



Superintendent passes on raise for 4th time

Smith remains highest paid supt. in Albemarle

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

For the fourth consecutive year, the Edenton Chowan Schools superintendent volunteered to forgo his annual raise. As teachers statewide continue to experience the economic

pinch due to budget shortfalls, Superintendent Allan Smith agreed to forgo an annual salary increase of 4 percent. Instead, Smith will receive a 1.2 percent pay increase or the same as forfarded all state educators for the current calendar year.



Smith

"Since teachers and other educators and staff have not been receiving annual step increases from the General Assembly in recent years it is only fair and appropriate that all school employees be treated in the same manner," Smith said. "Therefore, I elected to forgo the annual step specified in my contract. This is not a news worthy event nor does it deserve any further comment. However, since it is

technically an alteration in my contract it requires official action by the Board of Education each year."

The school board again approved the contract at its Sept. 10 meeting.

"I think that was very generous and professional of him. I think he's to be commended," said Gil Burroughs, board member.

Although Smith's salary re-

mains less than his contract calls for, he remains the highest paid superintendent in northeast North Carolina. The N.C. Department of Instruction estimates his annual salary at \$151,518. According to DPI, the larger Elizabeth City - Pasquotank County school system pay its superintendent \$144,376 per year. The next closest salary

See RAISE, 4A

Woman moves forward with biz

Last Taxi cab service here was in 2007

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

A local woman, Yolanda Vann, is working toward establishing her own taxicab business — UltraSoul Transport, Inc. — in Edenton this fall.

Vann said she is excited about the prospect of starting the business because she enjoys driving and loves doing something to help people.

Vann, 46, is a native of New York City and will be the first woman to own a cab service in Edenton.



Vann

Earlier local cab service businesses have been owned by African American males. Edenton last had an active taxicab business in 2007.

Vann moved here in August 2008, following the death of her mother. Vann said she had become familiar with Edenton through her mother's best friend, who lives here.

"When I visited Edenton, I fell in love with the beautiful scenery and how quiet it is," Vann said. "So I stayed and started looking for a house to purchase."

Vann, who prior to moving to Edenton had worked for 20 years as an administrative aide for the New York City Police Department, said she had never doubted her decision.

"Ever since I came to Edenton, there have been doors opening for me. I believe God meant for me to be here," Vann said.

Vann, who has most recently been working as a driver for Moore's Taxi in Elizabeth City, said she saw a need for the same type of transportation in Edenton. So she decided to try and fill that need.

The Town Council at its Sept. 11 meeting unanimously granted Vann a certificate of convenience and necessity, a necessary step in the process of establishing her own business. She must now apply for a privilege license.

Vann, who already holds a commercial driver's license, said in re-

See TAXI, 2A

HUNT FOR OCTOBER



STAFF PHOTOS BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Ed Taylor stands among 100 acres of leased land that he uses for a controlled hunting preserve. He has groomed the site to be conducive for bird hunting.

Controlled hunt ensures prey

Bird hunting starts Oct. 1

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Hunting for a fee can be cheaper than for free.

For 30 years Ed Taylor has been maintaining and operating a controlled hunting preserve just a few miles outside of Edenton, but far enough away that the land is isolated ideally for bird hunting. Rows of mowed fields separate thigh-high broom grass just shy of turning brown. The wooded area has been thinned so it doesn't provide too much cover for the prey, but ample trees to keep it sporting. Brush and piles of discarded stumps offer another hiding place for a covey.

