



Chef to duel at Market Impossible Challenge, Page 1B

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Marine to get Purple Heart at game

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

Love of community is prompting Lance Cpl. Bobby Brown to share his Purple Heart awarding with family and friends in Edenton.

Love of country prompted Brown, of the U.S. Marine Corps, to risk his life to save others this spring while serving in Afghanistan. He suffered burns from a grenade explosion. Brown's actions earned

him the Purple Heart. A ceremony saluting Brown will be held on Friday evening, Sept. 24, at the football game between Edenton and Bertie.

Special guests at the ceremony will be two former Marines who live in Edenton, Tom Griffin and Ben Rinehart. According to Aaron Davidson, commandant of the local Marine Corps League, Rinehart will take part in the ceremony.

Davidson said the last

time a Marine from this area received a Purple Heart was during the Vietnam War.

"As far as there ever being a ceremony like this held in Edenton, as far as I know there hasn't been one," Davidson said. "We want to make it as special as we can for Bobby." Part of making it special will involve inviting all current and former servicemen and women from the area to come to the game that night and help honor

Brown, Davidson said. Brown requested that his Purple Heart be awarded during that particular game because the yearly event has great personal meaning for his family, Brown said. His father, Robert Brown, has been an assistant coach at Bertie for the past 18 years, and Bobby played for the Aces in high school.

"Edenton is my hometown," Bobby said when asked why he chose to have the ceremony here rather

than in Texas where he is undergoing rehabilitation for his injuries.

"He could have chosen to have it anywhere but he wanted to do it here," added his sister Christina.

"We moved here 23 years ago," said his mother, Linda Brown, "and we love it here. This is our home. He wanted to share this honor with his Edenton family."

Bobby suffered first and second degree burns to his



Bobby Brown

See **BROWN**, 3A

Aces to hold 50th Anniversary



PHOTO FROM THE 1961 JOHN A. HOLMES HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK

A victorious Edenton Aces carry coach Bill Billings off the field after his 1960 football team defeated Hanes (Winston Salem) 19-7 for the high school state 2A football championship, the last outright championship the school earned.

Coach Billings key to '60 perfect season

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

If this season's Edenton Aces require any gridiron inspiration, the players might want to skip the halftime speech and keep their eyes peeled at midfield.

On Sept. 24, players from John A. Holmes High School's 1960 state high school 2A football championship team will be honored at halftime. That Holmes team went 13-0, defeating Hanes (Winston Salem) for the title, the last outright football championship that Edenton ever claimed.

Other than Edenton's first football championship in 1934, the 50s and 60s were the Aces heyday as a perennial powerhouse. Edenton also earned championship hardware in '54, '56, and '57. They shared top honors in '64, '65, '67, and '69, during a time when no one team held the state title.

"Back then everybody came to the football game; it was the only thing going," said Jerry Tolley, Aces' 1960 halfback.

Ask any of his teammates about that 1960 season and the championship game, they recall details as if the game was played yesterday.

"We took a 6-0 lead into halftime," said Jack Sawyer, center and defensive end. "They soon scored to start the second half to take a 7-6 lead. That was the first time we were behind all year."

"Coach (Bill Billings) gave us the devil at halftime," Sawyer added. "He was always good for that."

Carroll Forehand, the team's junior quarterback on a mostly senior-laden team, remembers game night as brutally cold - tough for a player dependent on his hands. He called the game "hard fought."

"All of the games up until

then were easy, but that championship game was by far the toughest," Forehand said.

Defensive end Alex Kehayes remembers he warmed the bench that night. The preceding playoff game, however, he played.

"Coach Billings played me when we played teams that liked to sweep," Kehayes recalled. "If it was a run it up the gut team, I didn't play."

"I didn't come away with woe is me I didn't play," he added. "I came away happy that I was part of the championship team."

See **ACES**, 2A

Chowan adopts state plan

Commission wants prayer ban reversed

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

County commissioners adopted a series of new policies Monday night, including a new Water Shortage Response Plan.

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution that implements a Water Shortage Response Plan as required by the state. Chowan's new plan has already met the approval of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It had to be formally adopted by the commissioners.

In the event of a water shortage, the plan calls for specific forms of water customer notification, levels of response, enforcement, public comment, effectiveness, and opportunities for revision.

See **PLAN**, 3A

New EHA director is hired

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

Deborah Davis of Charleston, S.C. has been named new director of the Edenton Housing Authority.

Davis is replacing longtime director Mary Harrell who resigned recently due to health concerns.

Davis, who holds a Masters degree in counseling, is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University and attended graduate school at The Citadel.

After college, Davis worked in the public housing sector in a variety of roles including becoming a certified housing counselor who helped tenants repair their credit.

See **DAVIS**, 2A

Hospital's bid rejected for Mental Health site

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Efforts to sell the former Mental Health building hit a snag after the Chowan County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to reject a purchase bid from Chowan Hospital.

Commissioners agreed

that the hospital's offer of \$250,000 was too low to seriously consider. Tax records show the value of the building alone is worth \$831,947. The property is part of 22 acres contiguous to the hospital.

"As low as the bid was, the enterprise committee would not entertain it," said Commissioner Keith Nixon.

Interim County Manager Paul Parker advised the board that Jeff Sackrison, hospital president, visited county officials earlier Monday indicating that the hospital would enter

tain a counter offer.

Nixon said between the difference of the low bid and the building's tax value as well as determining the value of the land, more time would be required before considering a counter offer.

"I can't see us making a counter offer to the hospital," Nixon added.

He also pointed to the county's recent sale of land on Virginia Road that fetched \$300,000.

In a July 26 letter to Chowan County Commission Chairman Eddy Goodwin, Sackrison miti-

gated the building and property's value because of its site location and the structure's foundation. He wrote that because the building is too close to nearby Filbert's Creek, the structure had sustained "visible cracks in the exterior wall and a slope in the interior hallways."

"The only way to preserve the foundation is through costly slope stabilization measures, which are not recommended for a building of this size," Sackrison wrote.

Sackrison also ex-

pressed concerns about the building's electric heat pumps and interior renovations due to moisture damage.

He stated the hospital would use the building and property for hospital office use.

Another option includes the Health Department using the property, a move currently being evaluated.

Before attempting to sell or lease the building and property, county leaders waited for months

See **SITE**, 2A

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