

013165 10/09/1999 *C20
 PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
 110 W ACADEMY ST
 HERTFORD NC 27944

For information about the
May 8 Old Timers Day,
 which will feature the kick-off of the
Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS
Foundation, visit
Perquimans.com.
 Read about events in The
 Perquimans Weekly next week!

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

RECEIVED
 MAR 24 1999

35¢

March 25, 1999

Vol. 67, No. 12

Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Hertford women commits suicide

From Daily Advance reports

The body of a 35-year-old Hertford woman who police believe committed suicide by drowning was found in the Pasquotank River last Thursday.

Carla Skinner Chappell of 206 Woodland Circle was found floating in the river near the northwest end of Riverside Avenue at approximately 7:20 a.m., an Elizabeth City police spokesman said Thursday.

Police had been searching for Chappell since her husband, Roger Chappell, notified police at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday that he had found a suicide note in her car.

A young girl reportedly had found a cell phone, pair of glasses and other identification belonging to Chappell on a pier near the RiverWind Health and Racquet Club late Wednesday afternoon.

Someone at RiverWind began trying to notify Chappell's husband, police said. When they did, Roger Chappell reportedly drove to Riverwind and found his wife's car in the parking lot. Looking inside, he found the suicide note.

After police were called, divers from the Elizabeth City Police Department immediately began a search of a 100-by-40 year area of the river near the pier.

At approximately 11:30 p.m., a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter crew and boat joined the search, conducting a wide sweep of the river.

Meanwhile, police officers canvased the nearby neighborhood, motels and Albemarle Hospital, hoping that Chappell might be found safe.

The search was halted around 1 a.m. because of darkness and resumed at sunrise Thursday morning. Not long afterward, the body was found floating less than 100 yards from the pier where her personal effects were found, police said.

Chappell's body was transported to Albemarle Hospital where Pasquotank County Medical Examiner Joe Robertson determined she had died as a result of drowning.

No autopsy was performed. Police said they found no evidence of foul play. They have determined Chappell died as a result of a suicide.

Police officials declined to release the contents of Chappell's suicide note. She was seen on the pier alive at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Easter fun

Breakfast with the Easter bunny, an egg hunt, decorated bike and hat contests, games and more are on tap when the Historic Hertford Business Association, formerly Hertford Downtown Merchants Association, hosts its second annual East Egg Hunt on April 3. Children ages 3-10 can enjoy the activities while parents shop and browse through the Big Flea Market. For space rental, call 426-2021.

Accident claims life of child

Youngest victim of dangerous US 17 bypass dies Friday

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

A 2-year-old died Friday night after the car in which he was riding was hit by a tractor-trailer on U.S. 17 Bypass less than 12 hours earlier.

Quinton Elias Stallings of Tyner died as a result of his injuries in Pitt Memorial Hospital late Friday night.

According to Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy, the accident occurred at 11:46 a.m. at the Perquimans Centre turn lane. Wanda Stallings, 29, the child's mother, was traveling south on U.S. 17 when she attempted to make a left turn to go to McDonald's. She pulled into the path of a tractor trailer driven by Christopher Perry, 32, of Camden. The truck slammed the 1995 midsize Ford in the passenger side, with the main impact on the rear passenger door. Quinton Stallings was sitting in his carseat on the passenger side of the car.

Neither Stallings, who is pregnant, nor Perry reported injuries, Vanscoy said.

Quinton Stallings was taken to Chowan Hospital by ambulance before being transferred to Pitt.

The chief said Perry was traveling well below the posted speed limit of 55 and did attempt to slow down to avoid the collision, according to measurements taken at the scene and witness reports.

The Stallings vehicle was totaled.

No charges have been filed and the incident is still under investigation, Vanscoy said.

The accident is the first major wreck at the intersection since NCDOT changed the traffic pattern there in late 1998, Vanscoy said. He did report that there have been minor accidents there.

In response to concerns in the community about the safety of U.S. 17 Bypass at the Perquimans Centre cross-over, DOT installed turn lanes at the site. Drivers can no longer go straight across or turn left from the service roads that lead to the intersection.

The new traffic pattern has increased U-turns at the intersections of US 17 and Church and US 17 and Wynn Fork, Vanscoy said. There has been a fatality at the Wynn Fork intersection since the traffic pattern changed, as well as several accidents resulting in

costly damages to vehicles.

"That one and a half mile section (of US 17 Bypass) there is really becoming a major problem," Vanscoy said.

