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No state tax forms at library, post office

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Taxpayers are not the only ones who will be surprised to learn that the N.C. Department of Revenue is no longer supplying income tax forms to local libraries and U.S. Post Office facilities, officials at those locations say they're surprised too.

Thomas Beam, public information officer for the state Department of Revenue, said that the state circulated an announcement to select libraries in December. He said he could not explain why the decision was handled that way and that those who possibly could were not in the office over the holidays.

That wasn't much consolation for local libraries that are just now hearing the news when interviewed for this story.

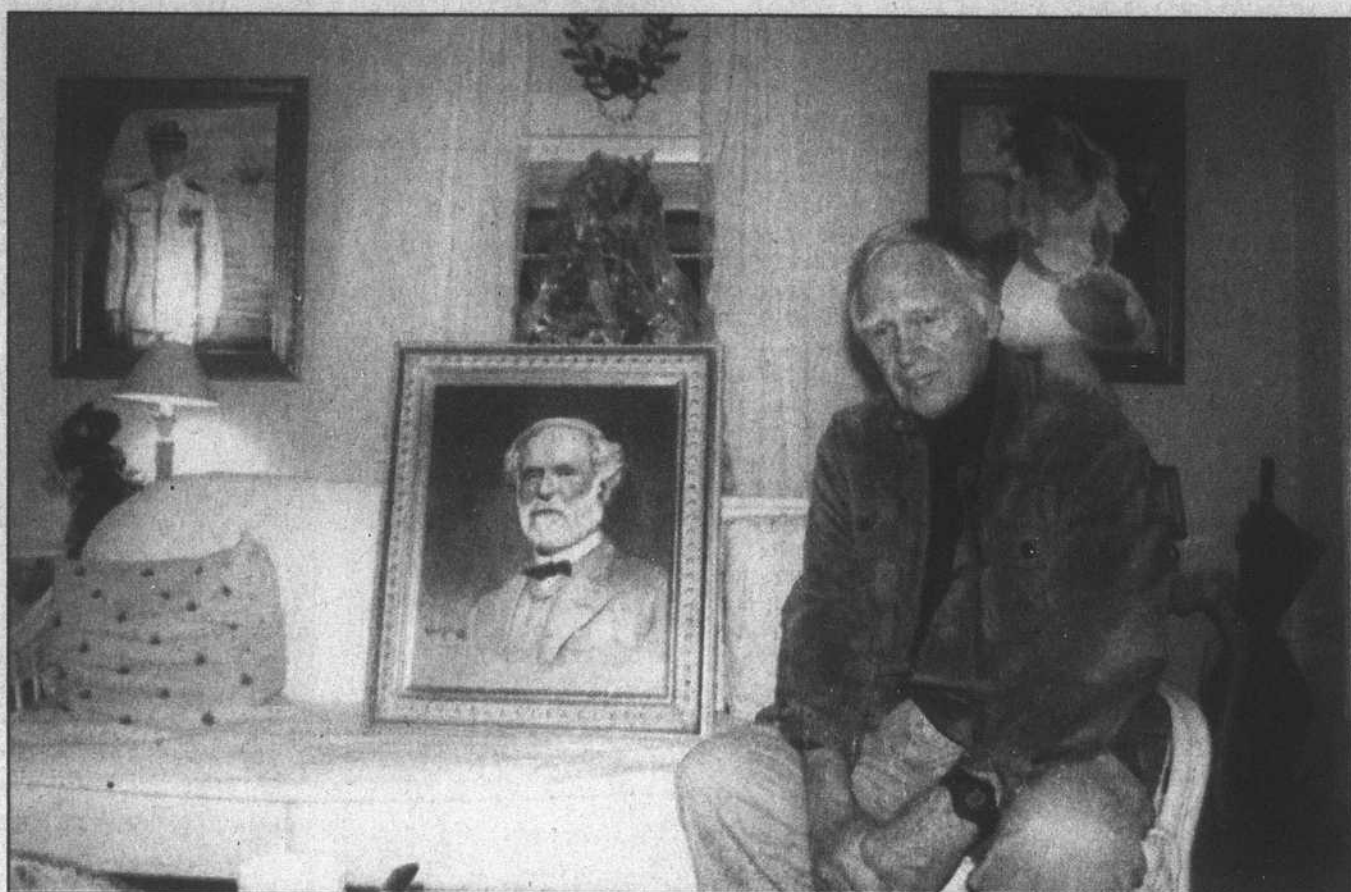
Rosalie Miller at Shepard-Pruden Library in Edenton said she could not recall receiving any information from the state concerning the absent forms.

