



Priest, wife say 'so long' to town, parish — 6B

McCrory coming to Edenton's 300th

From staff reports

Gov. Pat McCrory will be in Edenton May 18 to help the town commemorate its 300th Anniversary.

McCrory is slated to participate in events from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The day's activities will commemorate the formation of North Carolina and the appointment in 1713, by

Inside

Supreme Court to meet in Edenton today — 1B

Her Majesty Queen Anne, of Charles Eden as Governor.

Public festivities on May 18 will begin with the arrival of an interpreter, in colonial attire, portraying Gov. Charles Eden.

The Eden interpreter is scheduled to arrive aboard the historic replica sailing boat Silver Chalice, from Roanoke Island Festival Park.

The actor portraying Eden will meet McCrory.

They then will board horse-drawn carriages and make their way to the 1767 Courthouse Green to share the celebration and honor the many contributions made by Edenton's founders.

The 1767 Chowan County Courthouse Green is the site of North Carolina's first Assembly building and a National Historic Landmark.

The program on the Courthouse Green will include the keynote address by McCrory and his presentation of an official proclamation honoring Edenton's 300th Anniversary. Several secretaries of North Carolina departments of government as well as locally elected officials will join the governor during the program.

Chowan County student winners of three essay writing contests will receive awards from the governor.

Earlier that morning, around 10:30, citizens assembled at the Courthouse Green will witness events comparable to what they would have seen during the colonial era, including

See VISIT, 4A

County keeps option open

By REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Citing a desire to keep all options open, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to apply for a demolition permit from the Edenton Preservation Commission for the Hotel Hinton building.

Commissioners stressed that they do not wish to see the building demolished.

But a motion by Commissioner Alex Kehayes not to proceed with applying for the permit failed, with only Kehayes and Commissioner Greg Bonner voting for it.

Later, Kehayes and Bonner backed Commissioner Jeff Smith's motion to move ahead with the permit application. Smith's motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Emmett Winborne stressed that demolishing the building "is not something that we want to do."

But Winborne said the county needs to keep the demolition option open.

"I think we have an obligation to the citizens of Chowan County to keep this option open," Winborne said.

The historic building most recently was used as a county office building. It now is vacant, and its deteriorating condition was cited as a concern by several commissioners.

Commissioner John Mitchener said the county needs to maintain "maximum flexibility" by applying for the permit while continuing to pursue the historic preservation route.

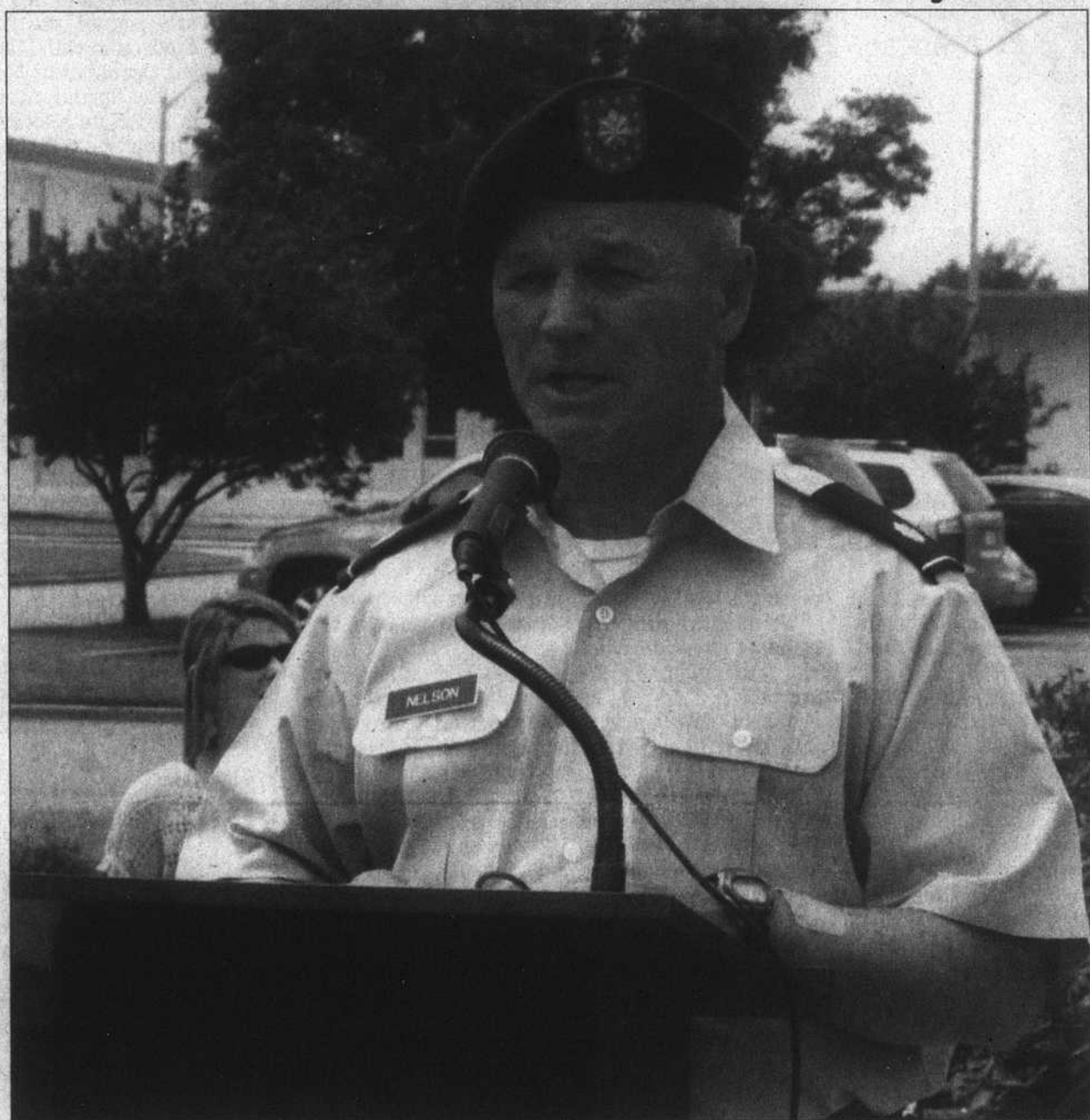
But Bonner contended "demolition can wait," and Kehayes agreed.

