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Miller honored as Teacher of Excellence — 6B

Chief: Parents must make kids wear helmets

Organizations sought to support bicycle helmet giveaways

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

As the Oct. 1 deadline nears for the Edenton Police Department to start writing tickets for parents of children seen riding bicycles in town without helmets nears, Chief Jay Fortenbery is making one last effort to warn them.

"Starting Oct. 1, we will begin

issuing town tickets for \$10 the first time one of our officers observes a child riding a bicycle in town without wearing a helmet," he said. "The next time the same child is seen riding a bicycle without hearing a helmet, the parents of that child will be issued a citation at the state level. And every other time that child is seen by one of our officers not wearing a helmet another citation will be issued."

If parents ignore the citations

and don't pay them, he said, they could wind up in court.

Children seen not wearing helmets, the chief said, will be stopped and asked to give the police officer the home address and name of their parents or legal guardian.

The town ordinance governing the wearing of helmets reads as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any parent or legal guardian of a person below the age of 16 to knowingly

permit that person to operate or be a passenger on a bicycle unless at all times when the person is so engaged he or she wears a protective bicycle helmet of good fit fastened securely upon the head with the straps of the helmet."

Chief Fortenbery said the helmets are available for as little as \$10. He added that in recent years his department has given away numerous bicycle helmets yet children continue to be seen riding bicycles without one.

During a recent town council meeting Councilman Steve Biggs called for tougher enforcement of the existing laws, saying he was troubled by the number of kids in the community that he still saw not wearing the required helmets.

Biggs pointed out that children not wearing the helmets continue to be seriously injured every day in communities across the state. He encouraged the local police

See MUST WEAR, 4A

NEIGHBORLY CONCERN LEADS TO SHELTER FOR BUS RIDERS

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Common threads of community goodwill and concern for others have resulted in the construction of a bus shelter beside the X-Mart — also known as the Red Apple — on North Broad Street.

The shelter was constructed by Alonzo Slade and George Grother of Edenton. Slade, brother of the late Dr. James Slade, said he frequently rides buses and thought it would be a good idea for some sort of shelter to be at the site to give people temporary relief during inclement weather as they waited to board a bus.

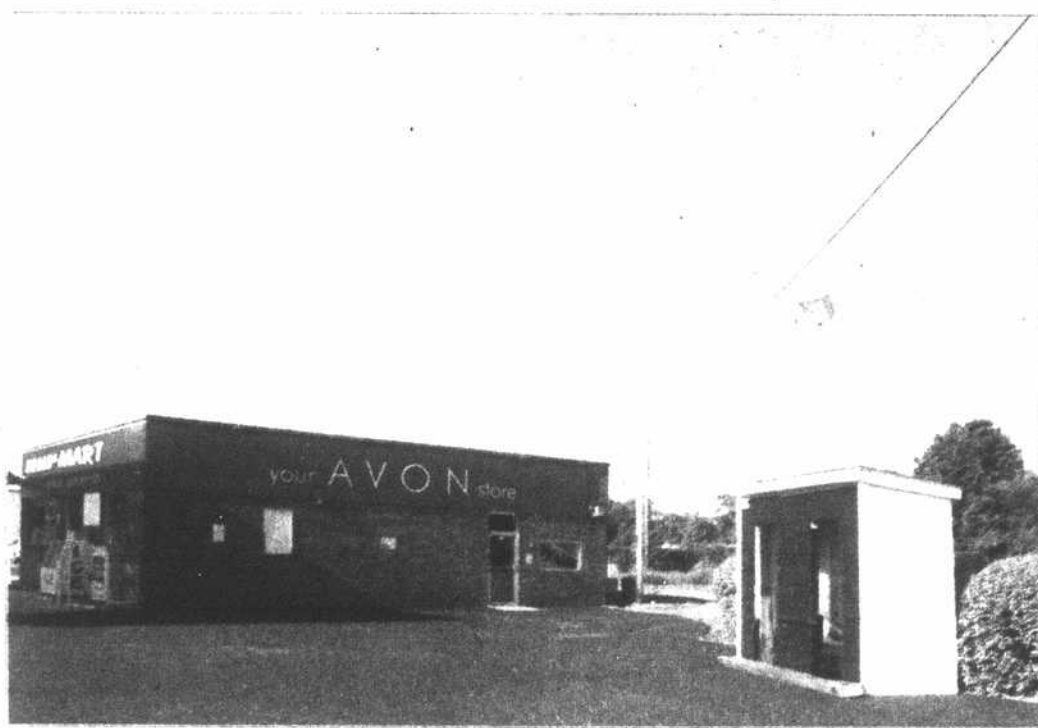
He shared his idea with a fellow Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity volunteer, George Grother, who offered to help him with the project.

While on a trip with a group of other senior citizens, Slade said, he learned from Dr. Emma Bonner, a member of the local Racial Reconciliation group, that its members had also been discussing the need for such a structure during a meeting that was attended by Town Councilman Steve Biggs.

Biggs confirmed that he had talked with the group about their idea and had asked Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton for assistance with the matter.

