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Masons celebrate courthouse anniversary — 3B

Racial Reconciliation group wants statue removed

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Edenton's mayor and town manager paid a special visit to Thursday night's meeting of the local Racial Reconciliation group to hear thoughts and ideas concerning the future of the Confederate soldier in the downtown business district.

The group of about 35-40 people warmly welcomed Roland Vaughan and Anne-Knighton who spent the next few hours listening to a wide range of comments.

"We really appreciate that you wanted to know how

we felt about the statue," facilitator Jo Baker told them.

Comments from those who see the statue as a symbol of a time they'd rather forget stood in stark contrast to those who said they considered the monument as a part of the South's history. For example, Emma Bonner, who took part in local Civil Rights protests organized by Golden Frinks, said it reminded her of a time when she identified with being treated as a second class citizen.

On the other hand, another group member, Suzanne Burnside, said that while

she considered the monument a part of history she was more bothered by other symbols of the Confederacy such as the Rebel battle flag more familiar to many than the Confederate flag, and the song "Dixie".

Still others like Susan Inglis took a strong stand, calling the monument "an embarrassing symbol" that belongs in a cemetery.

Inglis added that she hoped the town would stand in opposition to the state law signed by former Governor Pat McCrory that forbids the removal of such monuments without the permis-

sion of the North Carolina Historical Commission.

"That is something for us to work to change," she said.

Another group member, Robert Lassiter, encouraged the continuing exchange of ideas about how to handle the situation and urged group members and citizens to respond with open minds and open hearts as well as caution.

"I just want us to keep talking, just be open and respect other people's experiences," he said.

See STATUE, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Racial Reconciliation group members, from left, Roger Coleman, Bill and Gail Miller, listen as Jean Simpson shares her thoughts about the Confederate soldier monument that stands at the foot of South Broad Street in the downtown Edenton business district.



PHOTO BY MILES LAYTON

Edenton Fire Chief Craig Forlines is making plans to retire in December. Part of Forlines's legacy will be his work restoring the town's 1923 R.E.O. Speedwagon fire truck. Thanks for your service Chief Forlines.

Fire chief retiring

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Edenton Fire Chief Craig Forlines is retiring.

"This job — though it's in my blood — I figured it is time to let some new folks step up," he said. "We've got plenty of good and qualified folks. Time to let some of the young folks step in."

Forlines has 30 years of service on the front lines of emergency management not only as a firefighter, but as a paramedic. He has achieved top emergency management posts in Pitt, Duplin and Cumberland counties. He served as assistant fire chief in Morehead City and as Oak Island's fire chief.

Truly, the man's resume is extensive, but then Edenton tends to attract the cream of the crop. For the past five years, Forlines has served as the town's fire chief.

"I am very sad to see him leave — he has been a terrific chief and valued member of the Town's leadership team," said Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton. "I enjoyed working with him and had tremendous confidence in his abilities as a fire chief and leaned on him a lot for advice and guidance on non-fire related issues."

Forlines' last day on the job will be Dec. 1, so the town is in the process of searching for a new fire chief, Knighton said.

"My goal is to hire a new chief prior to chief's retirement," Knighton said.

Faith has played a big role in Forlines' long career.

"Being a paramedic, being a firefighter, being a fire chief — you can only do what God allows you to do," Forlines said in an emotionally charged voice. "Some you lose, some you don't. But if you're not there to help, you won't win any. Sometimes you can save people because there's a plan and He has something else for them to do. Sometimes you can't. You just have to do your best."

Edenton's fire department has seven full-time firefighters plus the chief and 25 volunteers.

"It's a great department. The guys are tremendous and will pitch in and do whatever is asked," he said. "The community is great. I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys to work with."

Three decades on the front lines can leave behind a lot of memories — good and bad. Probably the most harrowing thing that Forlines said he was ever involved in was when a storage container holding highly explosive chemicals was breached by a forklift at the military's port in Morehead City. If that drum exploded, then 780,000 pounds of explosives would have ignited too. Forlines

See CHIEF, 2A



THOMAS J. TURNEY/THE DAILY ADVANCE

The Ferris wheel glowed brightly at the Chowan Fair last week.

Fair fades into memory

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

The lights have dimmed at the fairgrounds and the maybe the kids are a little more focused on school now that the Chowan County Regional Fair is passing into memory.

More than 15,000 people attended the 71st annual fair that ended Saturday. Gravity defying rides, pig races, crafts, small horses, a new queen and more thrilled visitors for nearly a week at the American Legion Fairgrounds.

"I believe the fair was huge success and it has really made the Fair Board feel extremely pleased with the positive comments per Facebook

See FAIR, 7A



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Look at that Little Miss - Skylar Pearl Biggs, 6, (center) daughter of Shannon Bond and Joshua Biggs of Chowan County; 1st Runner-up - Bella Cotton Parrish, 6, (left) daughter of Carey and Rosanna Parrish of Chowan County; 2nd Runner-up Sarah Elizabeth Gooch, 5, (right) daughter of Timothy and Christina Gooch of Tyrrell County.

Chowan fair queen crowned Saturday

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Maybe it's a take on words, but accurate — long live the queen!

Sarah Spencer was crowned Saturday as the Chowan County Regional Fair Queen.

"I was shocked when they placed the crown on me, but I was also very excited," said Spencer, 16, of Edenton.

Spencer is the daughter of Mia Peterson Spencer and Eric Spencer. She

See QUEEN, 7A

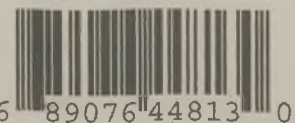


SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sarah Spencer (center) was crowned Saturday as the Chowan County Regional Fair Queen while 1st Runner-up was Savannah Yount (left) and 2nd Runner-up was Jaycee Lynn Pierce (right).



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Business leader, civic leader passes away

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

A local businessman, town leader and Vietnam veteran has passed away.

Joe Wisley Lee, 70, of Edenton passed away on Thursday, Sept. 28.

An Army veteran of the Vietnam War, he served from 1965-1967. Community service was in Lee's nature as he wore many hats over the years. He was an auxiliary

policeman for the Town of Edenton, chairman of the Town Planning Board, treasurer for the Town of Edenton, and a term on the Edenton Town Council. He was a member and served as an usher at Faith Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Funeral services were held this past Sunday by Miller Funeral Home. See Lee's obit on page A3.

All that aside, per County Commissioner/Vietnam vet-

eran John Mitchener's suggestion, the Chowan Herald got to know Lee briefly earlier this year when my wife Nicole and I interviewed him for a story about his wartime experiences for Memorial Day. Lee's life was filled with accomplishments. He was



JOE LEE



to that man and those like him, here is Lee's account of Vietnam from our Memorial Day edition. RIP.

Joe Lee grew up in Eden-

ton before he joined the army at age 17-years-old. His job was to recover aircraft that had been shot down by the enemy. He said it was dangerous work.

"We had two or three guys who got killed in our company," Lee said. "Of course, anywhere in Vietnam was dangerous. I don't care if you were in Saigon or places — everywhere — or at least I

See LEE, 3A