At the Perquimans County Library in Hertford, library technician Earline White said she had checked the Department of Revenue's Web site after her boss heard the forms might not be made available.

White said she had gone ahead and ordered forms for the Hertford library since there was no notice posted on the site saying that libraries could not get them.

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Portrait of an artist



RITCHIE E. STARNES/CHOWAN HERALD

Local artist T. John F. Becker sits beside one of his portrait paintings of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, the product of extensive research, following the inspiration of Jay Winik's April 1865. Behind him hangs portraits of his own children, Patrick and Anne.

Painting sustains Edenton man's gift

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Pieces of his craft can be found in a number of Edenton homes, not to mention courthouses scattered across the state.

For a man whose professional career includes stints as a reporter, pianist, stage designer, financial analyst, realtor, stock broker, and production manager that have taken him to various pockets of the world, it's John Becker's evolution as an artist that sustains him today. What began on the periphery of Becker's diverse career more as a hobby eventually became

"Portrait painting is not something that you do. You do one job, do it well. People see it and want you to do it for them."

T. John F. Becker

Edenton resident and portrait painter

the consistent part of his work.

Becker, a native of England whose career has included global journeys, has borrowed from his former occupations to become the consummate portrait painter.

"Portrait painting is not something

that you do," Becker said. "You do one job, do it well. People see it and want you to do it for them."

Word-of-mouth advertising has worked well for Becker who estimates

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Chowan leaning toward ECBH

County to vacate offices by year's end

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Plans to allow East Carolina Behavioral Health to continue to manage Chowan County's mental health services improved Monday night.

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners gave ECBH a ringing endorsement after it showed a unanimous show of hands that the commissioners



Rascoe

avored the continued relationship. Before the board can make it official, a public hearing must be held.

"East Carolina Behavioral Health has provided excellent services for us," said County Manager Peter Rascoe. "We really don't have many options. The state is highly recommending that we enter negotiations with East Carolina Behavioral Health."

The New Bern based ECBH stepped in at the state's request last year after Albemarle Mental Health Center suffered a financial collapse and could no longer serve various state counties, including Chowan, as contracted. Consequently, many of the counties previously

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Vann Moore — historian, town matriarch — dies

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Edenton's New Year began with a loss as the community lost its unofficial matriarch with Friday's death of Elizabeth Vann Moore at age 97.

Chowan — Edenton leaders recognized Moore as the area's leading historian and activist with countless works to her credit. She was the one locals and historians turned to for the most accurate, detailed information about the area's history. Moore served on numerous historical commissions and was frequently revered by similar organizations for her service and impeccable authority on events and people related to Edenton — Chowan where she had lived since 1933.

Sambo Dixon, a longtime friend and neighbor, described Moore as the consummate historian who researched for the sake of disseminated accuracy, instead of profit.

"She knew everything



Elizabeth Vann Moore

about the history of Edenton and she always did it for free," said Dixon, referring to the assistance that she gave fellow historians and writers.

"I am going to miss her more than I can say," said Linda Jordan Eure, site manager for the Historic Edenton Visitor Center. "I have known her for 27 years, and she was a good friend to me. She gave training programs for our staff in the 1980s and

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Smokers take last drag in restaurants, bars

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

This week, Sunday morning was different for Virginia Davis. Instead of lighting up her cigarette and enjoying a hot cup of coffee inside the warmth of Nixon Family Restaurant in Rocky Hock, she found herself out in the cold.

