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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Law officers investigate murder, suicide

SUSAN R. HARRIS

This community is reeling from a murder and suicide that left two of its members dead last week.

The bodies of Clinton Ray Winslow III, 25, and Shirley Jones Davenport, 49, were both found during a 24-hour period. Davenport was the victim of a murder, Winslow of suicide.

The circumstantial evidence and initial investigation lead sheriff's and State Bureau of Investigation officials to believe that Winslow killed Davenport sometime between midnight and 5 a.m. Wednesday, then took his own life around 8:30 the same morning. Investigators have no motive for either incident.

Events began to unfold early Wednesday morning, according to Sheriff Eric Tilley, when Winslow called Davenport at her Church Street home just after midnight and asked to be picked up at Apple Tree Mall in Winfall. Davenport left in her daughter's Jeep to get Winslow, her daughter told law officers.

At around 5 a.m., an alarm clock went off at the Davenport home. The daughter told law officers that her mother was not in the house when the clock alarmed, but that Winslow was asleep on the couch.

The daughter got ready for work, dropped Winslow off at his car, then noticed stains on the seat and windshield of the Jeep. She went to the Hertford Post Office, where her mother worked, to see if anyone had seen Davenport. No one had. She notified her sister, and they went to the sheriff's department to report their mother missing.

Around 8:30 a.m., the sheriff's department was notified that Winslow was at his home on Beech Springs Road calling relatives and threatening suicide. Sheriff's Investigator Nate Zachary and two other deputies were dispatched to Winslow's home. Winslow's father was also on his way to his son's home, and was followed there by NCHP Trooper Jim Bray. Zachary, Winslow's father and Bray arrived at about the same time, and found Winslow's body in the back yard. It appeared he had died from a single gunshot wound. An autopsy later confirmed that.

Winslow's car was found on a path off Great Hope Church Road, about one-quarter mile from his home. Great Hope Church Road intersects Beech Springs Road near the Winslow residence.

Both the Jeep and Winslow's vehicle were impounded. Investigators determined that the stains in the Jeep were blood stains, but the blood type and to whom the blood belonged had not been determined Monday.

Davenport's body was found by Winslow's father and uncle on Thursday morning about 8:45 a.m. Tilley said Davenport was found at the edge of a woods off Center Hill Highway less than a mile from Winslow's home.

Tilley said Davenport was found clothed and lying face-down with two lacerations below her sternum. An autopsy revealed that the wounds were made with a serated knife, and caused her death within 10 minutes.

Tilley said that forensic evidence is still being processed, and investigation in the cases continues.

Investigators have no murder weapon in the Davenport case. They do know that a second call was made to the Davenport residence from a payphone at Miller & Meads Mobile Home Park at 3:14 a.m. Wednesday. Davenport's daughter did not answer that call. She did not hear Winslow come into the house.

The sheriff added that Winslow's father had fully cooperated with the sheriff's department during the investigation.

"He was just as concerned as anybody (about finding Davenport)," Tilley said. "He was very cooperative."

Anyone with information about the cases should contact the sheriff's department.

Hertford added to historic tour

Tour contest encourages kids to learn history

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Hertford has been added to the Historic Albemarle Tour, which showcases 30 premiere historic sites and 15 Northeastern North Carolina counties.

"It is the oldest historic tourism organization in North Carolina," said its president, Don Pendergraft.

Known as HAT, the tour has been helping to attract visitors to the region for over 25 years. It is a coalition of the region's historic and cultural sites, and is dedicated to developing and increasing the tourism industry throughout the region's 17 counties.

Hertford is one of three recent additions to the tour. Historic Columbia and the NOrth Carolina Estuarium in Washington are also now members.

"Historic Edenton and Historic Elizabeth City were both in the Historic Albemarle Tour brochure, but Historic Hertford was not in there," said Belinda Washlesky, Hertford Main Street Program Director. "Tourists might visit both those cities and bypass Hertford. We will get a lot of bang for the buck by belonging to HAT. They produce a beautiful brochure, have a toll-free number and a web site for information."

Funds from the Rural Tourism Develoment Grant Program received recently will allow HAT to print new brochures, which are expected to be out this spring.

