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April 16, 2003

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Winfall celebrates progress

Town hall,
park pavilion,
veterans
memorial
dedicated

SUSAN R. HARRIS

It was a big day in a small town.

Winfall celebrated its progress Monday with the dedication of its new town hall/community building, veteran's memorial and park pavilion.

U.S. Congressman Frank Ballance was the guest speaker for the event, which brought out over 100 people including elected officials from Winfall, Hertford and Perquimans County, and school and business leaders.

Winfall Mayor Fred Yates was noted by many who spoke during the ceremony as a man who has led the town forward. He has tenaciously gone after grants and low-interest loans to help Winfall improve its services, facilities and the quality of life of its 554 residents.

The new town hall project came after Yates talked a Virginia developer into donating prime waterfront acreage to the town for a park and space for town offices, which had grown woefully inadequate in the old town hall.

The new, 3,116 square foot facility houses the town's administrative office and police department. The town hall meeting room is designed to be multi-functional, allowing for town and community functions to be held on the premises.

The facility was built with grants and low-interest loans.

The day opened with the dedication of the park pavilion to Jake Chesson, who served for almost 30 years on the town council. Joining Chesson for the occasion were his children, Dr. Parker Chesson, Luther Chesson and Anna



Congressman Frank Ballance, D-N.C., speaks to those attending the ribbon cutting of the new town hall in Winfall Monday morning.

Copeland, and Luther's Chesson's grandson, Luke.

The event also included the unveiling and dedication of a monument in honor of Winfall's veterans. Shirley Wiggins, who retired as a nurse captain in the U.S. Navy and is Winfall's highest-ranking veteran, spoke on behalf of the town and veterans. She said all communities should honor with a memorial those willing to lay down their lives for their country.

Henry Ormond of American Legion Post 362 and David Shaffer of American Legion Post 126 also participated in the unveiling ceremony.

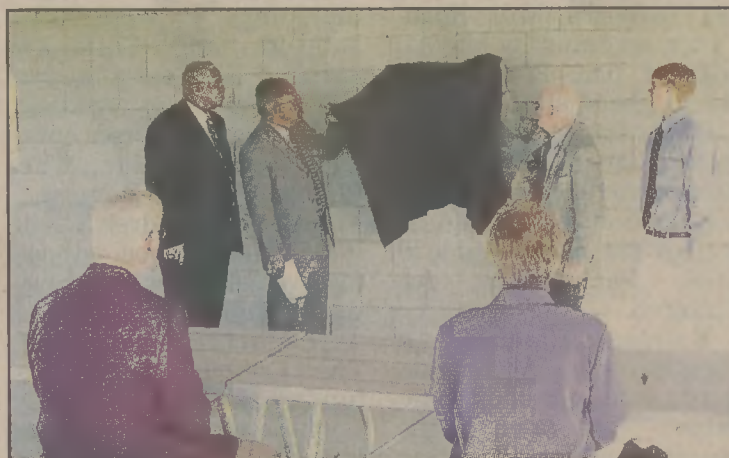
A ribbon cutting for the new town hall was sponsored by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.

Winfall has enjoyed progress for the past several years. A new fire station, wastewater collection system and curbing and guttering which is still underway have all been undertaken by the town in the last 10 years.

The former town hall, which at one time also housed the fire department, will now be used as a maintenance facility for the town.



Henry Ormond of American Legion Post 362 assists with the veterans' memorial dedication.



Jake Chesson and Congressman Frank Ballance unveil the plaque in the Jake Chesson Pavilion.

Hertford votes to allow tattoo shop on U.S. 17 Bypass

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Dreamcatchers Body Art got the green light to continue operating on U.S. Highway 17 Bypass Monday night.

Acting on a recommendation from the Town of Hertford Planning Board, Town Council voted to allow tattoo establishments to operate in C-2 zones with the condition that they not be located within 500 feet of a school or church. A clause that the businesses be located in free-standing structures was taken out of the recommendation.

Although the Planning Board recommended allowing tattoo businesses, Town Manager John Christensen sent a memo to council members asking that they consider the town's strategic plan before making a decision. Christensen noted that the town did a comprehensive review of zoning and land use throughout the town, including the gateway areas at the town limits. Christensen said council should determine if a tattoo business on U.S. 17 Bypass would be in keeping with the gateway plan. His recommendation was that tattoo establishments not be allowed within 400 feet of U.S. 17 Bypass or Church Street.

Dreamcatchers owner Steve Cannady brought over 20 people with him to the council meeting.

Cannady said he tried to be respectful when he chose the site for his business. He named at least 10 businesses that have benefited from Dreamcatchers.

Cannady presented photographs from the town's gateways and abandoned buildings through-

out town, telling councilors that his property is clean and does not present a poor image for the town.

The business owner said that his building is not advertised as a "tattoo parlor," which can have negative connotations for some people, but as a "body art studio."

Several people spoke on Cannady's behalf, referring to his reputation as a fair and respectable businessman, an ordained minister, someone who participates in business and community events, and a businessperson known for keeping his premises neat and clean.

Gary Gurganus of Elizabeth City said he was a customer of Dreamcatchers when it was located in Elizabeth City. He said he chose to do business with Canady because he does not allow drinking or smoking in his facility.

Cannady added that he abides by the law strictly, requiring everyone to present identification. He said he will not provide tattoo service to anyone under age 18 or body piercing to anyone under age 16 per state law.

Carlton Davenport and Marvin Hunter Sr. voted in favor of the measure, while Horace Reid voted against it. Mayor Sid Eley initially said Dreamcatchers would be allowed to operate by a 2-1 vote, but Christensen reminded Eley that Eley also had to record a vote.

After several minutes of silence followed by various comments on the pros and cons of the business being located in Hertford, Eley recorded a "yes" vote, adding that he hopes Cannady will eventually move off of U.S. 17.

Information on the accident that happened on Monday morning at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and New Hope Road was not available from the N.C. Highway Patrol at press time on Tuesday.

Relay for Life is May 9

Relay for Life teams in Chowan and Perquimans counties are busy raising money in a variety of ways from car washes to suppers to antique sales.

The 20 teams are gearing up for the American Cancer Society's signature fund-raising event, Relay for Life, which will take place at John A. Holmes High School May 9-10.

Relay is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate cancer survivors and raise funds for research and programs offered through the American Cancer Society. Prior to the event, teams hold fundraisers to raise money. During the event, teams of people take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to have at least one team member on the track at all times.

Relay for Life began in

1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt took it upon himself to run/walk around a track in Tacoma, Washington for 24 hours. Dr. Klatt clocked 83 miles, and raised \$27,000 to support the ACS mission: The nationwide community based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing the suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service.

The Chowan and Perquimans Relay for Life began in 1994. In 2002, the local event had 27 teams and raised over \$92,000.

The southeast division raised \$34 million, and it is projected that in 2003, Relay for Life nationwide will raise funds in excess of \$1 billion.

The power of Relay is that it allows a community to grieve for those lost to cancer, and to celebrate the lives of those who have survived. For the newly diagnosed, Relay offers a chance to meet someone who has survived the same type of cancer. For the cancer patients in treatment, Relay provides an opportunity to share with others. For the long-term survivor, Relay brings community recognition of the struggle and closure to a trying time in life.

The Relay event includes a survivors lap and a luminary ceremony during which luminaries are lit in honor and memory of cancer patients.

For more information about Relay, call Shannon Ray at 482-9968, Brenda Newbern at 426-

Residents upset over roadside trash dump

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans County has five manned trash collection centers and a landfill, but still there are those who dump trash on roadsides.

Residents in the Beech Springs community are outraged that some person or persons have dumped

tires, old furniture and appliances, and old bank papers, letters and even documents from student files at Chowan Junior High School dated in the late 1980s on Layden Road. Names on documents include Mr. and Mrs. Graham Trent, Granette Trent and Maria Trent.

County Manager Paul

Gregory said residents in the community have called

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 74
Low: 54
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
High: 76
Low: 53
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 73
Low: 53
PARTLY CLOUDY



This pile of trash spills onto the roadway on Layden Road in the Beech Springs community. Neighboring residents are upset that one or more people are choosing their community as a trash dump.