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June 22, 2005

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PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY

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Bigger bang planned for Independence Day here

ERIN RICKERT

Residents who plan to stay in town for the annual July 4th fireworks show will not be disappointed this year.

According to American Legion Post 126 Commander Ken Rominger, additional funds will allow for some larger fireworks

to be part of this year's show in Hertford's Missing Mill Park. The Legion has sponsored the fireworks for the past few years.

Rominger said typically the American Legion is able to put on a fireworks show costing around \$4,000, but this year the legion decided to put an additional \$3,000 toward the show.

"It is really the only big thing we [the Legion] do," Rominger said. "We just decided to use more money. There should be up to \$7,000 worth shot off. That means there will be some additional fireworks, plus the size will increase."

Discussion to include a concession run by the American Legion, selling

hotdogs, hamburgers, funnel cakes and other items, is also being considered.

"There has never been a program in the past," Rominger said. "We are hoping for one this year."

Rominger said the concession coupled with the additional crowd they expect to spill into Hertford after Elizabeth City's fire-

works were postponed until September could help the American Legion raise even more money for next year's fireworks.

In Winfall, Mayor Fred Yates is planning a Gospel Block Party to begin at 4 p.m. in Winfall Landing Park.

Here, radio station Rejoice 100.9 will broadcast

live while residents enjoy free food and drinks.

Local church groups Yates said, as well as gospel artists Earl Bynum, Wallace Gunn and others will perform starting at 4 p.m.

Yates said a dunking booth, inflatable games and

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Hertford utilities to rise

ERIN RICKERT

Hertford Town Council voted to table adoption of the next fiscal year's proposed budget during their regular meeting last Monday evening after a recommendation by Hertford Town Manager John Christensen.

"It is not my recommendation it be adopted tonight," Christensen said. "We still have a salary study to consider."

Prior to the evening's meeting, council heard results of a salary and position study that could influence the 2 percent cost of living increase currently proposed for employees.

Council now plans to hold a special meeting at 7 p.m. June 27 in the council chambers.

This, Christensen said, will allow council time to review salary study findings in a work session before the proposed budget is adopted for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

The proposed budget, which takes effect July 1, includes no ad valorem tax increase but several other increases are proposed.

"I have requested an increase in water and sewer rates," Christensen said. "The last increase was in 2002, which was a 5 percent increase. Since 2002 the consumer price index has increased 8.8 percent."

As a result, Christensen said, the budget proposes a 6.8 percent increase in water and sewer rates, which will only allow the town to continue operating at sustaining levels.

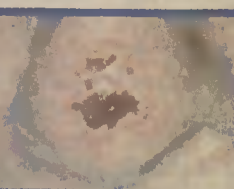
"Revenues for the Electric Fund will see an increase due to the fuel adjustment charge approved by Council May

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Basal Cell



Squamous Cell



Melanoma



Could you be at risk this summer?



Daily Advance photo

Officially, the first day of summer began Tuesday though the sights and sounds of summer have long since arrived. Summer vacations and trips to the beach, the park, cookouts and dashes through lawn sprinklers have already taken place as weather hit the 90s recently. But as residents enjoy the dog days of summer, experts as well two Perquimans County residents warn everyone to be safe while in the sun.

Experts urge residents to have fun but be safe in the sun this year

ERIN RICKERT

They each carry daily reminders — battlewounds from a fight against an unforeseen threat.

A faint line, once a more than 3-inch incision, the tiny circular scars peppered like large freck-

les and a nearly 2-inch deep gash on the back of an arm all tell a tale.

"In 1998 a red spot appeared on my forehead," said Brenda Lassiter, a now seven-year survivor of melanoma. "It was real dry ... I thought it was psoriasis."

"The mole was on the

back of my right arm," said Kay Rose, as the nearly two-year melanoma survivor grasped her arm. "I had it since birth. I thought it was just changing because I was getting older."

For these women, the dangers of the sun are all too real — something that

has reshaped the way they live and the way they raise their children.

One a farm girl and the other a sunbather looking for the perfect tan, these fair skinned, blonde haired women join thousands who are diagnosed with this, the deadliest

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Driver hits pole

ERIN RICKERT

Police say a local man was drunk when he crashed into another vehicle and later struck a telephone pole in Hertford Sunday.

James Ellison, 27, of 313 Grubb St., Hertford, was charged with driving while impaired, failure to stop at a traffic light, willfully leaving the scene of an accident and careless and reckless driving after causing an accident at the intersection of Market and Edenton Road streets Sunday evening.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said Ellison was traveling west on Market Street when he failed to stop his 1996 Chevrolet at the traffic light causing him to strike another resident's 2000 Cadillac as they traveled south on Edenton Road Street.

"Ellison slid across the intersection, struck the pole on the west corner and snapped it [the pole] in half," Vanscoy said.

Vanscoy said Ellison later fled the scene of the accident, only to be found by police minutes later just blocks away from the accident.

Residents near the scene of the accident reported only minor injuries, Vanscoy said.

Though Vanscoy said police are still waiting for estimates from the town for the damage to the pole, both vehicles were estimated to have close to \$8,000 in damage each.

"It [the accident] is probably in excess of \$20,000," Vanscoy said.

The accident occurs almost a month after a

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Winfall Town Council passes 10-cent tax increase

SUSAN R. HARRIS

After holding the line on property taxes for several years, Winfall Town Council voted to raise taxes by 10 cents per \$100 valuation for the 2005-06 budget.

The rate jumped from 35 cents to 45 cents per \$100 property valuation, about a 28 percent increase. For an owner of property valued at \$75,000, that would mean a tax bill of \$337.50, up from \$262.50 this year.

Mayor Fred Yates said

the significant tax increase came after years of holding down rates and rising costs of everything to the town.

"I didn't want it (the tax rate) to go up," Yates said. "Inflation, cost of materials, cost of gas prices, just general price increases (forced us to have to raise the tax rate). We're going to try to keep it down as much as possible, but we don't want to get in a situation where we can't support the town."

With total property

value of just under \$22.5 million, a one penny increase in property taxes



Yates

generates about \$2,250. The 10 cents increase gives the town about \$22,427 more in operating funds. Yates said the small amount of money that comes to the town with each penny tax increase meant council had to raise taxes several cents to get the operating funds needed.

Winfall's general fund budget is just over \$334,180, with property tax funding \$94,500 and vehicle tax, \$14,000 of that amount, meaning property tax brings in only about one-

third of the amount needed to operate the town.

Sales taxes, including beer and wine tax, total \$97,400, and franchise tax adds another \$18,000.

The town gets \$41,000 from the county for its fire department, but the department expenses approach \$52,000. Just over \$17,000 goes to make the payment on the fire station, with \$8,700 going to equipment and \$5,600 to a truck payment.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY

High: 84

Low: 66

ISOLATED T'STORMS

FRIDAY

High: 86

Low: 68

ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY

High: 88

Low: 71

ISOLATED T'STORMS