



Something's fishy? Spend a day at Murray Nixon's Fishery in Rocky Hock

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Wednesday, September 20, 2006

50¢

Who, what and where of the Chowan Co. Fair See Below

Officials map plans for local growth

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Some Chowan County residents want a pool in Edenton, as well as more to do along the town's waterfront.

Other residents envision a flourishing economy, including scores of new, well-paying jobs.

And others want to see more housing available for the people holding those jobs.

For Richard Bunch, executive director of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, said he's just pleased that people want to update the local growth plan.

The current plan was drafted a decade ago. About 50 town and county officials met Monday to renew the previous growth goals.

"It all began through a community session like this," Bunch said at the opening of the meeting sponsored by the Chamber and involving East Carolina University development officials.

Mack Simpson, associate director of ECU's regional development department, said some communities simply let their plans gather dust on shelves.

"Two years from now," he said, "you don't even remember the plan."

But that hasn't been the case in Edenton and Chowan, he

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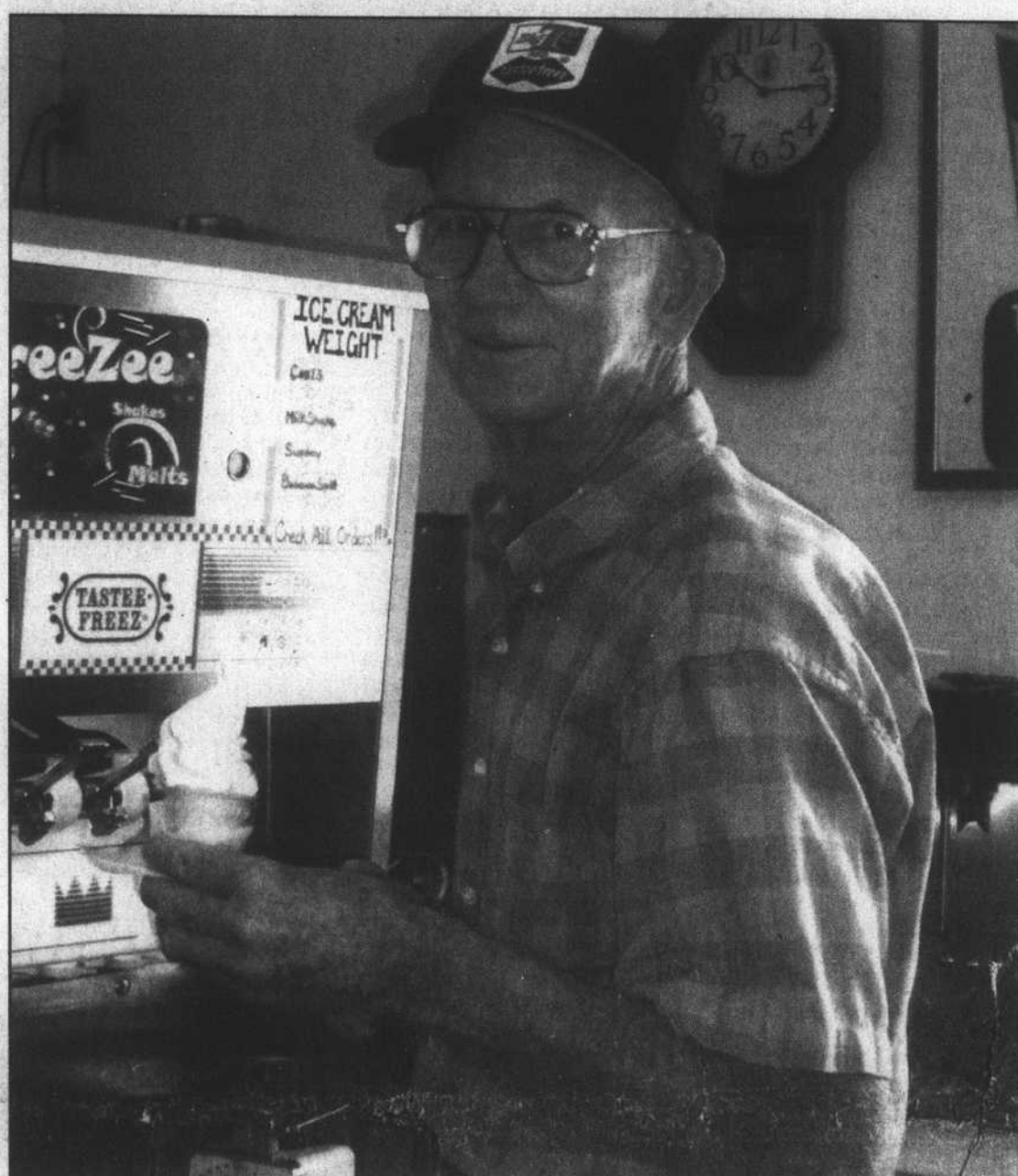
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Warm memories of The Freeze



Ed Taylor spends every lunch hour overseeing the operations at The Freeze, and chatting with customers. He said about leaving the business: "I'll miss it all."

Ed Taylor says goodbye to the restaurant business after 42 years

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Ed Taylor remembers when an ice cream cone only set him back a nickel. A hamburger was only 15 cents.

