

## Commissioners reject new clinic proposal

Board OKs purchase of tractor/bush hog for road work

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff Writer

Chowan County Commission addressed several matters Monday that ranged from the mundane to mention of Venezuela and even a bit about the

pitfalls of applying for a permit needed to plug a hole.

As to that rapidly deteriorating socialist country in South America, that's how one county commissioner described what would happen if the federal government took over health care. Hold that thought for a moment.

Metropolitan Commu-

nity Health Services asked for a letter of support to aid possible plans to open a new health center in Edenton. Though expanding local health care sounds good, the devil is in the details.

Commission Vice Chair Ron Cummings warned that if Metropolitan expanded into the county those government health-

care dollars used to pay for medical care would evaporate — follow the patient. Moreover, once those dollars run out as it affects Metropolitan's bottom line, Cummings said, that would mean that this clinic may restrict health care.

A new clinic would jeopardize federal money paid for patient care received

by the local health department, Cummings said. If patients seek care at the clinic, Cummings said, less money would flow to the health department. Moreover, because not everyone has the same ability to pay for medical care, costs are spread out so as to balance the books and keep the health department in the black ink. Shifting pa-

tients eligible for government subsidies away from the health department to the clinic would directly affect the county's bottom line — more so since the health department is not in a position to deny care.

Commissioner Don Faircloth noted that the health department has served

See CLINIC, 3A

## Harrell was ace in sky, pulpit

*Former Editor's note: Never knowing what kind of story I'm going to find until I find it, I lucked into meeting Bob Harrell about a year ago for a story about his military service. While interviewing Harrell, I learned about a life that was dedicated to God. Thus, we're reprinting that interview from April 2018. Harrell died Sunday. His obituary appears on Page 3A.*

Veteran dedicated life to helping others

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff Writer

Robert S. Harrell was a lieutenant serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps when his bomber veered off a course a bit one night during a training run over the Pacific at the tail end of World War II.



HARRELL

Since there were no gas stations in those skies where the B-24 could pull over to get directions, he said, another approach was needed to get the bomber crew home.

Harrell, the plane's copilot, said the bomber's navigator went up inside a window at the top of the plane to make some calculations.

"There were no computers then, so he looked at the compass, took a sexton up there and pointed it at the stars," Harrell said with a smile. "We made it back to base — straight line — saw the

See HARRELL, 2A



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Members of the Edenton Lions Club serve up eggs, pancakes and sausage Saturday during their annual Breakfast for the Blind.

PHOTOS BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

## Breakfast raises money for blind

Edenton Lions Club fundraiser serves 800 meals

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff Writer

Last Saturday held a lot of promise. The temperature was in the 60s and there was sunshine.

So a lot of folks wanted to start the day with a good breakfast served by the Edenton Lions Club.

Proceeds of the annual Breakfast for the Blind support Lions Club initiatives aimed at helping the blind and a scholarship.

Instead of dining on a bowl of Captain Crunch cereal while watching the morning's fake news on television, more than 800 folks had a tasty meal of scrambled eggs, sausage, grits and top-notch pan-



Jack Parker (left) and Rob Jackson work on the grits.

cakes served with maple syrup and perhaps a spot of butter in the fellowship hall at Edenton Baptist Church.

Early estimates indicate the fundraiser brought in between \$4,500 and \$5,000. Co-chairs for this year's



Scrambled eggs are stirred Saturday during the Edenton Lions Club annual Breakfast for the Blind at Edenton Baptist Church.

event were Craig Miller and Paul Stallings.

"The event was a great success. The funds will be used to fund eye glasses/exams for those in need

in our community," Miller said.

"Also, some of the profits will fund a scholarship for a worthy JAH graduate this year."

## Husband's quick thinking saves new mom

Holley had stroke; received care at Vidant Chowan

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON  
Editor

When you look at Jennifer Holley, you have no idea what she's been through during the past year.

The Creswell resident has a smile that lights up her face. She is a new mom of a boy who is almost a year old.

She is also a stroke survivor. Holley shared her story on a recent Monday in the Vidant Chowan Hospital administrative offices.

About two months after her child was born, Holley, who was 29 years old at the time, had what she describes as the worst headache she's ever had.

"It was just a normal day, and I got a really bad headache. I've never really had

**INSIDE**

Education important in stroke care — 7A

migraines before, so I actually thought you know, maybe this is the migraine, and it was so bad," she said of that fateful Thursday in July. "I couldn't think and it felt like someone was hammering a nail into my brain."

Holley's family was living in Edenton at the time. She said she remembers how she couldn't think straight and decided to take some Advil for the pain.

"My husband noticed that it looked like I was going to trip and fall, and I thought that was because I just couldn't focus enough to walk straight," she continued. "So I went I took the Advil. When I took the Advil, some of the water



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Jennifer Holley, of Creswell, smiles at the Vidant Chowan Hospital administrative offices. In July, she received treatment at the hospital after suffering a stroke. After being treated in Edenton, she was flown to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, where the blood clot causing the stroke was removed.

poured down my mouth and again, I just thought okay, I can't think straight because

the headaches too bad, so I

See MOM, 7A

## Bill to let co-ops expand broadband

Lawmakers mull coverage inequities with commission

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff Writer

Chowan County Commissioner Bob Kirby said the state's broadband policy does not accurately reflect reality.

"I'll tell you firsthand, it's no good," said Kirby, a retired engineer who like most people has a difficult time with internet coverage at his home in the county.

State Sen. Bob Steinburg and Representative Ed Goodwin, both R-Chowan, addressed expanding broadband coverage when they spoke to county commissioners recently about legislative matters they are pushing within the General As-

See BILL, 2A

## Solar farm permit sought

Facility to be located on Sign Pine Road

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff Writer

Chowan County is being considered as the site for another solar farm that has applied for a permit to develop a 5-megawatt generation facility.

A division of SunEnergy1, Gliden Solar, LLC seeks a conditional use permit to develop a facility at 414 Sign Pine Road, with an access to the site from approximately 638 Gliden Road. This is an approximately 82-acre tract, where roughly 56 acres will be utilized for the solar development. If all local, state and federal permits are approved, the land for this development will be from Eugene N. Jordan, Inc. A farmer, Jordan is also president of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education.

If approved, this would be the second solar project to set its sites on Chowan

See SOLAR, 2A