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Teachers pass on first try

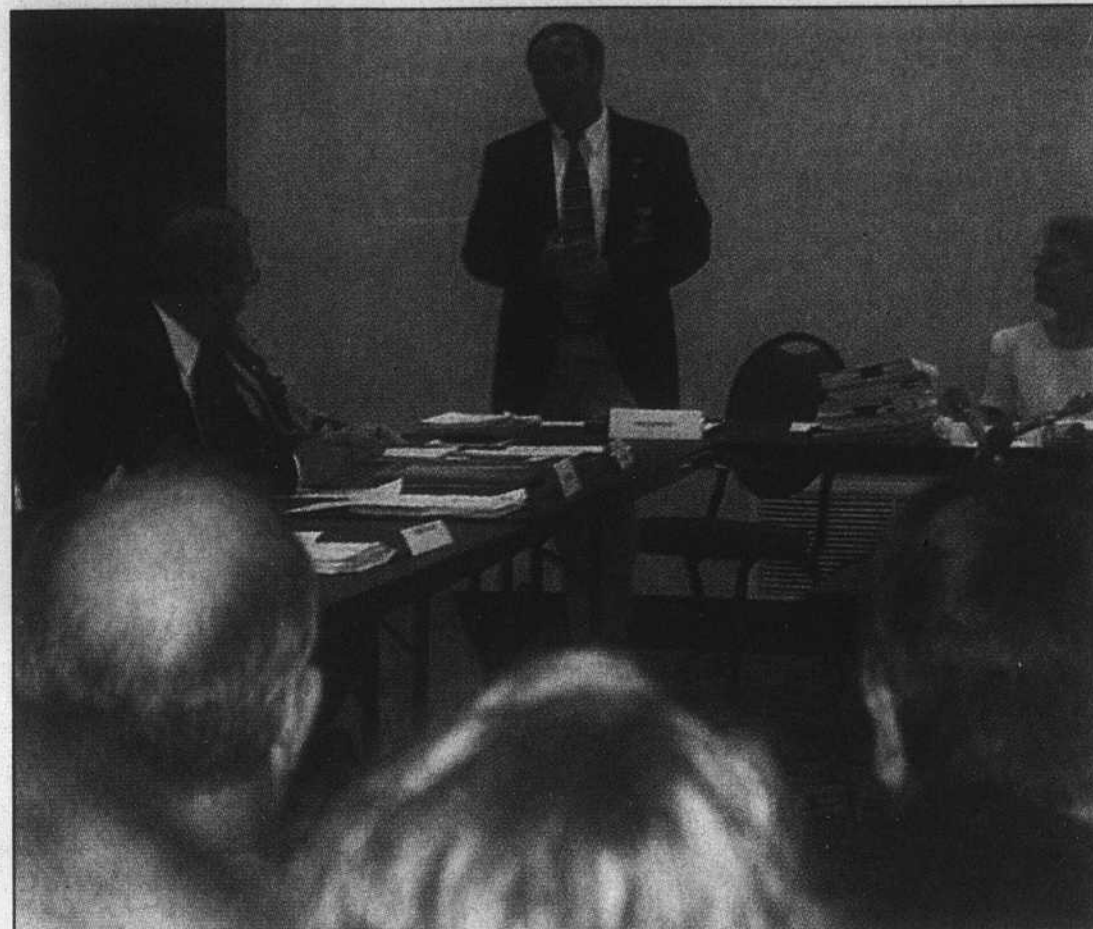
Each of eight Edenton-Chowan Schools teachers participating in the Performance-Based Licensure program passed their assessments on the first try. The teachers, now beginning their third year as educators, received the results late last week.

The PBL occurs in the second year of the three-year Initial Licensing Program required by the state. The program is designed to provide beginning teachers with direction, support, and feedback during their first years in the classroom so that their experiences are positive and focused on the knowledge, skills, and dispositions associated with effective teaching.

"We're celebrating," said Linda Perry, director of instruction for Edenton-Chowan schools. The teachers used monthly "teacher talk" sessions as mini-workshops to prepare for the PBL assessments, and devoted weekend time toward the cause with Saturday sessions at Chowan College, Perry said.

At least two specially-trained evaluators assess each participating teacher—a practicing classroom teacher and a teacher who is licensed in a given candidate's field. The process must be completed by

See TEACHERS On Page 5-A



Sheriff Fred Spruill addresses a group of his counterparts at the conference held in Edenton. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

Standards conference held

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

Beginning Aug. 21 Chowan County was the sight of week long Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission. Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill hosted the conference with a record number of visiting sheriffs attending. This was the first time the Commission had met in the northeastern corner of North Caro-

lina.