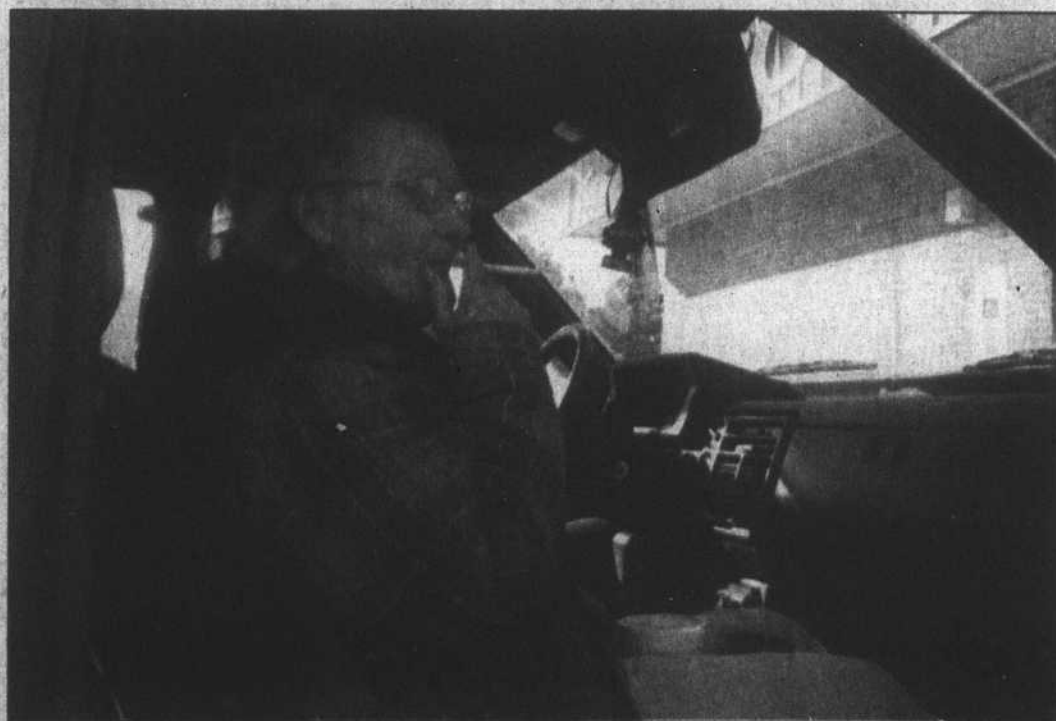
After finishing her breakfast inside the restaurant, the Tyner woman took refuge from the frigid temperatures inside her husband's pick-up truck, parked outside where she promptly lit up.

And she vowed to continue doing so rather than give up her beloved Winston Lights in the wake of a statewide ban that prohibits smoking inside restaurants and bars.

"I don't like it (ban) one bit, and you can quote me on that," Davis said defiantly. "I feel like the government's got better things to do than pick on smokers."

"If anything it's made me more determined than ever to smoke," she added. "I don't want to quit. If I have to sit at home to do it, then I'll sit at home and do it."

Davis said she began sneaking cigarettes when



REBECCA BUNCH/CHOWAN HERALD

Virginia Davis smokes in her husband's truck outside Nixon Family Restaurant, Sunday morning. Davis used to smoke cigarettes while enjoying a cup of coffee inside Nixon's before a new state law prohibits smoking inside restaurants and bars went into effect.

she was 13 years old.

"That's 55 years ago and I'm still here," Davis said.

Davis, who had vascular surgery about 15 years ago, said she quit once for about six months because her doctor got on her about it.

But she started again one

evening years ago when she became anxious because she thought her husband had been in an accident.

Most days, she said, she smokes about a pack a day — a habit she has no plans to change.

"That's my privilege if

I want to smoke," Davis said. "The way I look at it, it's nobody's business but mine."

But, the spirit of the new state law, which took effect Jan. 2, is aimed at protect-

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