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CHAPLAIN HONORS FALLEN, CALLS ON CITIZENS TO SERVE COUNTRY



BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

Retired Army Chaplain Corbin Cherry told the crowd assembled for Chowan County's Memorial Day observance Monday that Americans need to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and also do their own part to keep freedom alive. "We all need to be reminded again and again what days like this in our year's calendar stand for," said Cherry, a Perquimans County native who served as a chaplain during and after the Vietnam War. "There's nothing trite, there's nothing trivial, about this day. We have an obligation to never let the flame of our freedom be extinguished, so those who did die in defense of our freedom will not have died in vain."

Cherry said he and other veterans of wars in Vietnam, Korea and elsewhere remember what it was like to serve "in a place so far away it might as well have been the moon."

Cherry lamented some of the things now happening in American society, including peaceful demonstrations have been giving way to mob scenes everywhere from abortion clinics to

STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Vietnam veteran and chaplain Corbin Cherry speaks at Monday's Memorial Day ceremony at the county's Veterans Memorial in Edenton.

See MEMORIAL DAY, 4A

County, town negotiate rising health care costs

County eyes cost savings with new health plan

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners is looking to change health insurance providers in the 2015-2016 fiscal year in order to save some \$180,000 in costs.

At its May 18 meeting, the board voted 6-1 to back a staff recommendation to switch to a plan from Aetna.

Commissioner Emmett Winborne cast the lone dissenting vote after expressing concerns about privacy for employees in a wellness program that would be part of the new plan.

County staff and Donna Nixon, a consultant to the county on health insurance, said the wellness program - which would include voluntary health screenings for

employees - would not compromise the privacy of employee health information. Employees would get a copy of their results but no health information on individual employees would be made available to county staff, they said.

The purpose of the screenings is to help individual employees detect health problems early and to give the county an idea of what types of health concerns are most prevalent among its workforce, Nixon explained.

The county pays health insurance premiums for employees, but an employee desiring family coverage pays the additional premium for that coverage.

Nixon recommended the county switch

See COUNTY HEALTH, 4A

Town exploring options for health coverage

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

With the Town of Edenton facing an annual rate increase of just over 25 percent for employee health insurance premiums with its carrier, the NC League of Municipalities, the town council is exploring other possible options.

During a special meeting held May 20 the council heard a group benefits cost overview from Rand and Ed Williams of The Sorin Group in Raleigh.

Williams' report focused on three areas - understanding claims and how they impact decisions in the process; solutions and options from The Sorin Group designed to mitigate an increase in the cost of employee health care coverage; and non-medical

solutions and services that could be provided by The Sorin Group.

Mayor Roland Vaughan noted as the meeting opened that when town staff learned of the proposed increase that would take place this summer, "they asked us to go out into the marketplace to see what else was available."

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton noted that town staff had solicited proposals from insurance brokers and following that The Sorin Group had been working really hard to put together pertinent information and present it to the council prior to May 30 which is the deadline for the town to notify the League if it intends to withdraw from its current healthcare plan.

See TOWN HEALTH, 4A

Local man shot Monday

From staff reports

A shooting occurred around 4 a.m. Monday on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. near the entrance to Wedgwood Apartments.

Darrell Boyce, 39, of John Hill Lane, Edenton, was transported to Vidant Hospital by an unknown person and discovered to have suffered multiple gunshot wounds, according to Edenton Police Chief Jay

Fortenbery.

Boyce was being treated at Vidant Medical Center in stable condition Monday evening, Fortenbery reported.

Two vehicles parked at Wedgwood were found to have been hit by bullets but no one else has reported being injured, Fortenbery said.

This is an active investigation and witnesses or suspects have not been identified, according to Fortenbery.

Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact Sgt. Laura Wilkins of the Edenton Police Department at 482-5144.

Wreck victim status critical

From staff reports

A Beaufort County man was in critical condition Tuesday at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital after being injured last Wednesday morning in a two-vehicle accident on West Queen Street.

Brian Dale Oakley, 44, of Pantego, was airlifted to the hospital, according to the Edenton Police Department.

Oakley was injured when the 1999 Plymouth he was driving west on West Queen Street collided with an eastbound 2006 Ford truck, according to the report by Officer Gerald T.

Lassiter III.

The Ford was driven by Clyde Thomas Sexton, 54, of Plymouth, and was owned by East Coast Equipment, according to Lassiter's report.

Sexton was taken by Chowan County Emergency Medical Service to Vidant Chowan Hospital.

Oakley had to be cut out of the car, Lassiter reported.

The collision occurred about 150 feet east of the intersection with Oak Hill Drive.

The Plymouth crossed the center line and the driver of a vehicle behind it sounded the horn, prompt-

ing Oakley to try to steer the car back to the right side of the road, Lassiter reported.

Sexton slammed on breaks to try to avoid a collision but the two vehicles still collided as Oakley was trying to correct the car, according to Lassiter's report.

A witness indicated Oakley appeared to be talking on a phone, Lassiter reported.

Oakley is being charged with careless and reckless driving and with driving while license revoked, according to Lassiter's report.

Damage was estimated at \$15,000 to the Plymouth and \$5,000 to the Ford.



Edenton Steamers' home opener is today. See player photos and schedule in our preview on pages 8A-9A.



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FREE EVENT
Antique Farm Fair Saturday, June 6, 2015 - 9am-3pm
 John A Holmes High School, Edenton, NC

Old Time Cooking Artisans
 Vintage Tractors Horses
 Rural Crafters