

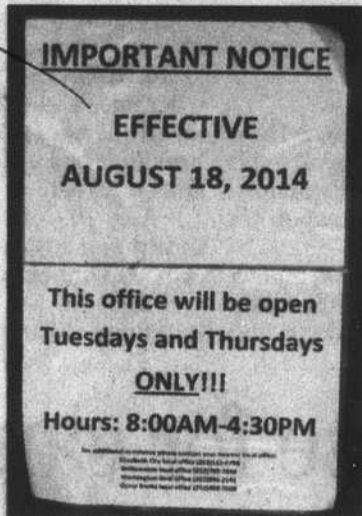


Madison Phillips has been designated as an honorary lighthouse keeper — 1B

## State cuts schedule at employment office

STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

This sign on the door at the Chowan ESC office informs the public of the change to a two-day-a-week schedule at the office.



From staff reports

The Chowan County Employment Security Commission office is now open only two days a week. The cutback from five days a week, which went into effect earlier this month, is a permanent cutback based on state-wide budget reductions, according to Graham H. Wilson, a spokesman for the N.C. Department of Commerce. "The division has been realigning its offices due to a reduction in funding," Wilson said. "The Division of Workforce Solutions had a reduction of about 25 percent in state and federal funding, totaling about \$25 million. State funding was reduced by about \$19.5 million."

### NEED HELP?

Customers who need assistance on days the local office is not open can visit the Elizabeth City office or call (252) 331-4798. Also, you can register for free with NCWorks Online ([www.ncworks.gov](http://www.ncworks.gov)) and search for jobs and training opportunities in their area.

Wilson explained that none of the office's employees have been laid off. Employees will work in Elizabeth City when they are not working in Chowan County. There were three employees assigned to Edenton-Chowan County. All three will now work in Elizabeth City on a regular basis and some will come back to

Edenton to provide services on the days that office is open.

Wilson said the Chowan office serves a smaller population than other offices in the area. "The Division of Workforce Solutions believes that excellent customer service can be provided to the residents of Chowan County on a part-time basis," Wilson said. Customers who need assistance on days the local office is not open can visit the Elizabeth City office or call (252) 331-4798. Wilson said customers also can register for free with NCWorks Online ([www.ncworks.gov](http://www.ncworks.gov)) and search for jobs and training opportunities in their area.

## SCHOOLS ENJOY SMOOTH FIRST DAY

### Officials eye staffing in light of budget cuts

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

All four schools in the Edenton-Chowan school district reported a remarkably smooth first day of school on Monday.

Attendance at John A. Holmes High School was 649. Current enrollment on Monday was 670 — up slightly from the end of last year.

The enrollment at D.F. Walker was 461 and Monday's attendance was 448. The enrollment at the end of last year was 464.

White Oak Elementary School had 22 absent Monday from an enrollment of 621. The school had 617 students enrolled at the end of last year.

Chowan Middle School's enrollment is 532. The enrollment at the end of last year was 538.

There were 21 absent Monday.

"That's very good," Chowan Middle Principal Tanya Turner said of the first-day attendance.

Turner said she expects more students to enroll during the next couple of weeks.

"I really think this is one of our best openings," Turner said.

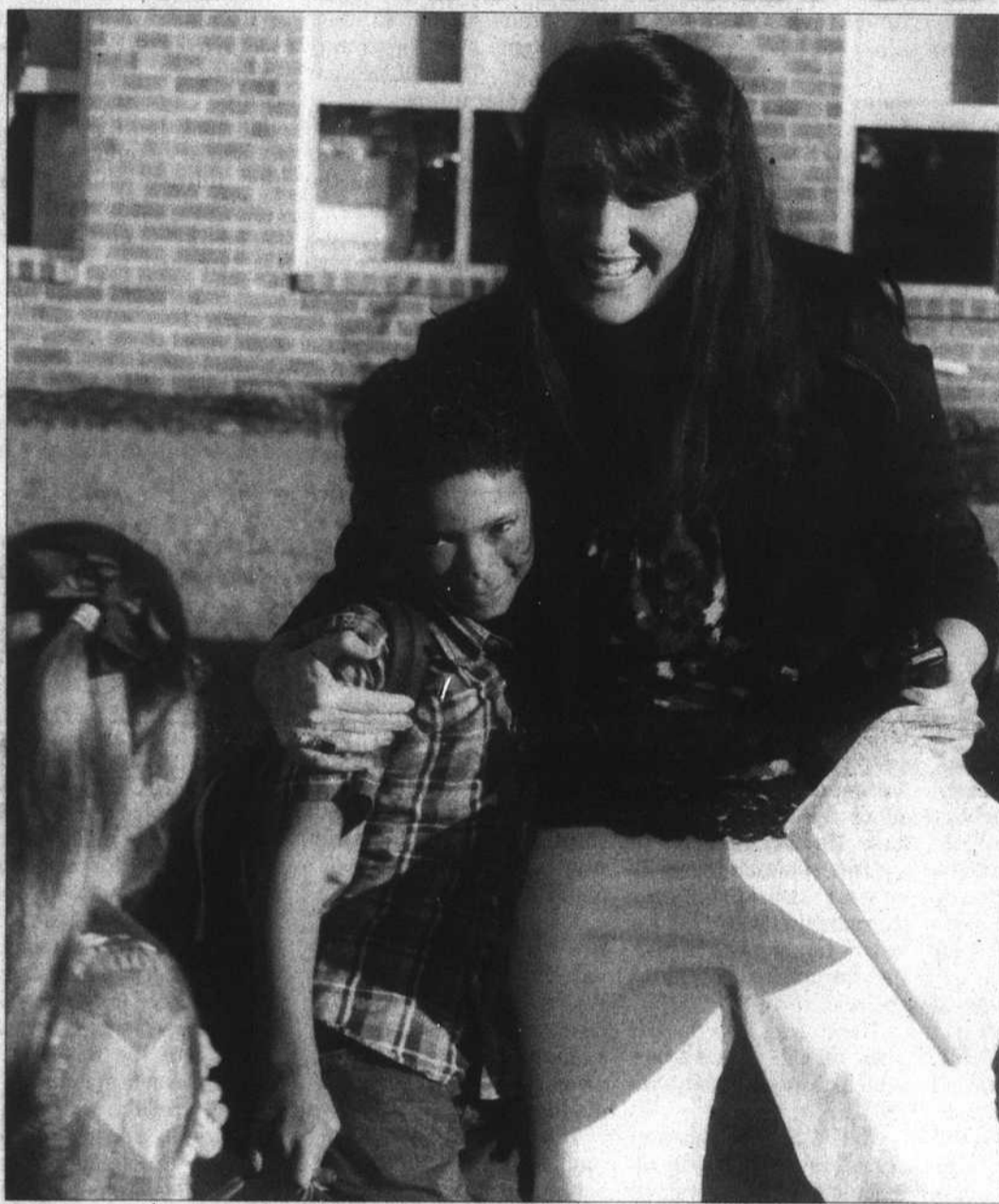
Superintendent Rob Jackson agreed with Turner's assessment — one that was echoed by other principals in the school district.

