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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

## County will hold line on tax rate

New budget position already filled

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The county will hold its tax rate steady, and hope that the state will not hold the county's reimbursements hostage because of North Carolina's budget shortfall.

County Manager Paul Gregory gave that message to the commissioners Monday in his annual budget message.

"Our leadership must continue to move forward with its plans for Perquimans County, which includes a strong financial plan, even now in the wake of the state legislature's dilemma," Gregory said. "Our great state is very for-

tunate to have intelligent, financially capable legislators who will work hard to return North Carolina to its proper financial status. I, along with each you, sincerely hope that Governor Easley does not work toward this end by reducing and/or reverting any part of the reimbursements belonging to Perquimans County to the state: We must have these revenues to balance our FY 2001-2001 county budget."

The biggest hit to the county's budget is expected to come in rising Medicaid costs. Gregory estimates that the county will pay \$661,531 in Medicaid expenses next year. This year, Medicaid is expected to reach \$528,806, exceeding its \$425,000 budget by almost 24 percent.

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## REGATTA



The Perquimans River was criss-crossed with color Sunday afternoon as the North Carolina Moth Boat Championships were held here. The event was hosted by Perquimans Heritage, Inc. and boasted some 17 boats.

## SURVIVOR'S LAP



Cancer survivors from across Chowan and Perquimans counties prepare to take the survivor's lap (above) at last weekend's Chowan-Perquimans Relay for Life, a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. Receipts to date from the event total \$105,715. During the opening ceremony, Parker Robertson played with his grandmother, Sherry Harrell of Hertford, a cancer survivor and Relay volunteer, and grandfather, Tommy Harrell (right).

PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS



## PCHS to graduate 91 Friday night

Friday night is the one all high school students eagerly await: It's graduation night at Perquimans High.

Ninety-one seniors are expected to walk across Memorial Field to the refrain of "Pomp and Circumstance" at 8 p.m.

Class valedictorian Don Moring will present the address to the seniors. Erica Sinkovic, valedictorian, will give the farewell address. Moring is the son



Don Moring



Erica Sinkovic

of Don and Dorothy Moring. Sinkovic is the daughter of Walter and Kim Jones.

Moring will continue his education at Elizabeth City State University where he plans to major in both pre-medicine and economics. Fall will find Sinkovic at NC State University.

Fellow honor graduates Ben Godfrey, Julane Chappell, Shellie Hurdle and Ashley Copeland will also take part in the program.

In the event of rain, graduation will be held Saturday at 10 a.m.

## Judicial council helps students

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Twice a month, about a dozen adults from 10 local agencies gather at 7:30 a.m. to make a difference in the lives of county children whose absences from school raise concern.

Called the Judicial Attendance Council, the group brings the skills, talents and services of a multitude of agencies to one place. Although the council members are all professionals, they volunteer their time for the early-morning meetings. None are compensated by their employing agencies for the time they spend with the council.

The council was formed two years ago. The middle school was attempting to deal with attendance issues and District Court Judge J.C. Cole contacted Communities in Schools to help coordinate the effort. CIS contacted service providers in the county and formed a group dedicated to helping students and families deal with issues that keep students out of school.

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## Family loses belongings in house fire

SEAN JACKSON

The Daily Advance

A Woodville family lost most of its possessions during a Friday morning fire that originated in the home's living room.

Michael Cartwright, assistant fire chief with the Inter-County Volunteer Fire Department, said the fire was reported at 10:24 a.m. Friday. The home, at 125 Beechwood St., is owned by William P. Pritchard Jr.

Cartwright said a lit candle fell off a table in the living room, rolled near a curtain and set the curtain ablaze.

"The fire was contained to the living-room area,"

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## Flower business grows in new shop

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Mary Sheldon's blooms outgrew her Winfall shop, so the entrepreneur established new roots in Hertford.

Mary's Olde Towne Floral & Gift Shoppe opened its doors at 115 West Market Street in late March. Since then, Sheldon said her business is growing.

"The new location just made more sense," Sheldon said. "We had outgrown the other building, we needed more space and we needed to generate more foot traffic. It's working, too."

Growth has been a hallmark of Mary's since her opening in April 1994. She

started out offering crafts and flowers, but said flowers are now the bulk of her business.

"The flowers have really increased," she said. "We do everything, weddings, funerals, birthdays, any occasion. We also do birthday balloons and potted plants."

For special orders or unusual flowers, Sheldon recommends ordering at least three days in advance. Delivery within a 5-mile radius is free. For same-day delivery, orders should be placed as soon as the florist opens.

Sheldon still keeps her original crafts in stock. She said she carries gift items

starting at \$2.50.

"We try to keep things that kids can come in and buy for their parents," she said.

Sheldon is a self-taught floral designer and crafter. At first, she arranged most of the flowers at her shop. Now, she said, veteran arranger Ann Winslow does about half of the orders. During especially busy periods, Darlene Nowell and Sheldon's daughter Sonia Davenport lend a hand.

Mary's is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and on Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The phone number is 426-7617.



Employees, well-wishers and town, county and business leaders welcomed Mary's Olde Towne Floral & Gift Shoppe to Hertford last month during a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Mary's relocated to 115 West Market Street.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 80  
Low: 61  
SCATTERED SHOWERS

FRIDAY  
High: 78  
Low: 63  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
High: 80  
Low: 62  
SUNNY