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Wednesday, March 27, 2019

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Ex-official suggests review of prison agency

State committee hears from former prison director

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

RALEIGH — A retired top prison administrator offered recommendations to the Senate Select Committee on Prison Safety led by state Sen. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan.

During a recent hearing,

the committee listened to Boyd Bennett, director of Prisons from 2001-2009, share three ideas about how to reform the state's prison system. The committee was formed as part of the state's continued response to the slayings of five correctional employees at prisons in Bertie and Pasquotank counties in 2017.

"I am concerned about the Division of Prisons' safety issues and deeply troubled

about the death of staff at Bertie and Pasquotank correctional institutions," said Bennett, who worked for the prison system for 36 years. "I want to offer whatever ideas I can to help improve prison safety."

Bennett recommended that an organizational review of the Division of Prisons be conducted to determine whether it should continue to be part of the Department of Public Safe-

ty. From 1957 until 2012, corrections was a separate cabinet-level agency headed by the governor with its most senior management promoted from within the system.

"I thought the merger of the Department of Corrections into the Department of Public Safety was a mistake, and now I feel it was even more of a mistake," Bennett said. "Corrections in North Carolina has become

a mega agency with the focus on law enforcement. Extra layers of management have been added between the prison superintendent/warden and the secretary of the agency. Prison issues were not getting the attention they deserved, particularly custody and security issues."

Bennett said in 46 states, the department of corrections is a standalone agency, so he recommended return-

ing management of the prison system to a cabinet level agency.

"I recommend pulling prisons, community corrections and juvenile justice out of the Department of Public Safety and forming a cabinet level agency focused on corrections," he said.

Bennett's second recommendation is to review the levels of management

See PRISON, 2A

Chief Bass proposes program

Junior Firefighters to address future needs

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

Edenton Town Council's work session Monday provided some insight into several things the group will consider in the weeks ahead.

First, Edenton Fire Chief Billy Bass proposed the creation of a Junior Firefighter program to potentially augment the firefighter ranks in the future. He noted that fewer people from across the state volunteer to serve their local fire departments, so steps must be taken to preserve this vital service.

Bass said across the state, at least 36 programs allow high school upperclassmen a chance to learn about what it takes to be a firefighter. Students, who complete these courses and receive certifications, could assist fire departments in a limited fashion in ways that would not endanger them.

If a Junior Firefighter program is put in place, Aces' students like 16-year-old Landon Parrish, who attended Monday's council meeting with his dad, Wayne, a firefighter, could put on a helmet and serve the community as a first responder.

Bass said the program would cost \$5,000 — money that could come from the town's coffers, state grant money and/or sup-

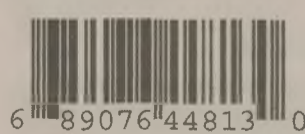
See PROGRAM, 2A



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Sweep Chowan takes aim at litter

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

Now that spring is underway, it's time to clean up Chowan County.

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the town of Edenton, Chowan County, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation to help coordinate the "Sweep Chowan" litter clean up of the roadsides throughout Chowan County. The event started March 20 and lasts through April 30. The activity has its own hashtag — #sweepchowan.

"We're targeting the streets of Edenton and the county," said Chamber Executive Director Win Dale during a presentation Monday to Edenton Town Council. "I'm sure all of you are aware of the issues with litter and trash on the roadsides — it's terrible."

Dale noted that the county's peak tourist season is around the corner with events such as the Pilgrimage, Boogie on Broad and Cycle NC visiting town.

"We're going to try to clean all the roadsides and exits that we can," he said. "One the main things we are going to concentrate on first is the main thoroughfares and entrances into the com-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Employees with Carolina East Real Estate participated in Clean Sweep, hosted by the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, Town of Edenton, Chowan County and North Carolina Department of Transportation. It is being held March 20-April 30.

munity. Then we'll spread our wings and go out from there."

The Chamber is seeking businesses, civic groups, nonprofits, churches,

schools, families, and individuals.

See LITTER, 2A

Beer, fun on tap at Hertford business

Hertford Bay Tap House opens on West Grubb Street

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Maybe it's been a long day spent "Working for the Man" as Roy Orbison might sing, so it's time to head down the place where everyone knows your name — Hertford Bay Tap House.

Whether or not it's 5 o'clock somewhere, it's definitely time to buy a pint or two of craft beer — the

good stuff — poured from one of 12 taps with brand names common to folks in our neck of the woods. To name a few, maybe ask for cold glass of Mango Tango, Ghost Harbor or Pitt Street. The prices are reasonable — about \$5 or so a pint — definitely not the wacked-out, eye-rolling prices seen in some of Raleigh's taverns. Domestic bottles flow around \$3 and change.

Located at 107 W. Grubb Street, the Hertford Bay Tap

See BEER, 3A



MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Wednesday is hump day, but the weekend is around the corner. Day doesn't matter because it's 5 o'clock somewhere so maybe head down to the Hertford Bay Tap House for a craft beer, a good conversation and to unwind.

Newspaper wins nine press awards

From Staff Reports

The North Carolina Press Association handed out nine press awards Thursday to news and advertising staff from Chowan Herald.

The Adams Publishing Group region that also includes The Daily Advance and The Perquimans Weekly won a total of 18 awards.

Among the winners, ad-

vertising account representative Bev Alexander took eight individual awards for entries in the N.C. Press Association Advertising Contest.

Also, Miles Layton of the Chowan Herald won three



LAYTON



ALEXANDER

individual awards.

The awards for the 2018 Editorial and Advertising Contests were announced

during the N.C. Press Association's Annual Winter Convention and Awards

Banquet held at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley convention center.

Alexander took four first-place, three second-place and one third-place awards. Those included six awards for entries from the Chowan Herald and one each for entries from The Daily Advance and The Perquimans

See AWARDS, 3A

Regulator Marine adds 64 jobs

Company receives \$320K grant from state agency

From Submitted Reports

Local officials gathered March 19 at Regulator Marine so Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan could present the company with a building reuse grant program check for \$320,000 from North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority.

Regulator invested more than \$4 million and pledged to use the grant money to create at least 32 new jobs. Instead, as was celebrated at the check presentation, Regulator created twice as many jobs for a total of 64 new jobs. The company now employs 234 craftsmen building boats sold and used around the country and abroad.

The grant came through the Town of Edenton, and the Edenton Chowan Partnership provided the required matching funds. As Vaughan noted during the presentation, "it was typical of the Maxwells to create twice as many jobs as required by the grant." He also noted "that the quality boat pro-

See JOBS, 4A

Coleman to seek seat on council

Fourth to announce plans to run in election

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

Roger Coleman announced his candidacy for the Edenton Town Council at-large seat on Saturday in front of a big crowd at Nothin' Fancy Cafe. Active in civic affairs, Coleman retired recently as Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry director.

"I know that some of you are thinking why would anyone leave a job where 99 percent of the people like you and take one, if 51 percent of the

See COLEMAN, 4A

Fill the Food Pantry Fundraiser Dinner
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019 6-8pm
NOTHING FANCY CAFE & MARKET 701 N. Broad St. Edenton, NC

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Albermarle
 SALAD BAR, POTATO BAR, SANDWICH BAR, DESSERT BAR, NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS, CASH BEER & WINE BAR.
 • \$20.00 in Advance
 • \$25 At The Door
 Tickets available at Nothing Fancy Cafe
GREAT CAUSE!
 All of proceeds go to the Food Pantry's Book Bag Buddies Program for Children in Chowan County.