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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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April 26, 2001

Vol. 69, No. 17 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

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## Shore Flyte cruises toward Hertford

CHIP ROMANOVICH  
The Daily Advance

Shore Flyte Marine, a boat reconitioning business, is cruising toward becoming the first tenant in Perquimans County's new Commerce Centre.

Perquimans County Commissioners recently approved the sale of 10 acres in the Commerce Centre to the firm, which is expected to begin construction at the site by the end of the summer.

Shore Flyte Marine owner Tony Wooddisse declined comment, saying he would prefer to wait until the final contracts are completed and signed.

County Manager Paul Gregory estimated that Shore Flyte could break ground in the Centre by the end of summer.

"The actual property has not been transferred," Gregory said. "But his lawyer and our lawyer are finishing up the paperwork. He's scheduled to begin construction in August or September."

Shore Flyte Marine, which currently operates at locations in Camden County and Virginia, is expected to create at least 15 jobs when the Perquimans site opens, Gregory said.

Commissioners held a public hearing earlier this month to field questions regarding the sale of the land to Shore Flyte. The company purchased the 10-acre site, with 200 feet of waterfront, for \$110,000. Gregory said no one spoke against Shore Flyte's plans.

"I proposed the idea to the public who was there, and of course, no one was opposed to it," he said.

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## HOME AT LAST



Daily Advance photo by Glenn Bell

Bathsheba Ormond smiles at her children, Sheena Jacobs, 14, and Javan Milton, 11, after receiving the keys to her new Habitat for Humanity home in Spring Village and a Bible given to her by the Habitat organization. A celebration and open house was held Saturday to mark the occasion. Ormond's is the second home built by the Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity, the first in Perquimans.

## Woman's prayer answered

Ormond's home 2nd built by local Habitat chapter

CHIP ROMANOVICH  
The Daily Advance

Bathsheba Ormond was a single, unemployed mother of two living in a suburb of Atlanta when she first heard about Habitat for Humanity.

Ormond, now 36, was watching television one day in 1996 when a program came on about how Habitat had helped a low-income family become homeowners. A deeply religious woman, Ormond started praying, asking God to help her become just like the folks on TV.

Saturday, her prayers were finally answered.

Ormond was handed the keys to the second Habitat home built by the Chowan-Perquimans chapter of Habitat for Humanity. She and her children, Sheena Jacobs, 14, and Javan Milton, 11, look forward to spending their first day in their new home.

"I just want to thank everyone,

everyone that helped," Ormond said. "But most of all, I want to thank God...I can say I do know that God does answer prayers. This is a prayer answered."

Ormond's story is one Habitat for Humanity officials say lies at the heart of the work they do.

A Perquimans County native, Ormond returned home a few years after seeing the program about Habitat and found work as a security guard at Perquimans Middle School. She also started building a life in the community, volunteering to coach girls basketball at the school.

The dream of owning her own home was never far from her thoughts however.

Ormond filled out a Habitat for Humanity home application, and in 1999 was notified that she had been accepted.

"When they told me I was selected, it was just joy," Ormond recalled Saturday. "Many days I would drive out here (to the site) and look, before anything went up. I couldn't believe it."

Habitat volunteers began work on the house, located on a lot bordering Spring Village, off Grubb Street, in September. Ormond offi-

cially moved in on Saturday. "We had it basically weather-tight by Christmas," said Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity President Stan Smith. "But there's an awful lot of little stuff that takes a long time. The wiring, the interior trim, the installation of appliance, all that kind of stuff that doesn't require gangs of labor."

A dozen or more volunteers, along with companies donating materials - some at cost, some for free - completed the project for around \$35,000. The home will likely be appraised for \$80,000, Smith said.

Professional contractors showed the group how to lay the home's foundation and electricians donated the wiring and installed it. However, almost everything else was done by community volunteers who just wanted to help, Smith said.

"The volunteer labor did all that you can imagine volunteer labor can do," he said. "Off and on, we'd have maybe a dozen people. We did first the dry-wall, and the spackling and the painting, the installation of the cabinets in the kitchen, and the moldings...all that kind of stuff that squads of people can do."

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## Mendez backed for torch bearer

SUSAN R. HARRIS

He's probably run enough miles to have run around the world. Now some folks think he deserves the honor of running with the Olympic Flame.

That's why there's a move afoot to nominate Hertford's Sadot Mendez as a bearer of the Olympic Torch for the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake, Utah.

Kent White said he was watching television one night when a commercial about the 2002 Chevrolet Torchbearer Nomination Program was aired. White said he immediately thought about Mendez. He got information on the Torchbearer Program, and began spreading the word. He's asking everyone who supports the nomination of Mendez to submit a nomination form.

Mendez, a track and cross country coach who teaches Spanish at Perquimans Middle School, is the founder of the high school cross country team and the middle school track teams. A native of Puerto Rico, Mendez earned a college scholarship for his running ability. He still runs every day and continues to inspire young people to work hard to reach whatever potential they may have.

According to information White downloaded from the internet, the Olympic Torch Relay embodies the passion and diversity of our country by honoring those individuals who best exemplify the spirit of the Olympic movement. Entrants may not nominate themselves.

Entries may be submitted by mail or online. To enter by mail, pick up an official nomination form from Chevrolet dealers and other locations, or on a plain piece of 8 1/2 by 11 paper (one side only), hand print the following:

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## Partnership chosen for two pilot projects

MARIEL BETANCORT  
The Daily Advance

The Chowan/Gates/Perquimans Partnership for Children has been chosen to participate in two pilot projects that will offer educational options to child care providers.

The Partnership — a state agency that works to improve the quality of child care — will be one of the first organizations to link up with Self Help, a group based in Durham, to bring technical business assistance to child care center owners.

Also, the Partnership will be one of the first groups to offer an online

degree program in early childhood development created by Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center in Chapel Hill and the North Carolina Community College System.

Wendy Jewett, executive director of the Partnership, said child care providers have already expressed interest in the online classes.

"We're very excited about it," said Jewett. "We were surprised at how many said 'Yes.' ... But it's hard for them to get to classes, when they have to take time away from their own families."

The Partnership has

agreed to find computers for the students enrolled in the first online class — which could start as soon as January 2002. Operators and teachers who enroll will be able to take the courses on a computer in their own homes or a lab located at a central location, such as the Partnership offices.

In the next year, Self Help also may offer online business courses for area child care providers. Self Help currently teaches three-to-four-hour business workshops for child care providers, and hopes to link with other organizations in the state that offer similar help.

Self Help will create a

network of these groups, a databank of material for instructors of business courses and a databank of material for child care providers. While Self Help is still planning the project, some business assistance should be available at the Chowan/Gates/Perquimans Partnership for Children by fall, according to Megan Bartlett, program associate for Self Help.

"We want to make sure child care providers have really good assistance with the business aspect," said Bartlett. "They go into the business because they love children, not business, and they really need help with that. ... It's a very, very difficult business from the

financial side."

Child care providers struggle with offering affordable child care and at the same time paying adequate salaries and buying equipment. Providers often "subsidize" care for their parents, Bartlett said.

"They know their parents can't afford (higher fees)," she said. "It's extremely expensive, and they don't know how to manage those costs."

Self Help, which also loans money to small businesses, has given almost \$12 million in loans to child care providers in the state. Self Help operates with grants from the Surdna Foundation in New York.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 67  
Low: 50  
Mostly Sunny

FRIDAY  
High: 78  
Low: 55  
Mostly Sunny

SATURDAY  
High: 81  
Low: 57  
Partly Cloudy