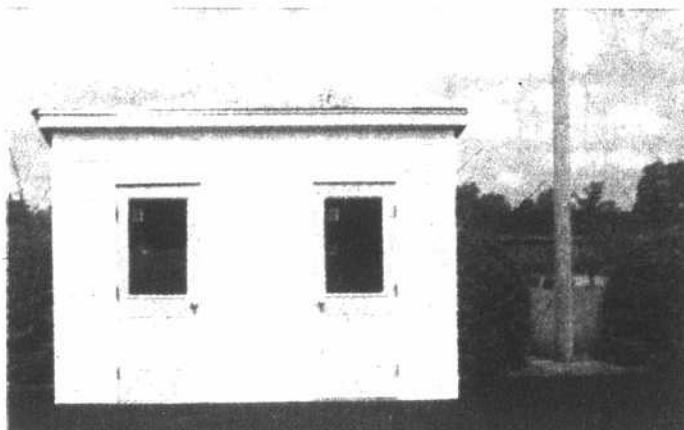
"I didn't do that much, just made a phone call," Biggs said, adding that he was happy to have had a hand in moving the process along.

Slade said he paid for the materials he and Grother used and that they worked on



The partially completed bus shelter at right stands in place adjacent to the Red Apple and Avon on North Broad Street.

PHOTO BY BILL MILLER



The completed bus safety shelter stands ready for use by bus passengers waiting to board or being dropped off in inclement weather.

STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

the project this summer starting early in the morning and working until early afternoon when the heat became too intense to continue. Exterior

work at the shelter was finished Friday.

He said that they put up the enclosed building and the town put up two lights to

shine down on the shelter and provide security.

Slade said that he and Grother decided to enclose the building to protect bus passengers from the elements during bad weather and that the keys were given to the manager of the X-Mart. According to Slade, X-Mart employees are to open the shelter 30 minutes before buses arrive and lock the doors again once buses have departed.

"I'm glad it's done and I do hope people will utilize it," Slade said.

Grother said that despite the discomfort he and Slade endured as a result of the heat he was glad to have been involved too.

See BUS SHELTER, 4A

Grad rate rises, other indicators lag

BY CORRINE SAUNDERS
The Daily Advance

The five-year graduation rate for John A. Holmes High dipped slightly last school year while the four-year rate improved.

Meanwhile, state school report cards issued last week pinned Cs and Ds on the four schools in the Edenton-Chowan system.

Statewide, the four-year and five-year cohort graduation rates for 2014-15 were 85.4 percent and 86.2 percent, respectively. Cohort refers to the group of students who begin high school in the same year and complete their graduation requirements in the same amount of time.

IN A RELATED STORY

Schools striving for max graduation rates — 3A

Edenton-Chowan Schools' four-year graduation rate of 82.2 percent was not far below the state average of 85.4 percent. The district's five-year graduation rate of 81.9 percent was also less than the state's 86.2 percent. That rate was also less than the year before, when the district's five-year cohort graduation rate was 84.3 percent.

The district's four-year rate did show improvement from 2013-14, however. According to district spokeswoman Michelle Maddox, the four-year rate that year was 78.9 percent.

The State Board of Education on Sept. 2 released annual school report cards, which for years have provided detailed information on

See RATE RISES, 4A

Honors strength training up for consideration

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Students waiting to see if the school board will back a proposed honors-level strength training class will have to wait a little longer.

The board decided after some animated discussion at its Sept. 1 monthly meeting to ask that the proposal be returned to the high school for further consideration. John A. Holmes Principal Steve Wood brought the proposal to the board.

Wood described the proposal as "a course within a course," noting that students who enrolled would find skills in writing and math reinforced in the class too.

"Student-centered learning strategies appropriate for this course are research projects, weight training plans, and evaluation of technique," the plan reads. "Students will be directed by (their) teacher but will conduct most projects on their own while receiving feedback from the instructor."

Wood pointed out that allowing these students to do honors level work would allow them to find out what would be expected of them at the college level. He added that the proposed curriculum would include "extensive assignments including research papers, charts and graphs, and weight lifting plans. Students will also regularly act as evaluators and teachers to other students in their class."

But school board members declined to take action on the plan after learning the honors committee at Holmes had not reviewed it. Guard, a retired educator, said he felt it was vital for the

See TRAINING, 4A

Family acrobatic troupe to headline fair

From staff reports

Headlining the entertainment offerings at this year's Chowan County Regional Fair will be a highly sought after family acrobatic troupe.

The Hansens are booked up for three years in advance, but the Chowan Regional Fair was able to get them this year because of a cancellation in the group's schedule that coincided with the dates of the local fair, according to fair organizers.

Hansen's Spectacular consists of Shane and Alecia Hansen and their three daughters — Olivia, 11;

Madison, 9; and Ella, 5.

The fair will be Sept. 22-26 at the American Legion Post 40 Fairgrounds on West Queen Street in Edenton.

See TROUPE, 4A



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PHOTO COURTESY HANSENS SPECTACULAR

Though only 5-years-old, Ella Hansen takes a back seat to no one in the Hansens Spectacular acrobatics show. The show is coming to the Chowan County Regional Fair. The fair begins Sept. 22.

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Friday, September 11th at 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
EUMC Community Life Center, 225 Virginia Rd. • \$8.00 donation per plate **EAT IN OR TAKE OUT**