North Carolina is the only state which has a separate regulatory body - governed only by sheriffs - responsible for the employment, training, and certification of Sheriff personnel. Sheriff Spruill has been a member since September of 1998, elected by the Sheriffs of the following counties as representation: Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Hertford, Pasquotank, Perqui-

mans, Tyrrell and Washington.

"We are very pleased with the participation for the conference," said Chowan County Sheriff Spruill. "We are continually working on improvements in the training of officers and ways to provide them the best foundation for a successful law enforcement career."

Standardization of training

See CONFERENCE Page 5-A

Foundation hires Cutter as its director

John Cutter has been named the new executive director of the Chowan Regional Health Care Foundation. The Edenton resident replaces Earl Bassett, who guided the foundation for nearly eight years. Bassett is now employed by HealthEast, which is a part of University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina.

The foundation, which is now an independent arm of the hospital and funded by Chowan County, was incorporated in 1992 through a grant from the Duke Endowment. Prior to 1998, the foundation was a Chowan Hospital department.

"From a professional standpoint, this opportunity is what I've been looking for. I want to make a positive contribution to the area," said Cutter, who comes to his new position from Chowan College in Murfreesboro, where he held the position of director of the Annual Fund for the past four and one-half years. At Chowan College, Cutter was responsible for potential donors in the category "Friends of the College," who are donors not listed as trustees or board of visitors members. He also coordinated fundraising events during the year.



John Cutter

The primary areas that Cutter will be focusing on are the coordination of efforts to build a Wellness Center in Chowan County, physician recruitment, fundraising and grant writing. The Wellness Center has been part of Chowan Hospital's Strategic Plan for the past few years.

"A Wellness Center will reach out to the community with memberships coming from the surrounding communities. It's an exciting topic,"

See CUTTER On Page 5-A

Jobless rate climbs in Chowan Co.

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

The economic slowdown that has plagued the country has come home to Chowan County. However, local officials are hopeful the situation will soon turn around.

According to a news release issued this week by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, a large jump in unemployment rates (from 4.6 percent in June to 8.6 percent in July) has been seen in Chowan County. The agency said this was part of a trend

seen across the state, as other counties — Wayne, Gaston, Cleveland, Chowan, Lincoln, and Davidson — also were seeing large increases.

Acting state ESC Chairman Thomas S. Whitaker said that during July, an all-time high of \$88 million in unemployment benefits were paid by the ESC to displaced workers. Whitaker noted that this came on the heels of paying \$68.7 million in June. He noted that last July, the agency provided just \$36.8 million in benefits.

Edenton Employment Security Commission Manager

Ricky Coltraine said that while the numbers for Chowan County might seem alarming at first glance, local residents should put the situation in proper perspective. Coltraine noted that last summer, the jobless rate here reached 10.1 percent following the closing of Evans Lumber. The next month, the jobless rate dropped to just 3.2 percent.

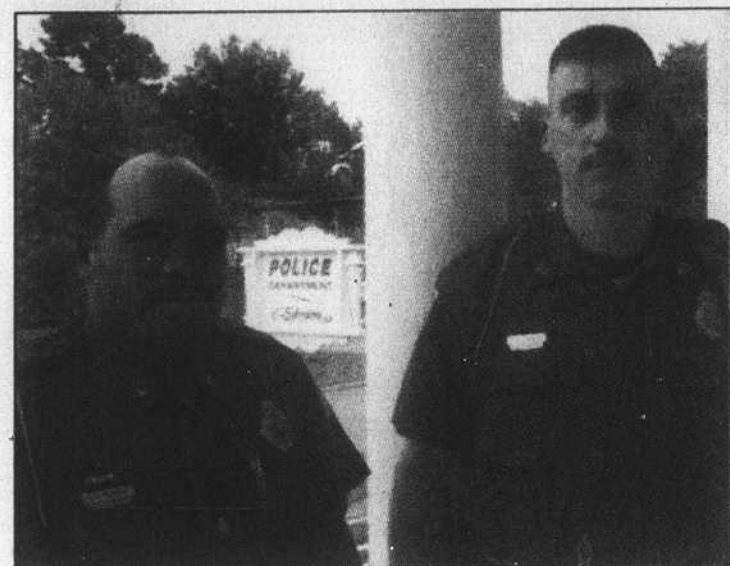
"Of course, at that time, the national economy was in much better shape than what we are seeing now," he said. "And we have to remember that. But I do believe that you will see our

numbers drop at least two or three percentage points next month."

