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Locals sought to claim N.C. escheats

State Treasurer Harlan E. Boyles announced that another drive is underway to reunite unclaimed property received by his office with the rightful owner. "Each year we are receiving more money from uncashed checks, unused gift certificates, unclaimed utility and rent deposits, insurance proceeds and forgotten bank accounts," Boyles stated. "Fortunately, we are able to refund much of the money to the proper owner." Last year, over 7.7 million dollars in unclaimed and abandoned money was received by the Treasurer's Office.

The State Treasurer's Escheat and Unclaimed Property Program is charged with recovering such unclaimed and abandoned monies and then attempting to reunite the money with the proper owner. Until reunited, however, the money is invested, the earnings on the investments are remitted each year to the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority. It is this authority that utilizes the funds to provide loans to worthy and needy North Carolina students in State supported schools of higher education. "Last year, this program provided the SEAA with over 4.1 million dollars which was utilized to provide 1,812 low interest educational loans," Boyles stated.

"Although we are fortunate to be able to utilize this unclaimed money for the benefit of our stu-

dents, we must not forget that much of the principal belongs to North Carolina citizens. To ensure that all possible attempts are made to locate these owners, we are once again soliciting the assistance of newspapers across the State," said Boyles. The Treasurer's office will provide a list of names of the owners to one newspaper in each county and is requesting that the list be printed as a public service. Boyles credited the newspapers across the State with being responsible for the initiation of 1.4 million dollars in refunds to over 3,700 owners last year.

Those who learn that there is unclaimed property being held in their name by the State Treasurer's office are asked to write the N.C. Department of State Treasurer, Escheat and Unclaimed Property Section, 325 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611, or call (919) 733-6876. No time limit applies to inquiries or claims, and refunds will be made promptly whenever valid ownership is established.

The escheat owners located in Perquimans County are Robert L. Harvey, Sr., Hertford FCX, Joseph M. Spruill, Texie Halsey, Mamie Zachary, Henry A. Watson, Laurie Ann Jones and Cornelia N. Jessup. The amounts they can claim are between \$52 and \$1,497.60, mostly from insurance companies.

Governor proclaims Feb. Human Relations Month

Governor Jim Martin has proclaimed February as Human Relations Month in North Carolina, urging North Carolinians "to devote this period to the advancement of human relations in our state."

"Through unrelenting commitment," Governor Martin said in the proclamation, "progress in human rights has become a hallmark for this great state, and through the North Carolina Human Relations Council and its local counterparts statewide this enviable tradition will continue."

Governor Martin will recognize individuals and businesses who have made outstanding accomplishments in human relations during ceremonies in Raleigh March 2. Several hundred people from

throughout the state are expected to gather for the occasion.

"The Human Relations Council is a beacon leading the way to understanding, respect and goodwill among all our citizens," said Administration Secretary Jim Lofton.

The N.C. Human Relations Council was created in 1963 and is housed in the N.C. Department of Administration.

Dr. Jimmie V. Morris of Oxford is council chairman.

Local human relations offices are located in Asheville-Buncombe County, Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, Durham, Fayetteville, Gaston County, Goldsboro, Greensboro, Greenville, High Point, Lumberton, New Hanover County, Raleigh, Robeson County, Rocky Mount, Wilson and Winston-Salem.

Medicare changes varied

The "Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988" is now in effect and many Medicare benefit changes will be phased in over the next few years. What are those changes, when will they take effect and how much will they cost?

Here in North Carolina, the Insurance Department's Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) trains volunteers to help older adults with these questions as well as other questions about Medicare, long-term care, claims procedures, and private health insurance.

Effective January 1, Medicare changed the way it pays hospitals and skilled nursing homes. Medicare will now pay for all eligible hospital bills except the first \$560 per year. For a stay in an approved skilled nursing home, Medicare will now pay all eligible costs above \$25.50 per day for the first eight days, then 100 percent for up to 150 days.

On October 1, 1989, another new benefit will affect those who remain at home when a spouse enters a nursinghome. The at-home spouse will be allowed to keep up to \$786 a month in income and up to \$12,000 in assets. The change is designed to keep the at-home spouse from becoming impoverished.

In January, 1990, Medicare will begin paying for respite care, mammography screenings for women over 65, and expanded home health services. Also in 1990, Medicare will implement a new out-of-pocket maximum: after the individual's 20 percent copayment and deductible reaches \$1370, Medicare will pay 100 percent of approved physician-outpatient expenses. The patient will still be responsible for all costs above Medicare-approved levels.

In January, 1991, Medicare will begin paying 50 percent of approved outpatient prescription expenses above a \$600 deductible. In 1992, Medicare will increase its share to 60 percent and in 1993 to 80 percent. The deductible will also increase.

