



## Paper Social Security checks ending

Electronic benefits began last Sunday

By WILLIAM F. WEST  
Staff Writer

The days of mailing Social Security and other

federal benefits checks are coming to an end.

In an effort to cut costs, the U.S. Treasury Department is phasing out using paper as a way to pay people for social insurance, Veterans Affairs benefits and other federal benefits.

Starting Sunday, anyone newly applying for such federal benefits checks is going to have to select an electronic option to receive payments, Melody Barrett, a Treasury Department spokeswoman, said.

The change to a completely electronic system is going to save taxpayers more than \$1 billion over a decade, Barrett said.

One option is direct deposit into a bank or credit union account, while the other option is a direct ex-

press pre-paid debit card.

Barrett said a major reason for the change is more than 18 million baby boomers are going to reach retirement age in the next five years.

"That's about 10,000 people a day that are be-

coming eligible for Social Security benefits," Barrett said.

"So, with that wave of baby boomers coming, we thought we needed to get out in front of this to

See CHECKS, 2A

## THE WAY THINGS WERE



STAFF PHOTO BY KIP SHAW

Edenton Woman's Club member Terri Fox waits to greet Pilgrimage Tour visitors at the James Coffield House at 209 East King St., currently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Sorensen.

## Organizers, visitors deem Pilgrimage a success

Event fetches about \$20,000

By REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

About 1,000 people took advantage of the mild weekend weather to visit Edenton during its Biennial Pilgrimage, organizers said Monday.

Tour treasurer Marilyn Racine said the tour raised around \$20,000 putting it on par with the Pilgrimage held in 2009. Proceeds will be used toward historical preservation efforts.

"We weren't quite sure what to expect, given the state of the economy," Racine said. "But we were very pleased with the way things turned out."

This year's tour attracted many first-timers to the



The Edenton Carriage Company added a touch of period class to the Pilgrimage tour weekend by providing rides around town for tour visitors.

See PILGRIMAGE, 6A

## Planning Board requests UDO amendment

From staff reports

The Edenton Planning Board, by a majority vote, agreed Monday night to recommend to the town council that its Unified Development Ordinance be amended to allow fruit and vegetable markets.

The request to amend the UDO came from the Chowan-Edenton Environmental Group that wants to see the Edenton Farmers Market that it operates be allowed in the R-5 residential zoning district near the Mill Village. The CEEG hopes to relocate its market to that site on an abandoned railroad property bounded by East Queen Street. That use is not currently allowed in that neighborhood under the UDO.

The UDO regulates zoning and subdivision regulations, flood damage

See BOARD, 7A

## County calls for budget public hearing

By RITCHIE STARNES  
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners has called for a May 16 public hearing to address the next fiscal budget.

Taxpayers will then get an opportunity to speak on any concerns about Chowan's \$16 million annual budget. During Monday night's scheduled board meeting, commissioners made no changes to the county manager's recommended budget for 2011-12 other than to approve a \$120,000 loan to the Emergency Management Service for the purchase of a new ambulance.

It also approved via the consent agenda to increase the county's revenue from the state's tax distribution from beer and wine sales. The underestimated revenue of \$21,800 will be used to fund a study about the county's employee compensation.

Funds for the ambulance purchase will

See BUDGET, 4A

## Osama bin Laden is killed; locals 'glad he's gone'

Most worry about retaliation in US

By BILL WEST  
Staff Writer

Willie Gorham was in his 70s when terrorists hijacked four U.S. airplanes



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and flew three into buildings and the fourth into the ground, killing more than 3,000 Americans in the worst-ever terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

Because of his health problems, Gorham, now 83, didn't think he'd live long enough to see the man accused of masterminding those attacks — al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden — either captured or killed.

But he did. Bin Laden was killed Sunday by an elite team of 40 U.S. Navy SEALs during

a covert operation in Pakistan, ending a nearly 10-year manhunt for likely the most notorious terrorist in history.

Gorham, who was reading newspaper accounts of bin Laden's death at the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Senior Center on Monday, said he thinks someone had to know about bin Laden's whereabouts all that time. He wonders why it took nearly a decade to find him. All the same, he's glad that bin Laden is finally gone. "It's good that he's out,"

he said.

Mary Armstrong, 72, was also happy that U.S. forces were finally able to find and kill bin Laden. She credits God for helping the U.S. pinpoint bin Laden's hiding place at a private compound in Pakistan.

"He was a thorn in our side. And I feel like the United States is much better off ..." with bin Laden gone, she said.

Armstrong said she's most happy for U.S. troops — who've been deployed to fight in wars in both Af-

ghanistan and Iraq in the decade ever since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

"I'll be even happier if we can get 'em out of Afghanistan," she said.

At Elizabeth City State University, sophomore Kayanna Carroll, 21, of Enfield, was also pleased with the news that bin Laden was dead.

"He (bin Laden) started so many issues within the United States and within other countries," Carroll said. "And he just really needed to be taken out."

Although Carroll was just a youngster when the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks took place, her father's distant relatives were among the victims killed in the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City.

Phillip Dance, 69, a former longtime Northrop Grumman shipyard worker, called bin Laden's death "a blessing to the United States." He praised the Obama administration's handling of the military

See BIN LADEN, 5A

<b>MAY PLAY DAY</b> SATURDAY, MAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> starts at 10:00 am ROCKY HOCK COMMUNITY CENTER	<b>CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT</b> 10:00 - UNTIL GRAND PRIZE \$100 EDENTON DANCE STARS 11:00 - 12:00PM	<b>CASTON YOUNG</b> 1:00 - 2:00PM	<b>BBQ CHICKEN PLATES</b> CALL \$8.00 FROM 3 - 7 PM 252-221-4875 or 252-340-3438	<b>MORRIS FAMILY VARIETY SHOW</b> 7:30 pm - Call for Tickets	<b>CRAFT BOOTHS • BAKED GOODS</b> CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & GAMES FREE BICYCLE DRAWING 2PM BB GUN SHOOTING CLINIC & CONTEST
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