



Stylist Eric Swenson showcases his artwork this Saturday — 1B 50¢

482-4418

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Two killed in Yeopim boating accident

From staff reports

A Chowan County man and a man from Perquimans County were killed Friday in a boating accident at the mouth of the Yeopim River.

Pronounced dead at Chowan Hospital shortly after the accident were Daniel Manke, 50, of Hertford, and Blaine Weyant, 48, of Edenton, according

to law enforcement authorities.

Another boater in the accident, Edward White, 47, of Hertford, was released from Albemarle Hospital after being flown there from the scene by a Coast Guard rescue crew from Elizabeth City, according to N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Officer William Laton.

Laton said he is still

trying to determine what caused the accident. No charges are pending, he added.

"We're still investigating everything, looking at all the evidence, putting pieces of the puzzle together," Laton said.

The accident happened around 1:45 p.m. Friday when the boat ran aground in the Yeopim River, according to a news release

from the Coast Guard.

Perquimans first responders assisted the Coast Guard in treating White at the scene.

Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said the 17-foot Sea Ray ran aground and struck a tree. The accident occurred in southern Chowan County. The Yeopim River divides Chowan and Perquimans counties.

The Coast Guard reported that Washington County emergency dispatchers contacted the Coast Guard around 1:45 p.m. to report a boating accident with three people aboard.

The Coast Guard dispatched a 25-foot response boat and a 24-foot shallow water special purpose craft from Coast Guard Station Elizabeth City, as well as the Jayhawk helicopter

from Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City.

A crew from Harvey Point Rescue also responded by assisting the injured man from shore, where he was hoisted into the Jayhawk helicopter and flown to the hospital.

The Chowan County Sheriff's Department is assisting the Wildlife Resources Commission in investigating the accident.

County votes down tax cut plan

By REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners on a split vote Monday rejected a call for a one-cent reduction in the county property tax rate in the 2013-14 county budget.

Commissioner Emmett Winborne's motion to reduce the property tax rate from 68.5 cents per \$100 property valuation to 67.5 cents failed 4-3, with only Winborne, Chairman Keith Nixon and Commissioner Alex Kehayes voting for it.

The recommended budget presented by County Manager Zee Lamb maintains the county's current property tax rate of 68.5 cents and also keeps water rates and other fees at the current levels.

Winborne apparently has not given up on the one-cent tax reduction proposal. He indicated to his fellow commissioners during the meeting Monday night that he thinks the idea might catch fire with the public over the next couple of weeks.

The board held a public hearing Monday on the recommended budget for 2013-14. No one from the public spoke during the hearing.

Lamb praised the commissioners for their fiscal responsibility in recent years.

"Over the past five years the board has come a long way in digging itself out of a big hole that the county was in," Lamb said.

The county has rebuilt its fund balance and will save taxpayers some \$10 million by paying off debt in 2024 rather than 2048, he said.

Lamb suggested that any funds the county has in excess of the 25 percent that county commissioners have established as a goal for fund balance — the money the county has available for emergency expenses — be set aside as a tax rate stabilization fund to cushion the blow next year when the new

See COUNTY, 2A



©2009 The Chowan Herald All Rights Reserved

A LITTLE WATER AND FOOD



BILL MILLER PHOTOS

The band Sojourner plays during the Music and Water Festival on Saturday. See photos on page 4A and see story on 1B.



The Coast Guard patrols the waterfront during the Edenton Music and Water Festival. Children enjoy having their faces painted by Isabelle the Clown at the Music and Water Festival in Edenton on Saturday.



Three injured in Sunday shooting

From staff reports

Edenton police are seeking the public's help in determining who shot three people on a street in town early Sunday morning.

At 12:11 a.m., police responded to a reported shooting at the intersection of Martin Luther King and Cox avenues, according to Police Chief Jay Fortenbery.

Police saw a large crowd and learned that the victims had been transported to Vidant Chowan Hospital by friends prior to police arriving, Fortenbery said.

Fortenbery said about 50 people were present when the shooting

occurred, and witnesses need to come forward and tell police what happened.

"We need the public to help us," Fortenbery said.

One of the victims, Kenyatta Stevenson, 26, of Tyner, suffered gunshot wounds to the arm and abdomen and was airlifted to Vidant Hospital in Greenville, according to police. Stevenson was in stable condition Monday, according to police.

Also, Rayshawn White, 28, of



Fortenbery

Edenton, who suffered a gunshot wound to the abdomen, was being treated at Vidant Chowan Hospital. White was in stable condition Monday, according to police.

Thomas White Jr., 27, of Edenton, was treated and released at Vidant Chowan Hospital for a gunshot wound to the leg, according to police.

Police and investigators with the State Bureau of Investigation are asking for help from anyone who witnessed the crime or who may have information.

Witnesses should contact Edenton Police Department at 482-5144 or 482-4444.

Town Council eyes crime-free community

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The desire to become a crime-free community took center stage as the town council met May 30 to conduct its annual review of its 10-year vision statement.

The statement sets priorities and constitutes an action plan for carrying out those priorities.

Much of the council's discussion during the meeting in the

council chambers in downtown Edenton centered around the councilors' desire to see the town become a crime-free community through education, enforcement and vigilance on the part of citizens and the police.

"I think our citizens would like to see that (strategy) to clear crime from the community) as a priority," said Councilman Bob Quinn.

Part of the strategy adopted by the council focuses on working

aggressively with Neighborhood Watch groups in Edenton to expand the level of communication between the police and citizens, educating citizens about safety and crime prevention, and tougher enforcement of laws and regulations.

"We cannot do a thing else with the vision statement without tackling crime," said Councilman Steve Biggs.

As part of the town's crime

prevention strategy, the council wants a focus on reducing the number of uninhabitable and dangerous structures in town that have been abandoned or boarded up. Those places tend to serve as gathering spots for criminal elements and illegal activities, the council noted.

Part of the problem with an increase in crime in Edenton is

See VISION, 3A

ANTIQUE FARM & HERITAGE EXPO Fri., June 7th - 4 PM - 9 PM & Sat., June 8 - 9 AM to 4 PM
Toy Show and Toy Train Attraction - Admission is \$5 for the weekend for 16 and over Saturday morning 10 AM - Antique parade through downtown Edenton - Trail Riders
American Legion Fair Grounds 1317 West Queen St. Edenton, NC 482-4057