

#### CALLING IT QUITS

Capt. James M. Baker of Edenton recently retired from US Airways after a career in aviation that began in the 1960s. Baker, who began flying in 1960, got his first job as a flight instructor in Richmond, VA for \$5 an hour in 1963. He worked as a corporate pilot from 1966-68, when he went to work for US Airways (formerly Alleghany), a job he held until his retirement in 1999. His last flight was on May 22, when he flew from Charles DeGaulle Airport in Paris, France to Philadelphia, PA in a Boeing 767. Baker said he had accumulated approximately 31,000 hours of flying time, mostly in commercial jets. "My only significant flying accomplishment," he said modestly, "was completing 39 years and 31,000 hours of safe, incident-free flying."

### FABLOUS JUY 4TH FIREWORKS FUNDRAISER

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If you are interested in contributing, whether civic or business, please mail your contribution to: Optimist Club, P.O. Box 1096, Edenton, NC 27932 or call Mike Williams at 482-8595 week days.



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### Griffin continues her recovery

BY LAURIE HUFFORD Staff Writer

You may have seen this woman travelling around on her bicycle. There's nothing unusual about this, except that the woman is Gail Griffin and. for her, even walking without tiring is a miracle. With a hereditary lung disease called "Alpha-1", Gail required a lung transplant to survive.

"I want to thank everyone who donated to the transplant fund. Even if it was just a penny, that's one breath that I wouldn't have had otherwise,' says Gail.

Gail got her left-lung transplant at Duke University on January 16, after waiting four years on the national transplant list. The date was slightly after the 50th birthday that her doctors said she would be lucky

"It was the best birthday gift I could have gotten!" she exclaims. "I want to thank everybody who helped!"

At the time of the transplant, Gail's lung capacity was at 14%. She was in the last stages of disease, and her left lung was "shot". She had to be on oxygen, and required a health care aid from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. each

After surgery, Gail spent 15 days in the hospital before going to a host house. She lived there for six weeks, while attending rehabilitation and being closely monitored.

Gail says that the transplant has changed her life in every

has improved by at least 80%. A certain amount of exercise helps to keep the lungs healthy, so Gail is conscientious about exercising. She enjoys riding her bicycle, "the Gordon Express" (named for the friend who paid for the bike), to therapy

"I think I'm in better shape" than I've ever been," she smiles.

There was something else to celebrate, and for a few weekway, and that her quality of life ends, Gail tried out recipes on

her mother. Then, on the 1st month anniversary of her homecoming after surgery, Gail had her doctor and his wife over for dinner. It was the

been able to cook a full meal. Gail's left lung capacity is now 90%, and she is optimistic about the future. When able, she would like to do some volunteer work at the hospital, to "give something back" to the town which helped her to re-

first time in six years that she'd

"I want to thank the people, but how do you thank them for

Donations are still being accepted and may be sent to: Organ Transplant Fund, c/o Gail Griffin, PO Box 749, Edenton, NC 27932.

Cookbooks, t-shirts, and sweatshirts are also still for sale at Chowan Hospital in Edenton.



**Gail Griffin** 

# Courtesy Ford Tribune



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**JUNE 1999** 

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## **COURTESY FORD REVEALS** CAR BUYING SECRETS!

**MCAR SHOPPERS EVERYWHERE ARE** DECLARING..."WE'RE MAD AS HECK AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE IT **ANYMORE!**"

By Nickie Avella, Editor

ELIZABETH CITY - What is beginning to appear like a nationwide epidemic, local residents are declaring their dissatisfaction with car and truck dealerships. A woman who asked to remain anonymous stated, "I'm tired of feeling insignificant and illiterate when I shop for a vehicle. I heard that COURTESY FORD does things differently and I'm going to check it out for myself!

Apparently the dealership she is referring to is Courtesy Ford Lincoln Mercury KIA of Elizabeth City, NC. COURTESY is fast becoming known as an anomaly among new and used dealerships. They have been known for the past 15 years for the dealership of Guaranteed Lowest Prices and now are becoming known as the dealership WITHOUT salespeople! I headed to U.S. 17 NORTH and COURTESY FORD to see what the hub-bub was all about.

Steve Evans, General Manager of Courtesy Ford Lincoln Mercury KIA in Elizabeth City was gracious enough to give me some valuable insight into the operation.

"We've made a lot of changes and the customer response has been very positive! The word is getting out that we have no salespeople; it's true! We found that people generally felt uncomfortable or intimidated by what is considered the average salesperson. So, we decided to make changes to help our customers have a more enjoyable experience when buying a new or used car or truck." Evans said.

As Evans continued he said that COURTESY has a group of salaried employees, Product Specialists, who receive extensive training on the inventory. Customers are GREETED by the Product Specialists and shown the recently expanded inventory of new and used vehicles and they are also introduced around the dealership.

"We take pride in what we offer our customers, the Product Specialists are all very friendly and they take the time to show people the value of what our dealership has to offer", Evans continued. "Once a customer has found the vehicle they are interested in they sit with one of our Managers who has the knowledge and authority to offer them the highest allowance on their trade-in, if they have one, and, the Guaranteed Lowest Price on their new vehicle. The same manager also handles all of the necessary paperwork involved with the purchase of a vehicle. There is no ping-ponging from one person to another! No Surprises! No Games! No Tricks!"

"We've even gone another step further with our new car and truck Guaranteed Lowest Price...we will meet or beat any dealers price on the same vehicle or give you 200% of the difference back! NOW THAT'S A GUARANTEE!"

Steve continued on, "Let me mention a couple of great deals that are going on in case your in the market for a car or truck. First,

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we do have the largest inventory of new and used cars and trucks in Northeastern North Carolina, all in one location...we've recently expanded our inventory and it CAN'T BE BEAT! Also, FORD MOTOR COMPANY is currently offering rebates up to \$1500 CASH BACK and/or 0.9% APR on most 1999 vehicles and COURTESY HAS THE SELECTION TO CHOOSE FROM!" concluding Evans said, "This is a perfect time to buy a new car or truck and COURTESY is the place! But hey! Don't take it from me -- ask your neighbor!"



1999 ESCORT



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#### ECSU announces names of Chowan resident graduates

The Registrar's office at Elizabeth City State University has announced that the following Chowan County residents received degrees during its 1999 Spring Graduation Commencement:

· Chanda L. Blount, BS, Business Administration

 Kendra Yarnell Bunch, BS. Biology

· Kimberly Renee Bunch, BS, Criminal Justice, cum laude graduate · Rosa L. Carter, BA, Sociol-

ogy/Social Work, cum laude graduate George Donald Copeland,

BS, Industrial Technology, cum laude graduate · Van-Dee Hetherington, BS,

General Psychology Donetta Renea Privott, BS, General Psychology, cum laude

graduate · Jolyquin C. Sessoms, BS, Mathematics

· Linda Rae Sutton, BSED, Special Education, cum laude graduate

· Varick Theron Taylor, BS, Business Administration, cum laude graduate · Roxanna Elizabeth White,

BA, Sociology/Social Work
• Nicole S. Taylor, BS, Business Administration

Copeland and Hetherington reside in Tyner. The remaining graduates live in Edenton.

