

Global war monument receives \$2,500 donation

Don Talbot has his heart set on a Global War on Terror monument for Freedom Memorial Park, and the effort got a big boost last week when Juan Chavez, a retired Army colonel and president of the Cape Fear Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, presented Talbot with a \$2,500 check toward the \$25,000 fundraising goal.

"With a promise of more to come," says Talbot, chairman of the park at the corner of Hay Street and Bragg Boulevard.



Bill Kirby Jr.

For more information about the park, visit freedommemorialpark.com, and to make a donation to the Global War on Terror monument, send your check to the Cumberland

Community Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 2345, Fayetteville, NC 28302.

■ A "Welcome to Medicare" class is being offered from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday by the Cumberland County Council on Older Adults. Take it from someone over the age of 65 — it's worth it. Something else you may wish to know: It will cost you zero.

The class helps those eligible for Medicare and preparing for enrollment. The agency is at 339 Devers St.

Seating is limited, so call for reservations at 484-0111.

■ "Proceeds from the sale of our Valentine's Day cards will save the lives of homeless pets," Rosemary Teague says about the cards in support of the Fayetteville Animal Protection Society, the no-kill animal shelter on Bragg Boulevard. A minimal donation of \$15 for a card will help the shelter provide food, shelter and veterinary care for these innocent dogs and cats in need of adoption and loving homes. The deadline to order a card is Feb. 10.

"Please help us promote this worthy cause," Teague says. Visit FAPSpet.org, send email inquiries to fapspet@gmail.com or call 864-9040 or 864-2077.

■ The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra is offering a "perfect date night" preamble to Valentine's Day, when this talented orchestra will be performing some of "history's most romantic works" at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Huff Concert Hall on the Methodist University campus.

"The symphony encourages anyone looking for a romantic evening out to consider coming," Julia Atkins says in a news release. "Grab a nice dinner, and head on over to the concert to enjoy a night of relaxing, romantic music for Valentine's Day."

Tickets are \$27 for adults, \$24 for senior citizens and military personnel, \$11 for students with proper identification, and \$11 for children ages 6 to 18. Tickets are available online at fayettevillesymphony.org, at the door or by calling 433-4690.

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Fun in learning

Black History 4Ever Quiz Bowl grows to offer ongoing education

By Chick Jacobs

Staff writer

For more than a decade, Joe McGee has dreamed of encouraging black history year-round, not just in February.

"I had the vision, but technology hadn't caught up to the dream," said McGee, a Fayetteville marketing professional. "Now, finally, we're there."

Which means that McGee's Black History 4Ever Quiz Bowl will become a year-round event. The 13th annual championship will take place Feb. 20 at the Cross Creek Mall food court from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Students ages 10 through 18 will test their knowledge of black history, business and economics, and political facts for prizes and up to \$1,000 cash.

At the same time, a business and health fair will be held. Afterward, participants and families are invited to take part in what McGee calls a "Ride2Freedom" that runs from the mall to the Airborne & Special Operations Museum downtown.

Several local motorcycle groups will take part, offering rides to the contestants, with an escort from the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office.

"In the past, we've focused the ride on the military and wounded veterans," McGee said. "They remain a focus, but this year we want to expand the opportunities."

"This year we're asking, 'What are you riding for?' What is important to you and your family? We invite people to decorate their car with banners saying what is important to them and join us."

If it sounds like McGee's event has expanded from a children's question-and-answer competition, you're right. More than 100 students will be answering questions that not only highlight history, but "they will be learning the sort of things that will help them make their own history in the future," he said.

Rather than focus on obscure factoids, such as what Harriet Tubman ate for breakfast the morning she met John Brown, McGee's quizzes include questions about modern economics, politics, and sports and business celebrities.



Joe McGee

Staff photo by Raul R. Rubiera

IF YOU WANT TO COMPETE ...

The 13th annual BlackHistory4ever Quiz Bowl will be held Jan. 20 at the Cross Creek Mall food court from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students ages 10 to 18 may register online at BlackHistory4ever.com. For information, call 910-978-2829 or email joe.mcgee@tnwn.net.

"Black history is still the core, and the heart of the contest," he said. "But there are so many things these students need to know — things they aren't being taught at home or in the classroom."

"When they get out in the real world, knowing basic economics and political parties will be much more

valuable to them."

In addition, sample 10-minute tests are available online at BlackHistory4ever.com. Students can register at the site, take the quiz and earn points for prizes. Each time, random questions will appear.

"That means kids can take them while riding in the car, at home, anyplace," McGee said. "And every time they take a quiz, they're learning. Even if they get the answer wrong, at the end of the test, the correct answer appears."

"That way, in time, they can learn a lot about their heritage and their world. In time, they'll be able to exchange the points they earn for prizes."

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