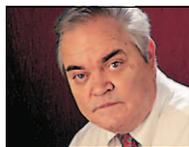


New police chief puts words into action

Harold Medlock is keeping his word. "The first thing I want is to get in community neighborhoods," Medlock, 55, said when interviewing as a finalist for chief of police, and that's just what our now sworn-in top cop will be doing Monday when he participates in a Community Awareness Meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Cliffdale Christian Center. Residents can hear just what municipal law enforcement is doing to



Bill Kirby Jr.

fight crime in west Fayetteville neighborhoods. Among topics of discussion will be the department's Gun and Gang Violence Unit, and other questions residents may have about crime. "I will be accountable to you,"

Medlock said Dec. 18 at Honeycutt Recreation Center during a public forum, where he was one of two final candidates to replace the retired Chief Tom Bergamine. "And I need you and your neighbors to be accountable to me. Not to do the police work, but to keep your eyes and ears open to community crime." This community, which many of us believe is drowning in crime, has high expectations for this former deputy chief with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, but one cop cannot do it alone. Welcome this chief, because Harold Medlock is the top cop, and he is on our side.

■ Five local physicians will be on hand today to offer educational advice on a growing health concern — diabetes and obesity. Diabetes Education Day is scheduled for 2 p.m. at the Carolina Diabetes and Obesity Center, 352 Devers St., at Honeycutt Recreation Center. There's no charge for the four-hour session, which will be led by Dr. Khalid Aziz, a diabetologist; Dr. Naveed Aziz, internal medicine; Dr. Waheed Akhtar, a cardiologist; Dr. Wendell Danforth, an ophthalmologist; and Dr. Daniel Laut, a podiatrist. Call 484-7722, or you may just want to show up.

■ "The chamber could not accomplish the many things that we do throughout the year without these key individuals," Patrick Coughlin, president and chief executive officer of the Moore County Chamber of Commerce, says about the 2013 class of chamber ambassadors. They are Dan Askins, Michael Baker, Shawn Buring, Karen Butler, Paula Crocker, Anna Edwards, Dana Garner, Deanna Heck, Kerry Hooper, Mike Ianucilli, Karen Reese May and Bob Testa. Ambassador associates are Liz English, April Green, Susan McKenzie and Thomas Zaleski. With 700 members, the chamber says its mission is to strengthen the local economy and preserve a quality of life in Moore County that is second to none.

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At the N.C. Veterans Park are, from left, Marcus Adams, Keley Goode, Joe McGee, Haywood Barnes, George Lewis and, in front, Kyleigh Goode. For the past decade, McGee has taken the Black History 4Ever Quiz Bowl to more success each year. He wants to incorporate the military into the mix, as well.

Staff photo by Marcus Castro

Past meets future

The Black History 4Ever Quiz Bowl's organizer wants the event to inspire students.

By Chick Jacobs
Staff writer

Joe McGee has nothing but respect for history. But the Fayetteville businessman says he'd rather see kids inspired to make history, than recite it.

That's one reason the 10th annual Black History 4Ever Quiz Bowl includes topics that, at first glance, don't seem connected to African-American history at all.

"You can continue to learn all these names from the past, and that's great," McGee said while preparing for today's event at the John D. Fuller Recreation Center. "But you want kids to connect to what we're doing.

"That means you look at more than history. The future is built on business, military service, so many things that today's kids can appreciate."

Which is why when more

than 100 students, 8 years old through high school, grasp the buzzers and start answering questions, a knowledge of Army rank may serve as well as knowing how many uses George Washington Carver invented for peanuts (300, if the question comes up).

It's all part of the vision of McGee's mentoring group GOTDAD. The organization,

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