Kehayes said the committee that the commissioners formed to work with Preservation North Carolina in marketing the property is convinced that a demolition permit will be detrimental to the marketing of the property.

Prior to the board's vote at its regular meeting Monday night, Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton made a brief

See DEMOLITION, 3A

The Power of Prayer



STAFF PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER

As a large American flag flapped in the breeze overhead, a crowd estimated at 65 joined in prayer on the lawn of Vidant Chowan Hospital Thursday in observance of the National Day of Prayer. Cindy Coker, vice president for patient care services at Vidant Chowan Hospital, thanked everyone who attended the event, saying she was glad they came out to "stand up and be counted." Above, Lt. Col. George A. Nelson speaks about the need to pray for the military. Below, the group stands during part of the prayer service.

Power goes out across county

From staff reports

A power outage on Monday afternoon that lasted just over 45 minutes caused a loss of electricity that affected close to 4,000 utility customers served by the Town of Edenton.



Knighton

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that the outage was caused by a Dominion Power-related equipment failure.

Knighton said that after talking with Dominion officials she learned that a pair of arrestors that

See OUTAGE, 2A

Car fire being probed

From staff reports

Edenton Police are investigating a suspicious fire that destroyed a car behind a home on Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. Friday afternoon.

A 2004 Chrysler Sprinter belonging to Shakitta Nicole Walton, 35, of 513-C Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., was destroyed in the fire, according to police.

The vehicle's value was listed as \$10,000.

The fire is "suspicious in nature," according to Police Chief Jay Fortenberry, but it had not been ruled as arson as of the time the paper was going to press.

See FIRE, 2A

Culpepper not slated for reappointment

From staff reports

Bill Culpepper will not be reappointed to his seat on the N.C. Utilities Commission when his term expires next month, according to the office of Gov. Pat McCrory.

Culpepper, a former state representative from Chowan County, began serving on the Utilities Commission in January 2006. His term expires June 30.

Culpepper served in the N.C. House of Representatives from 1993-2005 and chaired the House Rules Committee from 1999-2005.

Culpepper declined to answer questions Friday concerning what had been the most rewarding and most challenging aspects



Culpepper

of serving on the Utilities Commission.

Asked about how his service on the Utilities Commission had been different from serving in the General Assembly, Culpepper observed that they are "two different spheres of public service."

Culpepper declined to say anything about his future plans.

McCrory last week announced three nominations to the State Utilities Commission, subject to

approval by joint resolution in the General Assembly. The new members of the Utilities Commission will be Rep. Jerry Dockham, R-Davidson, and James Patterson of Guilford County, and the new executive director of public staff will be Chris Ayers of Wake County.

Dockham is an 11-term member of the State House of

See CULPEPPER, 2A



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