The chief said that town officials have done everything they can to improve safety on the highway. Because it is an interstate roadway, the town cannot control installation of traffic lights or set speed limits. In response to concerns from local officials, the state changed the traffic pattern at the Perquimans Centre cross-over, put up 45 mph signs at the intersection, and installed a caution light that flashes when traffic is entering US 17 from the service roads. However, the state has refused to add another stoplight on the bypass.

Vanscoy said the 45 mph signs are cautionary, warning drivers to be careful. They are not enforceable with citations. The town has requested that NCDOT lower the speed limit inside the town's municipal limits on US 17, but no action has been taken by the state.

In the meantime, Vanscoy said he has applied for a grant through the Governor's Highway Safety Commission to hire a traffic officer who will investigate accidents and patrol problem areas such as US 17 to strictly enforce traffic laws.

He said the only actions local law officers can take is to try to make the community aware of the danger on US 17 so that they will slow down and be extra careful on that stretch of road and to strictly enforce traffic laws, which means doling out tickets.

In the meantime, Vanscoy doesn't see an end to increased traffic on the highway.

"It's a problem we've had for a while. I don't foresee it going away in the very near future."

Sunday night, Vanscoy answered another call on US 17, this one at New Hope Road. A tractor-trailer traveling on US 17 evidently failed to stop at the stoplight, broad-siding a car driven by a 16-year-old female from Hertford. The car was entering the intersection from New Hope Road and was spun back in that direction upon impact. A male passenger was thrown from the vehicle. No report was available from the highway patrol at press time.



Photo by SUSAN R. HARRIS

Linda McEnery's floor harp was awarded first place in wood sculpture at the fourth annual Perquimans Arts League Member Show that opened with a reception Friday night. The show, which features a wide variety of offerings, will be on display at the library through April 17.

Quilt named PAL Best in Show

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

Ena Lynn's Sunburst color-wash quilt was named Best in Show at the fourth annual Perquimans Arts League Members Show that opened Friday night.

PAL members and library staff welcomed a steady flow of visitors during the opening reception which featured music by the local recorder group and homemade refreshments.

The 63-piece show will be on display in the library through April 17. Most pieces in the show are for sale.

"It's really a good show," said PAL member, show artist and county librarian. "There aren't as many entries as last year, but I think what we have is a wonderful assortment of quality items. People from Chicago and other cities would not believe the quality of the art on display for those prices. There is a lot of talent here."

Prices for the pieces on display range from \$30-\$2,600,

with most in the \$100-\$250 range.

Visitors to the show may vote on the People's Choice Award to be presented on the final day of display.

In addition to Lynn's quilt, which also captured first place in the fiber art category, awards went to: J.K. Oltman, first place, photography (Swamp Quilt), Purchase Award, Albemarle Plantation; Philip M. Owen, second place photography (Sunset, Yeopim River), Purchase Award, Albemarle Plantation; Marcia Phillips, first (Springtime) and second (Spring Irises) place, stained or cut glass, Purchase Award, Captain Bob's; Helen Pionka, second (Water Lily) and third (Naples, Italy) place, drawing; Nancy Reighard, second (Floating) and third (Sky High) place, graphic art; B.E. Richardson, first place, drawing (Peggy at COA); Erik VandeBogart, second (Black Crappie) and third (Kingfisher) place woodwork-

ing; Harriett Wood, second place, painting: oil/acrylic (Belvidere Swamp); Jen Abbate, Purchase Award, Albemarle Plantation (Church Door), third place, photography (Up and Down, Round and Round), honorable mention (Edenton Garden), photography; Mary Anne Baird, first place, graphic art (Dream); Pat Burkett, third place, painting: watercolor (Misty Bouquet); Dolores J. Davenport, third place, painting: oil/acrylic (Moonglow); Carlton Dozier, third place, stained or cut glass (State Bird); Janice Eure, second place, painting: watercolor (Shells Three); Mary Friesen, first place, painting: watercolor (This Old House); Gary Guth, first place, painting: oil, acrylic (Faces); Lynn Hilborn, honorable mention, fiber art (Rainbow in the Round); Ruth Kemp, third place, fiber art (Log Cabin Quilt); Ena Lynn, second place, fibert art (Cat on a Roof); and Linda McEnery, first place, woodworking (Floor Harp).

Weekend Weather

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High 70s	High 60s	High 60s
Low 40s	Low 40s	Low 40s
Fair Skies	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy