

Quilts on display

Page 3

Summer meals for kids

Page 4

Class of '02 scholarships

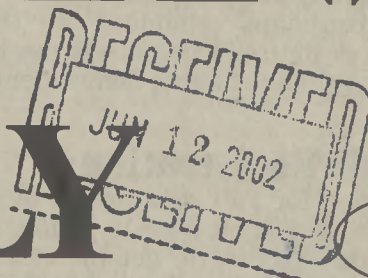
Page 7

June 12, 2002

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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REASONS TO RELAY



Hundreds of people from across Chowan and Perquimans counties raised over \$92,000 for the American Cancer Society over the past few months, culminating at last weekend's Relay for Life event at John A. Holmes High School Athletic Complex. One of the most meaningful components of the Relay was the survivors lap, when dozens of cancer survivors from the two counties celebrated living with or overcoming cancer. Two-time cancer patient Iris Byrne of Perquimans spoke on behalf of the survivors during the pre-lap ceremony. Another touching event was the luminary ceremony, during which hundreds of luminaries lining the track were lit in memory and honor of cancer patients.

Gunshot victim committed suicide

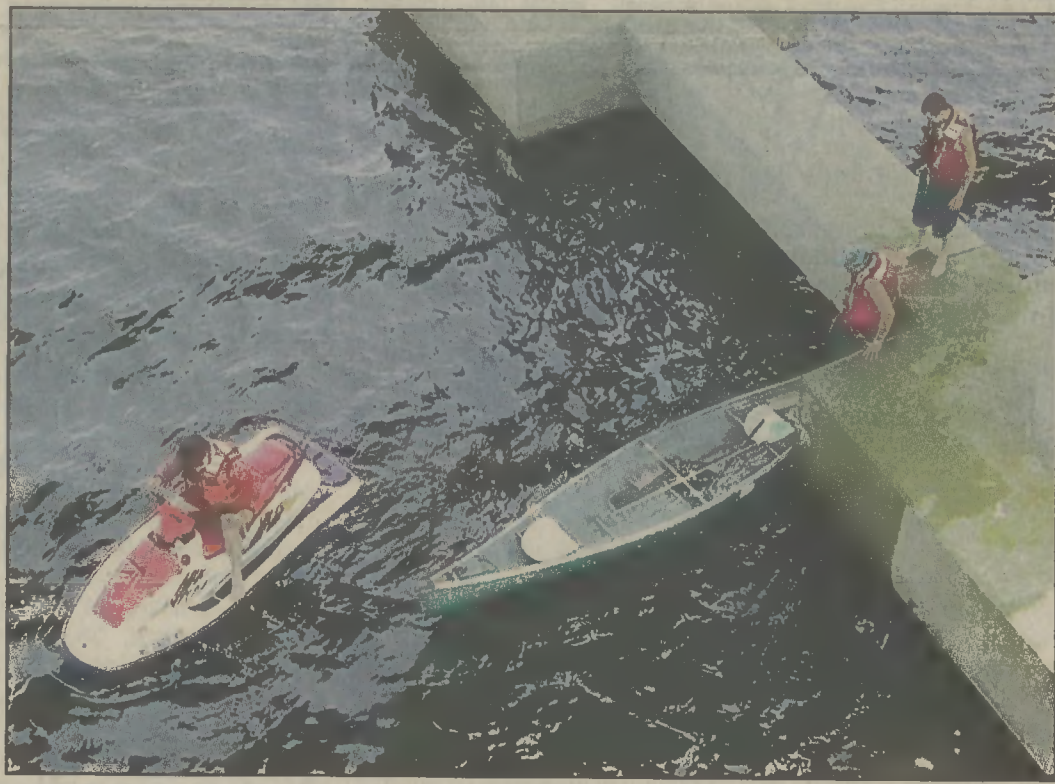
SUSAN R. HARRIS

A gunshot victim whose body was found at the scene of a fire on May 30 committed suicide, according to the state medical examiner.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said Alfred Abner, 24, of 320 Dobbs Street, apparently shot himself in the head with a small caliber handgun. Vanscoy said the medical examiner based findings on the examination of the body along with evidence recovered by officers at the scene.

Hertford firefighters were called to the Dobbs Street address at 11:49 p.m. on May 30. They arrived to Continued on page 8

WATER RESCUE



Perquimans County Water Rescue personnel responded to an overturned canoe in the river near the by-pass bridge last Wednesday around lunchtime. Two unidentified young males, wearing no life jackets, had overturned a canoe and were in the river. Winfall Police Chief David Shaffer was alerted, and lost sight of the pair. They sought refuge under the bridge and were aided by rescuer Ray Copeland, as Paul McPherson and Kathy Lassiter stood by.

Moths, Sunfish race in Hertford

ALICE BREWIN
Staff Writer

It was a delightful day for sailing, despite the occasional 20 mile-per-hour gusts, and moths and Sunfish alike proved they could be some of the most enjoyable small sailboats around.

Hertford's second annual Moth Boat Regatta, hosted by Perquimans Heritage, Inc., proved once again that Hertford can compete internationally in moth boat circles.

Five classic moths and 15 Sunfish were entered in this year's regatta. First place in the moth boat division went to Mark Saunders of Seaford, Va., second to George Bailey of Greenville, and third to Greg Duncan of Elizabeth City.

The Sunfish's youth division was swept by a trio from Edenton. First place went to Ryland Elliott, second to Jacob Lippincott and third to Ashley Klein.

In the Sunfish adult division, first place went to Stuart Proctor of Edenton, second place to Nat Aydtlett of Elizabeth City and third place to Gil Burroughs of Edenton.

Bill Darrow of Hertford entertained the crowd gathered on Front Street to watch the races with nautical folk music.

The moth boat has its origins in the Albemarle area. Captain Joel Van Sant designed the little boat in 1929 while stopping to overhaul his yacht, *Siesta*, in Elizabeth City. This 11-foot craft was devised for racing on inland rivers and lakes and its name is due to its flitting across the water "like a moth." Today, the



Moth boaters and Sunfish sailors enjoyed Saturday's beautiful weather on the Perquimans River during the Perquimans Heritage, Inc. Moth Boat Regatta.

moth boat is recognized worldwide with newer versions such as the International Moth Boat gaining popularity along with the classic moths.

Mitza Autry, president of PHI and Dan Daneker, past president of PHI, presented trophies to the winners. Trophies were sponsored

by East Carolina Bank. Tarheel Distributing Company also sponsored this event. Donations for the regatta were provided by the Wishing Well, Frankie's Hertford Cafe, One Stop and Larry's Drive In. The Osprey Yacht club manned the committee boat.

County mulls \$9.96 million 02-03 budget

Tax rate would not rise

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans County taxpayers will see no tax rate increase for 2002-2003 if the commissioners pass the \$9.96 million general fund budget proposed by County Manager Paul Gregory last week.

Last year's budget was \$9.99 million.

Gregory said the county's frugal spending tradition and each department carefully reviewing expenses allowed him to present a budget keeping the 61 cents per \$100 valuation tax rate in place.

Growth, especially in the New Hope and Bethel areas, has provided additional tax base, he added.

The budget includes a 2 percent across-the-board salary increase for county employees.

"Although I feel that our employees need and deserve a 3 percent salary increase as was provided them last year, I am requesting a 2 percent salary increase effective July 1," Gregory said in his budget message.

He said 2 percent is what the state is budgeting for salary increases.

Gregory also recommended that the county contract with Becky Veazey of Management and Personnel Services Group to provide an update of the original salary plan Beazey did for the county during fiscal 2000-2001. That plan could not be implemented due to lack of funding in two budget years, he said.

One reason the county had to cut budgets in each department is that the governor kept about \$200,000 in state reimbursements due the county during the present budget year. There is no indication yet whether the county will receive these funds, nor whether funds for next year will also be confiscated by the state.

"Unfortunately, our governor is passing on the state's financial woes to all 100 counties; Perquimans County can only do so much as it is a Tier 1, low wealth county," Gregory said. "Governor Easley must realize the extreme burden he now places on our county when we were already losing other revenues completely separate from the state reimbursements. It is now quite evident that Governor Easley will plan to keep certain previously promised revenues which were actually reimbursements to Perquimans County ... Let there be no doubt that the loss of these revenues will hurt Perquimans County financially."

Gregory said the \$200,000 represents over 3 cents in property tax rate to Perquimans.

Another lick to the county budget will come from

rising hospitalization and dental insurance premiums. Gregory said premiums for both the county and individual employees are rising by 25 percent. The monthly premium will now be \$258 for hospitalization and \$20 for dental services.

Medicaid and assistance programs for senior adults, have also shown increases year-over-year, Gregory said.

Added to this year's budget are three new and/or expanded positions. The county will employ a full time animal control officer to be assigned to the sheriff's department. A full time buildings and grounds employee will be needed as the county has and will add more buildings. A part time enforcement officer will join the Building Inspection Department. The employee's main responsibility will be the enforcement of existing county ordinances, in particular the junk and junk car ordinances.

"We've been needing that position for some time," Gregory said of the enforcement officer slot.

Also new to be budget is \$60,000 to buy into the Chowan-Gates animal control operation. The buy-in will also require Perquimans to pay about \$20,000 in operations costs, as well as making the part time animal control officer position a full time position.

A copy of the budget may be reviewed at the office of the County Manager in the courthouse. A public hearing on the budget is set for June 17 at 7 p.m. in the commissioners room in the courthouse annex.

Understanding the budget

The first thing people looking at the county budget should understand is that the budget is actually a group of budgets. There is a general fund, through which most county funds run. Then there are water system, solid waste, economic development, capital projects, and reserve fund Continued on page 8

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 95
LOW: 72
T'STORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 88
LOW: 64
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 85
LOW: 61
PARTLY CLOUDY