"Today was an incredible day," Jackson said.

The superintendent said he got into almost every single classroom Monday, where he "saw teachers teaching and students learning."

Like several of the

See FIRST DAY, 4A



White Oak Principal Michelle White hugs second-grader Ayden Hall, 8, while greeting students Monday morning on the first day of school.

STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

D.F. Walker Principal Jamie Bowers celebrates a smooth first day of school next to the school's welcome-back banner in the main lobby.

## Trial in 2004 slaying set for October

From staff reports

The re-trial of William Joseph Moore in the stabbing death of a Chowan County woman a decade ago has been scheduled for Oct. 13 in Chowan County Superior Court.

Moore is charged in the August 2004 stabbing death of Pamela Joye Virzi. He was 46 at the time. Virzi was 47 at the time of her death.

Moore was sentenced to death in 2006. In an unusual turn of events at that time, Moore pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and represented himself in the sentencing phase of the trial. He told the court he was leaving his fate in the hands of the jury.

The N.C. Supreme Court overturned Moore's death sentence in 2008 and ordered a new trial.

The Supreme Court ruled that the trial court had not made an adequate termination that Moore's decision to waive counsel had been made "knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily."

Elizabeth City attorney H.P. Williams has been assigned as special prosecutor on the case.

The case had been on the Chowan docket on Aug. 18 for administrative purposes — to hear any remaining pre-trial motions — but those motions will be heard Oct. 13 since the trial judge was recovering from surgery on Aug. 18, according to court officials.

See 2004 MURDER, 4A

## Town pushing pedestrian, bicycle safety

After information blitz, police will crack down on jaywalking and other safety violations

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Although an educational campaign on pedestrian and bicycle safety will come first, local police ultimately plan to crack down on safety law violations — including jaywalking — as part of Edenton's participation in the state's Watch for Me NC 2014 campaign.

The town will partner with the N.C. Department of Transportation to raise public awareness concerning pedestrian and bicycle safety through the program.

Capt. Tim Hickman of the Edenton Police Department briefed the town council Monday night during its monthly work session on the educational component and benefits of the campaign. He said that following an education effort, enforcement of existing laws would follow.

"We'll be going out and watching the crosswalks for violators," Hickman said.

Hickman said that pedestrians — and bicyclists — would also be educated about what they're required to do. He also pointed out that those who jaywalk rather than stand at one of the downtown crosswalks and then walk across the street to the other side are in violation of the law even though it is a

See SAFETY, 4A

## The Chowan Herald: Hometown stories for 80 years

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The little weekly newspaper started by two journeymen printers, J. Edwin "Buff" Bufflap and Hector "Hec" Lupton, turns 80 this week.

The very first of the Chowan Herald was mailed from the Edenton Post Office on Aug. 30, 1934.

Bufflap served as the first editor/publisher while Lupton oversaw advertising sales for the paper. Bufflap's "Heard & Seen By Buff" column was one of the paper's most popular features.

It was not the town's first newspaper — there were several others, including the Edenton Daily News, where Buff and Hec worked. But it was the Herald, the paper they started together all those years ago, that lasted.

In the years in between, the Herald has gone through nu-

merous changes in ownership and equipment.

For decades, typesetting of the paper was done by Buff and later Pete Manning, who eventually became the paper's publisher.

In a May, 1998 interview he gave Herald columnist Les Bell, Manning recalled how he had hated to give up the machine even after computerized typesetting had essentially replaced it.

The day the linotype was replaced by electronic typesetting? Feb. 19, 1991.

Manning, having finally yielded to the insistence of then-publisher J.P. Huskins that he get rid of the machine, which was hogging prime floor space in the Herald's commercial print shop, tried unsuccessfully to find a buyer.

"My feeling when I had to destroy it? Nostalgic. It represented the most pleasant memories of my life," Manning told Bell, who included the interview in his book, "As I See It: Collected Columns from the

See HERALD, 4A



## Indian Summer Festival - Historic Hertford

CRAFTS, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, BEER GARDEN & MORE

Free Street Dance Friday Night - The Rhondels

Sept. 5th, 6 to 10:00 p.m.  
Sept. 6th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.