



Troubled students school forum's focus

Area gives input on school safety

By REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

EDENTON — The first in a series of statewide forums on school safety focused on identifying troubled students early and getting them the help they need.

The forum at the Edenton-Chowan campus of College of The Albemarle Tuesday night also cited the crucial role of school resource officers — law enforcement officers stationed at the state's high schools and some middle and elementary schools.

The forums are part of an initiative from Gov. Pat McCrory's newly launched Center for Safer Schools.

Kieran J. Shanahan, secretary of the N.C. Department of Public Safety, told the crowd in Edenton that making the state's schools safer will take vigilance and participation from parents, students, teachers and the community.

Much of the evening was devoted to hearing what residents from the region think will make schools safer.



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Kieran Shanahan, secretary of the NC Department of Public Safety, shakes hands with Aldona Vos, secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services at the Safer Schools Public Forum at the Edenton-Chowan Campus of College of The Albemarle, Tuesday.

"I am looking forward to hearing from you and hearing your ideas and receiving your feedback," Aldona Vos, secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, told the crowd of about 125 gathered for the event.

Wos said emotional well-being and mental health are critical to keeping students safe. DHHS is working closely with schools to recognize risk factors and early warning signs for people who might be violent, she said.

"At the end of the day it requires all of us to come together," Vos said.

The delegation of state officials joined Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Allan Smith and other staff on a tour of county schools Tuesday afternoon.

Edward "Sonny" Masso, chief operating officer of the N.C. Department of Public Safety, said state officials learned during the school tour that

See FORUM, 4A

OVER THE RAINBOW

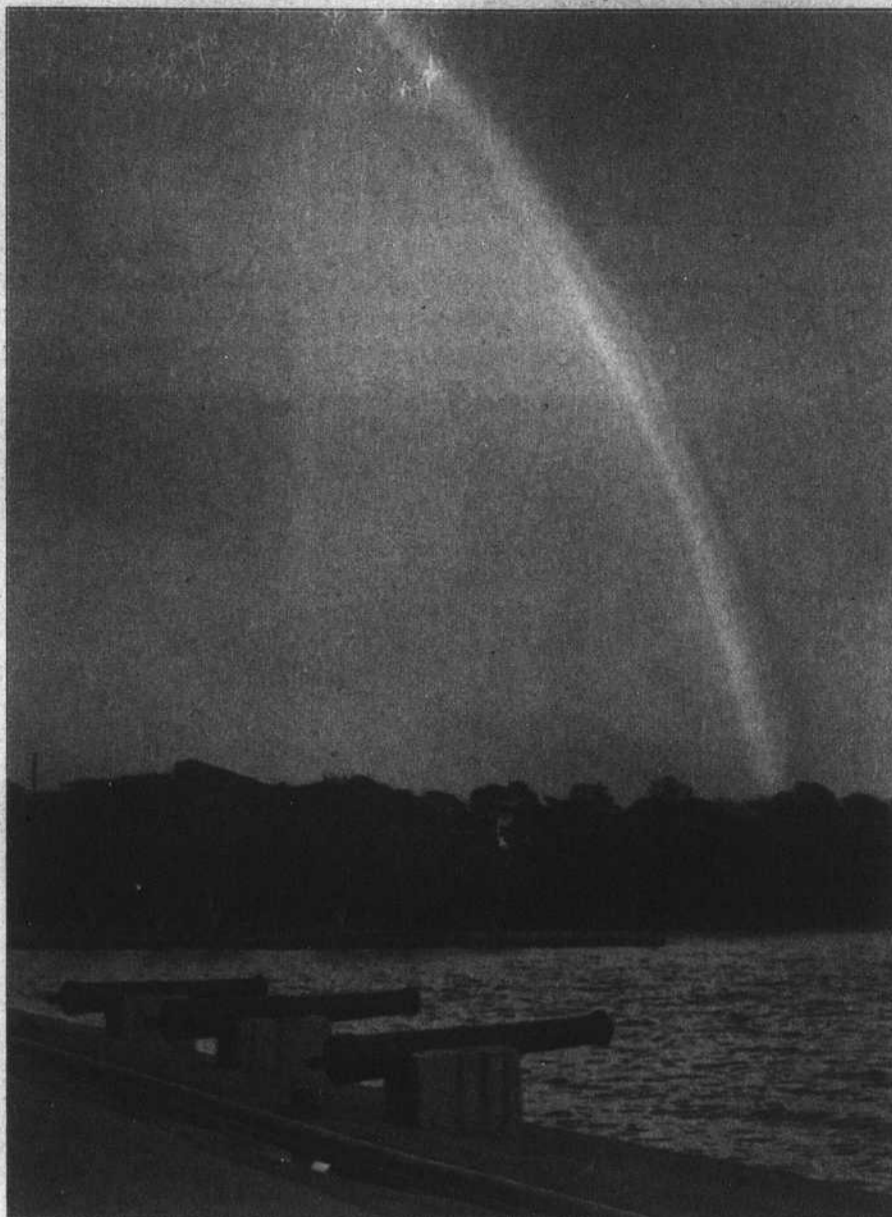


PHOTO BY JEFF KNOX

A rainbow graces the sky after showers brought cooler temperatures Friday afternoon.

