

Around Charlotte

News of note

Applications are now available for seats on several county boards including:

Area Clients Rights Committee, Adult Care Advisory Committee, Alcoholic Beverage Control, Board of Motor Vehicles and Review, Centralina Development Corp., CMUD Advisory Committee, Community Relations, Historic Landmarks, Housing and Development, Human Services Council, Jury Commission, Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee and Register of Deeds.

For an application, call the office of the Clerk to the Board of County Commission, 336-2559. The application deadline is June 6 at 5 p.m.

United Family Services will begin an eight week series for people experiencing the end of a relationship. Groups will meet each Thursday from June 5-July 31 at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1000 W. Morehead St. For more information, call Gary Hyndman at 332-9034, extension 3033. Cost is \$90.

The Metrolina AIDS Project raised \$100,000 with its Guess Who's Coming to Dinner fund raiser. The event, held May 17, brought together more than 4,500 people who sampled desserts from more than 50 local restaurants. Dinners were hosted by more than 200 individuals.

Thursday

"Empower to the Sistahs," 6:45 p.m., the Bethlehem Center,

2705 Baltimore Ave. Includes workshops on domestic violence, confidence, beauty and the affects of violence. For more information, 336-4275 or 336-6650. Free.

Robbery Prevention Seminar, 8:30 a.m. at Police Headquarters, 601 East Trade St. Topics include robbery prevention, investigation and a panel discussion with security experts. To register, call 336-2310.

Sleep disorders seminar, 7 p.m. Presbyterian Hospital Matthews Community Room. For more information, call 384-7100.

Friday

Brisbane Academy, 5901 Statesville Road, will hold gradu-

ation and awards exercises at 9 a.m.

Tuesday

The American Business Women's Association-Independence Chapter will host "June Fling" at the Holiday Inn Independence. Dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. For dinner reservations, call Chris Colvin at 552-0800.

Due to a change in printers, the deadline for Around Charlotte will change to **12:00pm on Mondays JUNE 15.**

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Chicken pox makes comeback in adults

By A J Dickerson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT - Some kids see chicken pox as a chance to stay home from school for a few days.

But the highly contagious disease can kill children and is especially dangerous to adults, say researchers at a national vaccination conference.

A chicken pox vaccine on the market since 1995 is effective, but its impact can't yet be measured, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention epidemiologist Dr. Jane Seward said last week at the agency's annual vaccination conference.

Studies of an inner city neigh-

borhood in Philadelphia found the hospitalization rate for chicken pox complications was seven times greater than expected. Nationally, there are between 5,000 and 9,000 hospitalizations.

Also released Wednesday were early results of a study under way in Travis County, Texas. It found 1996 cases of chicken pox were highest among children age 4 and younger, 57.8 percent.

Traditionally, chicken pox is a disease children get when they start school, Seward said. In the Texas study, 33.1 percent of the cases were among 5- to 9-year-olds.

Researchers wonder if the

results suggest that children are catching the disease at younger ages because they are being exposed in day-care, she said.

The Texas study also showed a sharp drop in cases in 1996 from the year before, but Seward said that's because the disease is cyclic. A year with a high number of cases is generally followed by a year with fewer cases.

A study at an Atlanta day care center found vaccinated children were less likely to contract chicken pox.

About 6 million doses of the vaccine have been given since March 1995, said the company that makes it, Merck & Co Inc.

About 4 million cases of chicken pox occur annually.

Still, the percentage of children who have received the vaccine remains low, said Barbara Reynolds of the CDC. The goal is to have a 90 percent childhood vaccination rate by the year 2000, she said.

Seward said anyone who isn't already immune to the disease should get vaccinated.

Adults older than age 20 accounted for about 1 million of an estimated 20 million chicken pox cases between 1990 and 1994, but 282 out of 521 deaths, CDC figures show.

Safer, no-needle vaccinations coming

By A J Dickerson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT - Vaccination shots may soon not use needles.

Several companies are developing devices that use air pressure or carbon dioxide for injections, rather than needles, said Dr. Bruce G. Weniger, an assistant chief in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Immunization Program.

"It uses high pressure to squirt a very fine jet of liquid through the skin, using a hole that's much tinier than the size of a hypodermic needle," he said Tuesday.

The jet injectors could help solve two big problems. One of them is children's fear when a nurse comes at them with a needle.

"They scream and yell," Weniger said.

A second problem stems from nurses or others who accidentally

poke themselves after poking someone else with a needle.

"Each year in the United States there are approximately 800,000 cases in which health care workers accidentally get stuck by a needle after they inject a patient," Weniger said.

A few counties across the nation are using the technology, one of them near his home in Georgia. Weniger recently took his 9-year-old daughter to a county clinic to get vaccine with an injector.

"When she saw there was no needle, she relaxed. But there was a little disappointment afterward when she found the pain was not completely gone," he said.

Bioject Inc. has had a jet injector on the market since 1993. North Carolina is using it for public health injections, said Mary Gardner, product manager for the Portland, Ore., company.

The injections don't feel like a needle but are "a quick sting,"

said Bioject employee Vivian Segarra.

Jet injector technology is decades old.

But with previous generations, there were concerns about the devices possibly passing diseases between patients, said Weniger and Dr. Robert Chen, chief of vaccine safety and development activity for the National Immunization Program.

Also, some versions are too costly for a typical doctor's office, Chen said.

But jet injectors are being used. "Militaries around the world use them," Weniger said. "You can vaccinate hundreds of people in a hour. And you avoid the huge mountain of needles and syringes to dispose of."

Jet injectors are among possible new technologies being discussed at the CDC's annual immunization conference.

Vet says graduation 'anticlimatic'

Continued from 10A

took night classes and enrolled in summer school to get his diploma.

"It was anti-climatic," he said. "Graduation was almost canceled because only 19 people were graduating."

With diploma in hand, he enlisted in the Army and was

stationed in Texas. His first major assignment was the Persian Gulf War.

After the war, a series of health problems plagued the young man. His hands became dry, cracked and bled, leaving him unable to work as a mechanic on the AH-64 attack helicopters,

known as the Apache.

In 1995, he decided against re-enlisting, after serving in the Army for six years. At that time, Hensley had other priorities. He had married in 1992 and his wife, Jeannie, was pregnant with their son, Ryan, now 2 years old.

"I didn't want to raise my family in the military," he said.

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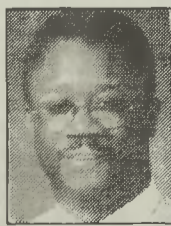
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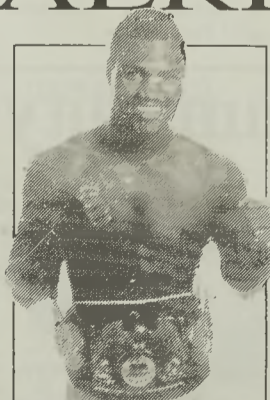
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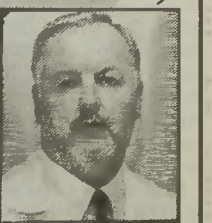
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