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The Historic Albemarle Tour, known as HAT, is gearing up to sponsor the "Explore Your Own Backyard Contest" for youth. Maps like the one above can be picked up and will be stamped at each site youth visit. Most sites plan to give gifts to those who visit, and the entry forms can be turned in once all sites are visited for another prize.

Town wants no-wake extended

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Hertford officials want the no-wake zone in the Perquimans River extended, one way or another.

Presently, there are a 50-yard no-wake zone around the boat ramps and 75-yard zones on either side of the S-bridge. Council voted last Monday night to follow traditional procedure and ask the county to petition the General Assembly to extend the no-wake zone down to the waterfront at Missing Mill Park. If the county doesn't support the move, town officials said they will petition the state themselves.

Council also wants fishing nets ousted from the area between the S-bridge and the bypass bridge. Five years ago, there was an agreement between Hertford, Winfall and the county that net fishing should be halted in that area. However, nets — 41 of them according to waterfront resident Eldon Winslow — dot the bay now.

Councilman Dan Daneker said the nets for safety, aesthetics and because the bay is a nursery area.

The town will take the request before a local marine fisheries advisory council and ask that it be sent on for further action. The move will require public hearings.

Local authors to be honored at writing workshops

William H. "Bill" Darrow, Alberta Hoffler Eason, W. Tony Key, and Jesse Parker Perry Jr., of Hertford, will be among the authors honored at the Conference, Honoring Albemarle Authors, Saturday, February 24, co-sponsored by the Albemarle Literary Center and the Pasquotank County Cooperative Extension Service.

"This is a special program of Writers' Workshops, panel discussions, exhibits and book signings," said Vernon M. "Bud" Fueston III, of Holiday Island, Hertford. The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 2:30 p.m. at the Pasquotank Center, 1209 McPherson St., Elizabeth City. Coffee by Muddy Waters will be served at 9 a.m.

"We have wonderful talent in our area," said Fueston, ALC Board chairman. "This is an opportunity for writers and teachers of writing to gather and share ideas, as well as to honor the accomplishments of our published authors."

Among other regional authors who will be honored are Lester Bell of Elizabeth City; Robert Chapman, Edenton; Marimar McNaughton, Southern Shores; Rosa Mae Mullet, Pantego; Edith Seiling, Gates; Barbara Solaro and Maxine Sweeney, Elizabeth City; Vera Van Camp and Louis Van Camp, Washington; and Paulette Wester, Eure. A special memorial writing award will be announced.

Workshops and panel discussions will be presented by the authors being honored, and by noted artist and book illustrator Deb Kozlowski of Edenton. Panels will discuss "Serious Stuff: The article, review, monograph and the essay, "Opportunities with the Popular Press: Making a Difference Via Newsprint," "Nature Writing: See the Forest and the Trees," "Bringing History to Life," "Publish it Yourself; and The Digital Democracy." Susan Clark and Lola Scales-Boone will be among the panel discussion leaders.

Teachers and librarians are encouraged to bring this program to the attention of area students. "We want students to internalize that good writing is a community value," said ALC Programs Chairperson Catherine Smith, "and a family value, because family stories are community-building bridges between cultures and generations. We are able to produce this conference through the cooperation and co-sponsorship of the Pasquotank County Extension Service, and through the support of the North Carolina Arts Council Literature Program."

Melissa Johnston, Conference Coordinator, announced that a deli lunch will be served, including with pre-registration and a goodwill donation of $15 for adults and $5 for students, or $20 at the door. Teachers may nominate students to attend on scholarships.

Tickets are available at Chowan Arts Council, Pasquotank County Cooperative Extension Service, Dare County Arts Council, Lola's Hair Designers, Muddy Waters Coffee House in Elizabeth City, Pasquotank Arts Council, Perquimans Arts League, Pocosin Arts Council, Page After Page, and The Recycled Reader. To nominate an author or for more information, call (252) 426-3714.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 47
LOW: 41
RAIN

FRIDAY
HIGH: 58
LOW: 39
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 58
LOW: 41s
SCATTERED SHOWERS