NC's top court to meet in Chowan

Historic court session set for May 8

From staff reports

EDENTON — For the first time in nearly a decade, the N.C. Supreme Court will hold court in the state's oldest courthouse.

The state's top court is scheduled to hear arguments in three cases during a session set for May 8 in the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse in Edenton. The courthouse is the only site outside Raleigh where the court is allowed by state law to meet per 1995 legislation.

According to the Chowan Tourism Development Authority, the court will hear arguments in three cases: State v. Jones and White; HCW Retirement and Financial et al v. HCW Employee Benefit et al; and State v. Robert Lee Earl Joe.

The last time the Supreme Court met in the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse was Oct. 8, 2004.

The session in May coincides with the 300th anniversary of the town of Edenton's founding.

See COURT, 2A



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Metal scrappers aid embezzlement

Feds: Williams, Lozano helped Mann steal from bombing range

By WILLIAM F. WEST
Staff Writer

One Chowan County salvage and recycling business operator has pleaded guilty and another plans to plead guilty in connection with a six-year embezzlement scheme at the Dare County Bombing Range that federal prosecutors allege defrauded the U.S. government of millions of dollars.

John Williams, owner of Williams Recycling and Salvage, pleaded guilty April 9 to theft and conversion of government property as well as aiding and abetting the theft of government property, Don Connelly,

a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office, said. Williams will be sentenced on July 15, Connelly said.

Rudy Lozano, owner of R.L. Metals and Demolishing, plans to plead guilty to criminal wrongdoing on May 6, Connelly said.

Neither Lozano nor Williams were indicted, but instead faced what are called federal bills of information. Unlike an indictment, a bill of information is a charge not requiring a finding by a grand jury but is instead issued by a prosecutor.

Both salvage yard owners were implicated in a scheme that has resulted in criminal indictments against a Dare County man on

charges of theft and conversion of federal government property as well as conspiring to steal and convert government property. Harry C. Mann, of Manns Harbor, is scheduled to face the charges in U.S. District Court in Raleigh on April 24.

Reached by phone last week, Mann declined to comment on the charges.

Court documents show Lozano is represented by attorney Myron Hill Jr. of Greenville. Williams is represented by attorney Michael Sanders of Elizabeth City. Neither Hill nor Sanders could be reached for comment.

According to his federal indictment, Mann was employed as a

Navy civil service employee assigned to the Dare County Bombing Range. The bombing range, located in the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in Dare County, is used for target practice by Navy pilots.

In 2003, Mann was promoted to target range manager at the bombing range. According to the indictment, he was responsible for making sure facilities and targets at the range were in working order. His responsibilities also included making sure military equipment no longer needed by the Navy was properly disposed of.

See MANN, 2A

Pilgrimage will showcase 19 homes

Houses must be at least 100 years old

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

When people come to Edenton for the Biennial Pilgrimage, they are not coming just to see old houses, organizers say.

While each house on the tour must be at least 100 years old to qualify for inclusion, they are also home to someone's family. Those families, in a show of community spirit, have agreed to open their doors and share their homes with visitors.

That tradition will continue Friday and Saturday when the Pilgrimage takes place from 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Nineteen homes will be featured on the tour.

Sally Francis Kehayes, who led the effort on behalf

of the Edenton Woman's Club to recruit homeowners to participate, said she thinks that is what makes this particular tour so appealing to visitors.

"When people go on the Pilgrimage tour they are visiting a group of wonderful old houses that are not museums, silent and empty," Kehayes said. "They are the homes of living, breathing families who keep these houses alive."

Club president Nancy Schroeder said that for this tour that is taking place during Edenton's 300th anniversary celebration, the club has gone all out to create a memorable experience for visitors.

In addition to a tour that features a larger number of open homes — usually a dozen or so are included — special events including a vintage quilt show as well as

a fiber arts show and sale are planned, courtesy of the Chowan Arts Council. Those events will take place inside the 1767 Chowan Courthouse both days of the tour.

Pembroke Hall, one of the town's loveliest houses, will host an exhibit of antique clothing that belonged to the family of the late Elizabeth Vann Moore who was regarded by many in Edenton as the town's unofficial historian. Included in the exhibit will be an 1895 wedding gown and two ball gowns.

Also at Pembroke Hall will be a collection of antiques owned by a member of the Edenton Woman's Club and an exhibit from the North Carolina Museum of History. Michael Ausbon, an associate curator at the



CHOWAN HERALD FILE PHOTO

Tourgoers look at maps outside St. Paul's Episcopal Church where lunches will be provided this weekend. A special fish fry is also planned by the members of the Fannie A. Parker Women's Club.

See TOUR, 2A

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