The new Medicare benefits come with a cost to beneficiaries: a Medicare Part B premium of \$31.90 a month is to be deducted from social security checks.

Beginning with 1989 tax returns, those with a federal tax liability must pay \$22.50 for each \$150 of income tax due—with a maximum of \$800 for each eligible person (to be paid along with your tax return) or \$1600 per couple filing jointly. Those who file separately may have to pay as much as \$1,600 for each spouse if both are Medicare eligible.

Even with the changes, Medicare will not cover all of a person's health care costs. Such high medical costs as eyeglasses, hearing aids, dental care, and long-term intermediate and custodial nursing care will not be covered by the new law. Private insurance to supplement Medicare will still be a reasonable purchase for most people and there are many options from which to choose.

Another major change is related to low income beneficiaries of Medicare. Medicaid assistance can now be used to pay for Medicare premiums, deductibles and co-payments for many low income elderly whose income is at or below 80 percent of the federal poverty guideline.

To be eligible, an individual's or couple's resources (not counting residence) must fall below a certain dollar amount. You must apply for this option through your county department of social services. It's estimated that 60,000 low income elderly in North Carolina may be eligible for this assistance.

For those concerned about the high cost of nursing home care, private long-term care insurance is available and there are many options and limitations the consumer should be familiar with.

Anyone with a question about Medicare, Medicare supplement insurance or long-term care insurance should contact the SHIIP program at 1-800-443-9354.



Christopher and Kelly Peckham had an opportunity to build a snowman last week. How? Neighbor Lin Boynton visited his hometown in Maine and brought the delighted children a truckload of snow to play in. They are the son and daughter of Chris and Denise Peckham of Beech Springs.

Commodities distribution reminder

Perquimans County will receive butter, cornmeal, all-purpose flour, dry beans, raisins, pork and egg mix for distribution in February. The Hertford Lion's Club will begin the distribution at 11:00 a.m. on February 21, 1989, with a rain date scheduled for February 22, 1989, beginning at 8:30 a.m. It will be conducted at the Ice Plant, Grubb Street, in Hertford and will be available to all income eligible households in Perquimans County. Households having four or more members should bring a helper with them to assist in carrying the food to their car.

All households who will not be able to pick up their commodities may use a representative for this purpose. The commodities card or application must be signed in the

correct places for this to be acceptable. No household will be allowed to pick up food for more than themselves and one other household as representative. There will be no exceptions.

There will be two lines at the distribution site. The second line will be for the handicapped and/or disabled WHO ARE PRESENT AT THE DISTRIBUTION to pick up their food. A doctor's note, stating the disability, must be provided. Again, there will be no exceptions.

Cars may not be driven into the distribution area. Please remember to park only in authorized parking areas as the Hertford Police Department will be patrolling the area.

Applications may be obtained from the following agencies begin-

ning February 6, 1989: Department of Social Services, Health Department, Economic Improvement Council, Catholic Social Services, Senior Citizen Center and the Open Door Ministries at the Ice Plant.

The Commodities Distribution Program is available to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, handicap, or political beliefs. Information about regulations against discrimination and how to file a complaint may be secured from the N. C. Division of Social Services, 325 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, N. C., or from your county department of social services.

The income criteria are listed below:

Household Size	HOUSEHOLD GROSS INCOME MUST BE BELOW LEVEL OF APPROPRIATE SIZE HOUSEHOLD		
	Per Year	Per Month	Per Week
1	\$ 7,150	\$ 596	\$138
2	9,620	802	185
3	12,090	1,008	233
4	14,560	1,214	280
5	17,030	1,420	328
6	19,500	1,625	375
7	21,970	1,831	423
8	24,440	2,037	470
Add for each additional household member:	\$ 2,470	\$ 206	\$ 48

Republican convention set

The Perquimans County Republican Party will hold its 1989 County Convention on Monday, March 6 at the Perquimans County Courthouse, announced Wallace Nelson, county party chairman. The precinct meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. with the County Convention immediately following.

"Our state's politics is changing," stated Nelson. "Last year we elected Jim Martin governor and reelected Jim Gardner lieutenant governor." Nelson was referring to the 1988 Republican Party victories in state elections. He added, "We have seen the make-up of the legislature change also with the Republicans gaining seats in both the House and Senate."

These Republican gains are not limited to state-wide races as was noted by Nelson. "In our area we have seen the election of Republicans, a sheriff in Chowan County, a commissioner in Pasquotank County and a Republican majority on the Dare County Commission," Nelson said.