Times change, and so will the ownership of The Freeze — formerly known as the Tastee-Freeze on West Queen Street.

After 42 years of selling burgers, sundaes and shakes, Taylor is moving

on.

"There comes a time in your life when you should move on," he said, "whether you want to or not."

Taylor, 73, isn't moving on without some regrets.

"I'll miss it all," he said, "the customers and the employees. It's a sad time in a way."

His wife Stella has gotten used to the idea, after some prodding from her husband. "I think she's ready to do it," he said.

The restaurant isn't the only business Taylor started in Edenton. He opened the Bridge Turn Exxon at the corner of West Queen and South Broad streets 45 years

ago. His son, Steve, now runs that service station.

In recent years, Taylor has spent much of his time at the eatery, talking to customers and making sure everything was in ship-shape order.

"Just about everybody knows me," he said.

Tastee-Freeze began as a place where you could only buy sundaes, shakes and soft-serve ice cream cones.

In the early 1960s, cooked foods were added to the menu. As a result, the service went from seasonal to year-round, Taylor said.

He learned early-on to watch his overhead costs.

"The name of the game is being a penny-pincher to be

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Kids catch fall fishing fever at the hatchery

Sports, B1

Love me, love my chicken

Local woman raises feathered friends
Community, C1



They're groups, not gangs, police chief says

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Edenton's police chief says two local, rival groups tied to recent fights are identifying themselves as the Bloods and the Crips.

But there's no evidence either group is tied to the infamous, California-based gangs.

"There's nothing we have," police Chief Greg Bonner said, "to say there is an established, bona fide gang [here]."

A pair of recent fights — including one last week that sent one person to the hospital and resulted in at least six arrests — has brought gang-sensitivity to the surface.

Two of the suspects from last week's fight were charged with inciting a riot.

"There is a group [of youth] the community is experiencing problems with," the chief said.

However, no gang-related problems have been reported at local schools. The fights have occurred away from Holmes high school, after hours.

"We have noticed increased gang-like activity in Edenton just in general," but not in the schools, Glenda Jakubowski, Edenton-Chowan Schools spokesperson, said.

On Sept. 14, members of the so-called local Bloods went to a residence at 219 E. Church St. A fight broke out shortly thereafter. Bonner said a motive for that fight hasn't been discovered.

"We're trying to find out," he said, "why is it these groups are meeting in certain locations to fight?"

Three men were arrested for their roles in that altercation, while two other people — including a Holmes high school football player — were taken to Chowan Hospital for treatment.

Neither of the injured youths suffered severe injuries, the chief said.

More arrests are in store. "We anticipate nine to 10 additional warrants," Bonner said.

Arrested last week were Maurice Spears, 17, of 219 E. Church St. and Sherrod Sanderlin, 23, of 128 E. Freemason St. Both face felony charges of inciting a riot and misdemeanor charges of failure to disperse.

They were released from the Chowan County Detention Facility after posting \$12,500 bonds.

Also arrested was Deshane Sanderlin, 22, on felony weapons and drug charges.

59th annual regional fair rolls into town next week

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Managing Editor

Next Tuesday, for the 34th consecutive year, E.C. Toppin will help usher in the Chowan County Regional Fair.

It's a pleasure more than a chore, according to Toppin, who serves as fair manager and president of the Chowan County Regional Fair Association, which plans the event each year.

"My favorite time of all," said Toppin, "is opening day. I really look forward to seeing all those kids coming in, with those great big smiles on their faces."

Last year's fair attracted 17,400 visitors "and we hope to exceed that this year," he said.

Among the activities Toppin predicts will excite those attending are everything from video games to gospel music.

"I think the teens and younger kids too will be excited about the free video games being provided by IGX," he said.

Games are scheduled to include Playstation 2, Nintendo Game Cube, Microsoft Xbox, Game Boy Advance, and PC's. Players are also encouraged to register to win a new Ninetendo Game Cub system.

Another crowd pleaser is ex-

pected to be the Barnyard Express, a comic experience in learning about animals. The express, which Toppin says was a big hit last year, is the brainchild of Farmer John, a former state extension agent.

"He really had the crowd going," said Toppin of Farmer John's 2005 show. "They were really excited."

There will also be trout fishing for all ages, a petting zoo and an Electric Rodeo. The midway will be operated by Playworld Amusements again this year.

Gospel Night will be Thursday night, and Toppin says that

the Anchormen and others are expected to draw a large audience. "I think that's going to be a big night for us," he said.

Among this year's special performers on other nights will be Elvis impersonator Sterling Riggs, who will sing on Wednesday, followed by the enormously popular Rocky Hock Opry Band on Friday.

And rounding out the weeks' activities will be the Little Miss Pageant and the Miss Chowan County Fair Pageant.

There will also be many educational exhibits for fairgoers

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Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Lou's Petting Zoo was a big hit among kids last year.

at the American Legion Fairgrounds

59TH ANNUAL
CHOWAN COUNTY
REGIONAL FAIR

Exhibits • Contests
Educational Booths
Rides • Games • Food
GREAT FAMILY FUN!

