### Open Door feeds players' bellies, community's soul

Players receive home-cooked meals

By **REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

Is it coaching? Pitching? Timely hitting? Solid defense? While it's likely all of those facets of the game that has the Edenton Steamers enjoying an incredible season on the baseball diamond, perhaps there's another reason behind the strong summer showing — home cooking.

Instead of wolfing down hot dogs, burgers and pizza after games like seasons past, this year's Steamers are enjoying the kitchen bounty of a big-hearted church.

At Hicks Field, the Edenton Steamers and their opponents are treated to nutritious meals after every game courtesy of Open Door Church. The church is fast becoming known as a church that seeks out community needs. And when they heard about the opportunity to help feed the teams this summer they quickly agreed.

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Open Door pastor

said Steve Mizell, Open Door pastor.

For instance, Mizell said, at Sunday night's game a man from Chicago came up to him at the ballpark to thank him and his church members for providing such good meals.

It turned out, Mizell said, that the man's son is playing for the Steamers this summer and the family had come from Illinois for a week to see him in action and experience a bit of the community.

Mizell said he believes the Steamers are giving a great gift to the community just by being here and that the church is happy to return the favor.

"What I tell people is that there are so many average-size towns that aren't blessed with the good fortune to have a team like the Steamers," Mizell said. "We (church) want to do everything we can to help them stay."

In return for the meals the Life Groups from Open Door provide, the church has received a tangible gesture of thanks from the Steamers organization — their own sign above the scoreboard.

Steamers president Katy Ebersole said it's certainly well deserved.

"This is a tremendous thing they are doing," Ebersole said. She said that providing home-style cooking is in keeping with the Coastal Plain League's desire to see the players receive healthy meals.

Waterman's, a restaurant co-owned by Ebersole, was one of a few that provided food for the team. But they gladly handed off that responsibility to the church at the beginning of this season.

On Sunday night members of the Water's Edge, one of the 18 Life Groups at Open Door, were on hand to provide chicken salad

See **OPEN DOOR**, 2A

## Drug probe nets 2 arrests

From staff reports

A six-month investigation ended with law enforcement storming a South Oakum Street residence Monday where two were arrested on drug-related charges.

Charged were Marcellus Dequa White, 28, and Norman Lydell Ford, Jr., 37, according to Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin.

Ford, of Church Street, was found to have 19 grams of crack cocaine, Goodwin said.

He was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver, Goodwin said.

White, of the S. 103 Oakum Street residence, was charged with three counts of possession with intent to sell and deliver after he sold drugs to an undercover officer, Goodwin said.

Both men have lengthy criminal records, including drug activity, Goodwin said.

White's residence had become a target of investigation after neighbors frequently complained about suspicious offenses, Goodwin said. Neighbors said there was frequent traffic at the residence and people hanging out there day and night.

In conjunction with the sheriff's office, Edenton police and the N.C. Highway Patrol raided the residence around 2 p.m. with a search warrant, Goodwin said.



**Goodwin**

## Police charge three for selling counterfeit goods

Retailers say they are victims too

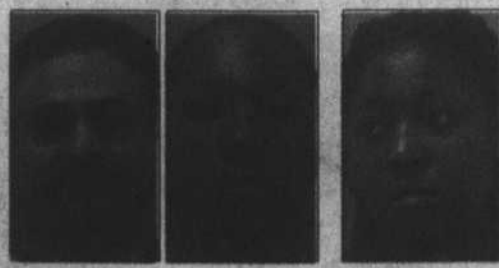
By **REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

Three Edenton business owners have been arrested for selling counterfeit merchandise. Authorities also seized nearly \$55,000 in

fake goods.

Edenton police charged retailers Shakita Necole Walton, 33, and Nakieva Varsha Stanley, 23, both of Edenton, and Harmeet Singh, 42, of Ahoskie, with felonious criminal use of counterfeit trademark for the possession and intent to resale. Police also seized handbags, shoes, sunglasses and jewelry.

Walton and Singh turned themselves in at the magistrate's office July 5; Stanley surrendered the following morning, records show. All three have been released from jail after posting a



**Singh Stanley Walton**

\$5,000 bond. Walton is the owner of the Handbag Diva on 210 East Eden Street; Singh owns the X-Mart at 711 North Broad Street. Stanley's business, Kay's Handbags, at 806 North Broad Street.

Walton and Singh allege they too are victims.

Walton said her husband purchased the merchandise

via the Internet where the handbags were listed as authentic.

"Had we known there was a problem with those bags, we would have never ordered them," Walton said. "Who wants to open a new store and sell illegal

stuff."

Singh echoed the point.

"I bought my merchandise from a big market in Washington, D.C., from a business called Baba's Shoes and Footwear," Singh said. "I paid with a credit card and they charged me tax. I never thought I was doing anything wrong."

Singh, who moved here four years ago, admits stocking his store with the merchandise. "If I had thought I had done anything wrong, would I have put it (items) out here for everyone to see?"

Singh said the whole epi-

sode had left him feeling "embarrassed and humiliated." He added that he had fully cooperated with police and was "shocked" when he was arrested. He intends to plead not guilty in court, Singh said.

Stanley declined comment.

Police Chief Jay Fortenberry said an investigation began after his office received a tip that counterfeit goods were being sold at the respective retailers. With the assistance of a trademark investigator,

See **COUNTERFEIT**, 2A