Shirley Perry, vice chairman of the 21-county First District GOP urged all Republicans to turn out for the precinct meetings and County Convention. Perry, a resident of the Belvidere precinct and 1988 candidate for the First District House of Representatives added, "Anyone interested in affiliating with the Republican Party should attend also. There will be someone present to help with registration."



Vernon James plants a grapevine in the arbor of the Newbold-White house, replacing ones destroyed by chemicals earlier

Alb. Fire Assn. holds banquet

The Albemarle Firemen's Association Firemen of the Year awards banquet and the election of its officers was held at the annual Ladies Night meeting at the Moxock Fire Department on February 7.

A special music program was presented by Raffael and Beth Farrow of the Berea Church of Christ of New Hope.

Following the music program, the election of officers was held. The officers for 1989 are: President - Chief Ray Cullipher, Durants Neck Fire Department; First Vice President - Lt. Gary Swanner, Edenton Fire Department; Second Vice President - Frank Cherry,

Roper Fire Department; Secretary Pat Harrell, Jr., Durants Neck Fire Department; Treasurer - Phil Tant, Edenton Fire Department; and Chaplin - Dennis Swain, Columbia Fire Department.

The Albemarle Firemen of the Year award went to Chief William (Billy) Jones of the South Mills Fire Department.

Those attending from Perquimans County were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cullipher and Mr. and Mrs. Pat Harrell, Jr. of Durants Neck F.D., Mr. and Mrs. Vance Hoover of the Hertford F.D., and special guests Mr. and Mrs. Raffael Farrow.

Measles do not threaten

The measles outbreak that hit Central North Carolina last month has not reached the Albemarle Area, according to Susan Gordon of the Pasquotank County Health Department. "At the present time, we have had no cases confirmed by blood tests," Gordon said.

Gordon said that there are a lot of viral rashes in the area, but no confirmed measles. The rashes, she stated, are not unusual due to the warm weather that lingered through much of January. Rashes also follow high fevers on occasion.

Rubeola is the strain of measles that spread in other parts of the state. It is especially dangerous to infants and older adults, and is extremely contagious.

At present, state health authorities are not recommending mass inoculation. They suggest that infants be given the MMR (measles, mumps and rubeola) vaccine at 15 months, which is the normal age children receive the immunization.

Symptoms of the measles include fever, cough, conjunctivitis, runny nose and a rash. Anyone with these symptoms should remain at home and call their physician or health department.

Gordon said that it does not appear that the measles will pose a threat here. However, the local health departments will be ready to vaccinate if the need arises.

Stoplight to be installed

The N.C. Department of Transportation has announced that a stoplight will be installed at the intersection of Church Street Extended and U.S. Highway 17.

The decision was made after local agencies waged a letter and telephone contact campaign due to their grave concern over safety at the intersection after the causeway is closed later this month. The traffic should increase dramatically at that time, and many school buses will have to use that intersection.

The county, town of Hertford and Perquimans County Board of Education all worked together for the installation of the traffic light. According to County Manager Paul Gregory, Phil Godwin of the Highway Commission was instrumental in assisting in the acquisition of the light.

Gregory expressed his appreciation to Godwin and Jimmy Litch of the N.C.D.O.T. He said department employees were here the afternoon of the morning he called Litch. All of the local entities involved in the acquisition process were relieved to receive word of the installation.

If all goes according to schedule, the causeway should close around February 24. The traffic light should be installed before the end of the month.

Hertford man found guilty

A Hertford man was found guilty of possession with the intent to traffic cocaine in federal court recently.

Andrew Eugene White, who was arrested in December 1987, was apprehended with approximately three ounces of 91 percent pure cocaine by the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department. He had been out on bond awaiting trial since that time.

Perquimans Sheriff Joe Lothian said, "This is probably the most satisfying conviction our department has had." Lothian said that his department handled the investigation from start to finish, beginning with surveillance.

Lothian said the case represented the first big drug bust in the county.

Two injured in weekend brawl

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department responded to a late-night call in the Chapanoke section of the county Saturday night, and found two men injured as a result of a knife fight.

Deputy Eric Tilley arrived on the scene at the spot known as the Cowboy Club to find Jewel Eason and Stanley Walker cut after having fought.

According to eye witness accounts, the Elizabeth City men became embroiled in an argument. It has not been established who first pulled a knife.

Sheriff Joe Lothian reported that Eason was severely injured, suffering deep lacerations to the stomach and small intestines. He was transported by the Perquimans County Rescue Squad to Albemarle Hospital, where he was admitted. Walker received cuts to the ear, was transported to Albemarle Hospital, was treated and released.

Charges against both men are pending further investigation, according to Lothian.