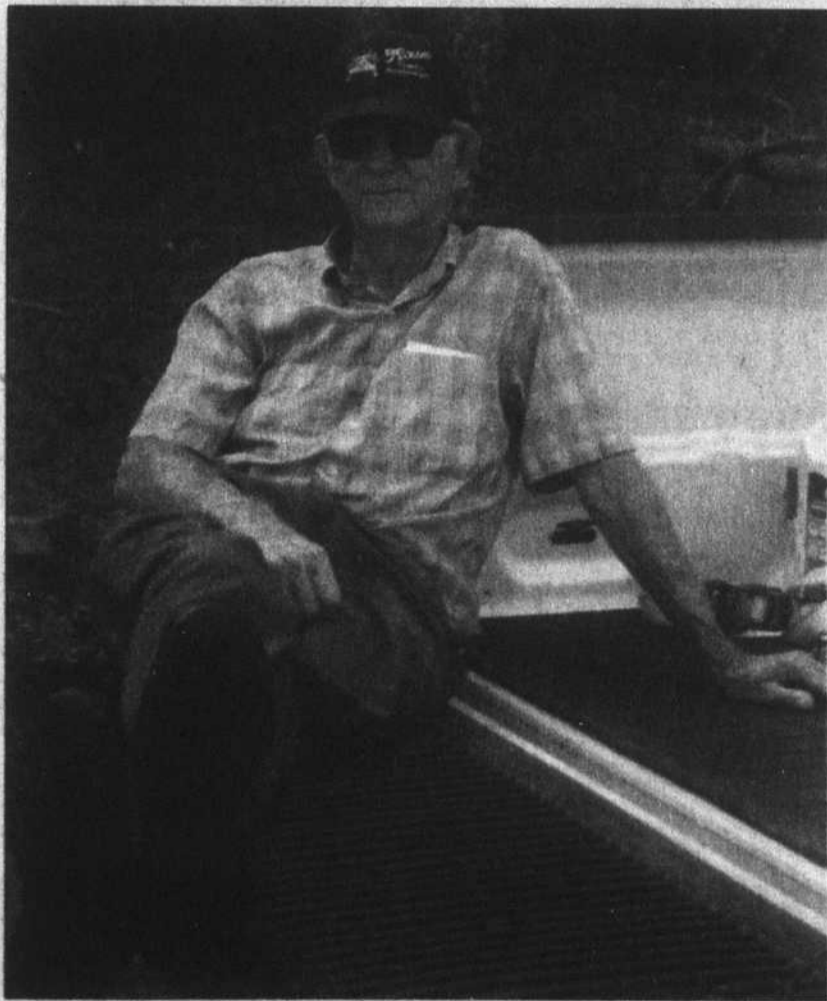
Taylor has groomed the 100-acre to accommodate ideal conditions for bird hunting. And he guarantees there will be plenty of birds whether it's quail, pheasant, or chucker.

"If I'm not going to provide good hunting conditions with good birds then I don't want to do it," said the 79-year-old Taylor.

Minutes earlier he professed the same philosophy about when he was still working for living.

"If you're not going to do it right, then get out and stay out," he barked.

The hunting preserve requires labor, but Taylor manages to keep it rewarding enough that it's fun too. An avid hunter and a crack shot, he also serves as the hunting



Ed Taylor stretches across the tailgate of his pickup truck while talking about the advantages of controlled hunting. For 30 years, he has provided a controlled hunting preserve for birds.

guide on the preserve accompanied by equally bird-savvy dogs to flush out then fetch the shot prey.

A well-trained dog is as necessary

See PRESERVE, 3A

Decision 2012

Yeopim precinct switches locations

By RITCHIE STARNES
Editor

Yeopim precinct voters accustomed to casting their ballots at the Northeastern Regional Airport will be required to return to a former site for the election in November.

The Chowan County Board of Elections voted in favor of moving the precinct back to the Edenton National Guard Armory at 739 Soundside Road effective for the General Election. Limited space at the airport and a growing number of voters within the precinct prompted the board to return to the Armory, located adjacent to the airport.

The armory was the original precinct for Yeopim before it was moved to the airport for the elections in 2002.

"The country was under a state of war due to 9/11," said Rebecca Lowe, director of elections. "We have to move when that happens."

At that time, there were 1,210 voters in the Yeopim precinct, according to Lowe. That number has since ballooned to 1,643, making the airport location undersized for voter traffic.

"We've been able to function, but not always comfortably," Lowe added.

Parking has also been an issue at the airport with voters having to park far away from the precinct then make a lengthy walk, Lowe said.

Since the presidential election is expected to bring a heavy voter turnout, elections officials decided to make the move now.

Patti Kersey, Yeopim precinct chairwoman, questioned the timing of the move.

See PRECINCT, 4A

Edenton enacts Internet café moratorium

From staff reports

The Edenton Town Council voted unanimously last Tuesday evening to adopt an ordinance that would impose a 90-day moratorium on the establishment of Internet cafes in the community.

The moratorium would cover permit approvals and zoning ordinance text

a m e n d - m e n t s p e r t a i n i n g t o b u s i n e s s e s w h o s e f o c u s i s e l e c t r o n i c g a m i n g a n d I n t e r n e t s w e e p - s t a k e s .

As adopted, it would remain in effect through De-



Vaughan

cember or until the N.C. Supreme Court renders a decision on two cases now before it concerning the legality of such businesses in the state.

"We have had numerous discussions on this issue, and legal opinions are still being pursued," Mayor Roland Vaughan said prior to the vote.

Landin Holland, a con-

tracted planner for the town, said that he would begin working with the town's planning board in October to add language to that effect to the Unified Development Ordinance. At present the UDO does not contain any provisions addressing the issue.

"We'll start next month looking at what's appropriate," Holland said.

In response to a question from Councilman Steve Biggs, Holland said the county government currently has no plans to deal with the issue.

"They have had no requests," Holland said. "They will act if they do."

The vote was preceded by a public hearing that

See CAFE, 2A