Coltraine said he also saw it as a positive sign that among those currently drawing unemployment here, a good number are part of what he called "attached" layoffs, which means that they are expected to be called back to work by the companies where they worked.

"I would say that's a very positive thing," he said. "Those layoffs are not permanent in nature, and those people will

See JOBLESS On Page 4-A



Chief Greg Bonner welcomes Officer R.C. Shanken

New officer joins Edenton police

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

EDENTON - Officer Richard C. Shanken was sworn in Friday afternoon as Edenton's newest police officer. Officer Shanken, 29, is a 1999 graduate of College of the Albemarle Elizabeth City BLET.

"I am very pleased with the addition of Officer Shanken to the Edenton Police Depart-

ment," said Edenton Police Chief Greg Bonner. "He joins a department of fine officers and we are glad to have him."

Shanken brings with him nine and a half years of military experience with the United States Navy. Officer Shanken is married and he and his wife Tonya have two children - a six year-old daughter, Courtney and an eight year-old son, Dakota.



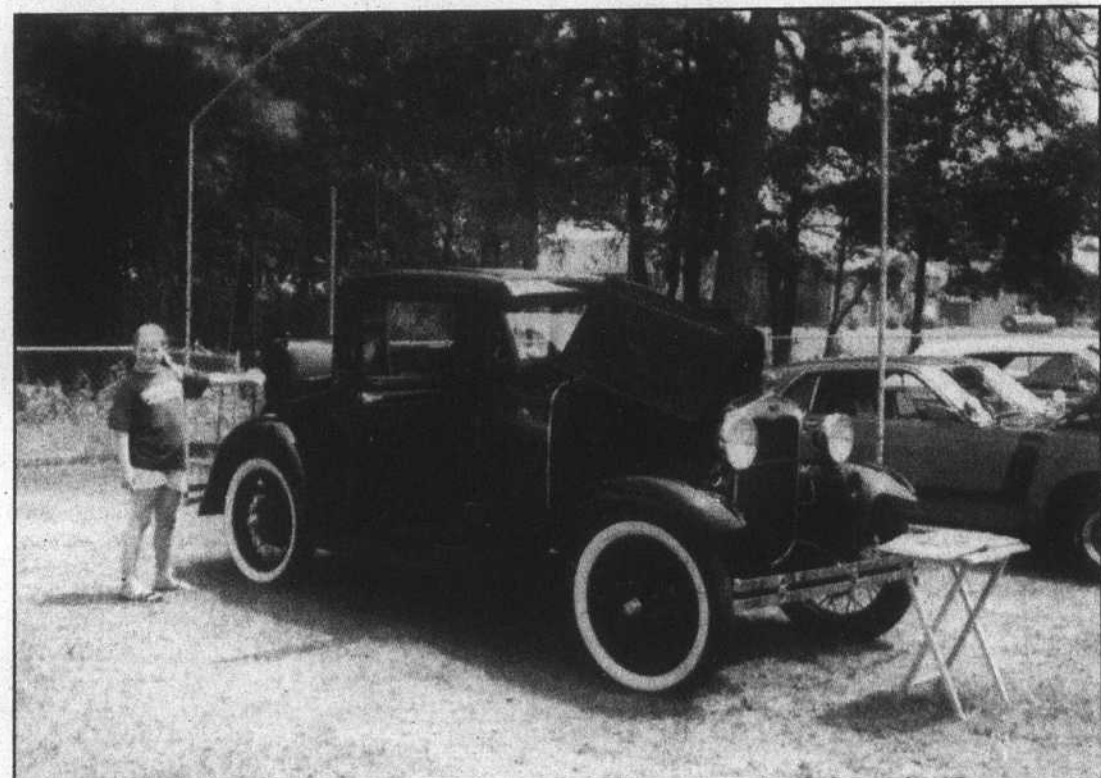
Big Sweep is nearing

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

North Carolina Big Sweep Cleanup has been scheduled for Chowan County. The cleanup is part of a project is part of an ongoing effort to keep North Carolina's clean and beautiful and to protect wildlife habitats.

"Last year's cleanup in Chowan County was a huge

See SWEEP On Page 5-A



Rocky Hock site for car show

Taylor Noble, daughter of Mia and Scott Noble, shows off some of the entries at the first-ever Rocky Hock Ruritan Car Show and Swap Meet held last Saturday at the Rocky Hock Community Center. Proceeds benefitted local charities. (For other photos from the show, see page 16-B)



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