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Excess chemical levels found in water

No immediate health risks are associated with the violations

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The Town of Edenton is expecting to receive two violation notices for exceeding contamination levels in the town's drinking-water supply in the near future.

Fred Hill, regional supervisor for the state Division of Environmental Health's Public Water Supply division, said that the high levels of trihalomethanes (TTHMs) occurred in late 2005. Both Hill and Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that TTHM does not pose an immediate health threat.

"It's not going to be an imminent health risk or hazard," Hill said Tuesday. "But it is a long-term concern."

Hill also said the state is not likely to impose any fines upon the town for the contamination, which occurs during the process

of adding a disinfectant, in this case chlorine, into the drinking-water system.

"They're being very proactive with us," Hill said. "The town has always been very cooperative."

Hill also said that in this case of contamination, chlorine likely reacted with organic materials in the water supply, causing the raised levels of TTHM.

"In Eastern North Carolina," he said, "it's relatively common."

Hill said that tests indicate that the TTHM levels were low in the first and second quarters of 2006. A reading of 80 micrograms per liter is

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"May 15 was as bad a deadline for Medicare as April 15 is for taxes."

-Shari Farless, Chowan County 'SHIIP' Coordinator



Cole Johnstone/The Chowan Herald

Clerk Karen Smith assists Bud Sowers, who is picking up prescription medication from Blount's Drugstore in downtown Edenton. Monday night was the deadline to select a new prescription insurance plan without penalty.

As Medicare enrollment deadline passes, anxiety lingers for some

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Many Chowan County's seniors can breathe a sigh of relief following the Medicare prescription drug plan enrollment, which concluded on Monday at midnight; while conflicting information still confuses others about their options under the voluminous new Federal act.

Since November 15, Shari Farless, Senior Health Insurance Information Program Coordinator for Chowan County (SHIIP), has assisted over 250 local seniors with enrollment in the specific program that best suits their individual needs.

Edenton resident and AARP member Bill Miller has also been working with local residents to help them sign up for the programs. Certain programs, Miller said, cover prescriptions for some medicines that a person may be taking, but possibly not others, which makes it imperative to choose wisely when signing up for a plan. And with 40 programs offered in North Carolina, the decision-making process potentially could be confusing, Miller said Monday.

"There has been a good response as far as getting people to enroll in a program that fits their needs," Farless said Tuesday. "Many of my clients came to me through doctors' referrals. There have been very few who have not shown up for their appointments. They (have shown up) on time, prepared,

and knowing which program they think will work for them. Many came in with their adult children so they too could understand what is going on. I feel that most (people) left with a plan they are happy with. My goal was to help find them a reputable plan that would do exactly what it specified whether it was a state or national plan, one with a deductible or one without. They got to choose which plan they wanted and I feel confident that most of them are happy with their choice. If not, then they can always come back and switch to another plan."

Seniors were required to enroll in a Medicare drug plan by Monday in order to avoid a 1 percent monthly penalty for every month not enrolled. Medicare beneficiaries who missed Monday's deadline cannot sign up with a program begins November 15 for coverage starting in January. Those who have met the deadline, however, but find they are not satisfied with their coverage may switch their drug plan program without penalty, unless specified by the company.

"The biggest concern a lot of my clients have expressed was that they feel they are being forced into a drug plan," Farless said. "I explained to them that they are not going into a contract with the government, but one with an insurance agency. The second biggest concern my clients had was over how they

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Teacher questioned following incident at restaurant

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

A local teacher has been questioned with respect to alleged inappropriate behavior involving a female student. The incident reportedly occurred over the weekend at an Edenton restaurant.

The teacher, whom school and police officials have declined to identify, is part of a probe being conducted by the Edenton Police Department.

No charges had been filed against the teacher by press time Tuesday.

School officials declined to say whether or not the teacher had been suspended, but Superintendent Allan Smith indicated Tuesday that the teacher had been removed from classroom duties.

"Until the investigation is complete," Smith said in a written statement provided to *The Chowan Herald*, "the person in question is not assigned to any duties requiring his presence on any of the Edenton-Chowan Schools campuses, nor contact with any students or staff."

"Of course, the safety of the students is our top priority," Smith added.

Det. Sgt. Rhonda Copeland said Monday that the teacher's home computer was taken to a State Bureau Investigation lab Monday. Copeland said results of the SBI tests were not complete.

"They're having to try to recover some files," Copeland said, adding that police did not have to obtain a warrant to seize the computer.

"He gave consent," she said. SBI officials said it would take "a day or two" to complete the tests, Copeland said.

The teacher reportedly approached the teen-aged student, whom officials have also

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Contact us

Call 482-4418



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Allen Renz

Gena Harrell, ACS Supervisor Scholarship recipient, and Brenda Newbern, Relay Registration Chairperson, release butterflies as part of the opening ceremonies. Harrell emotionally thanked the crowd for their contributions and support during her difficult cancer treatments. The butterfly release was sponsored by Woodard's Pharmacy in Hertford.

Relay for Life a time for sharing tears, laughter for a good cause

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Whether it was for their sister, brother, mother, father, grandparents, friends or even for a complete stranger, hundreds of people from Chowan and Perquimans counties spent this past weekend at the annual American Cancer Society's Relay for Life raising awareness and money to help battle the deadly disease. So far \$116,926 of the \$140,000 goal has been met. But it's not too late. You can still donate to the cause or buy a ticket to see the Rocky Hock Grand Ole Opry

coming up on May 26-27.

Each year there is a tremendous pouring forth of support from the community to help battle cancer, in all its forms. Last year alone the Chowan/Perquimans Relay raised approximately \$136,000. These funds will be used for cancer awareness campaigns, research and education.

"As always, I am very proud of what has been accomplished," said Relay chairperson, Debbie Burroughs. "It has been a lot of work for everybody involved, but well worth it, I think everyone would say."

Members of the Z.T. Evans

family were among the almost 20 relay teams resting beneath tents on Saturday morning at the Holmes Athletic Complex. As some were waking up from their overnight stay at the site, the Evans family was busy cooking dry beans to sell with all of the proceeds going to Relay. The Evans Family team has been taking part in Relay for 10 years now. This year they raised around \$8,000, co-captain Joyce Evans said. A team that originally began in honor of the eldest Evans' parents, Zachariah and Effie, has now

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FIRE HOUSE CHICKEN

\$6.00 PLATE

CENTER HILL CROSS ROADS FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNIVERSARY SUPPER

DON'T MISS IT!

Saturday, May 20, 2006

From 4pm - 7pm

