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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Rescue Squad sale nets over \$8K

Page 3

Youth League update

Page 6

Senior scholarships, awards

Page 8

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Officials seek clues in New Hope death

SUSAN HARRIS

Law enforcement officials continue to seek answers in the case of a man who died on the lawn of his New Hope home early Monday morning.

Michael Archie Wilson, 50, of 2222 New Hope Road appears to have died at the edge of his driveway sometime around 1:30 a.m., according to Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley.

Tilley said his officers received a call at 2:30 a.m. on June 5 that there was a possible homicide at the New Hope Road residence. Deputies arrived on the scene to find Wilson lying near a driveway toward the left edge of the yard. The sheriff said that emergency medical personnel checked Wilson and determined that he was dead.

Also at the scene was Gloria Jean Thomas, 47, the

girlfriend of Wilson who also resides at 2222 New Hope Road, and several of Wilson's relatives, Tilley said.

Thomas told investigators with the local sheriff's department and the state police that she and Wilson had an altercation outside the home around 1:30 a.m. Tilley said Thomas told officials that at some point during the argument, Wilson fell to the ground

face first. She tried to get him up off the ground, but couldn't, Tilley said. Because the phone in the residence was not working, the sheriff said Thomas drove to the home of some of Wilson's family members on Muddy Creek Road and asked them to come back to the house with her. He said when the family members saw Wilson, they called 9-1-1 on a cell phone. Tilley said a cause of

death was not obvious. There are wounds on the body and evidence at the scene that indicates there was some type of physical confrontation, but Tilley said Wilson could have died of natural causes. The sheriff would not be specific, but said Wilson did have facial wounds of an undetermined origin. Thomas had a cut on her foot, Tilley said, but did not appear to be suffering from any seri-

ous injuries.

Until a cause of death is known, the case is being investigated as a suspicious death, Tilley said.

Wilson's body was sent to the medical examiner's office in Greenville on Monday for an autopsy. Tilley said a cause of death may be known sometime Tuesday, but it will take at least two weeks to get a preliminary report and up to 60 days for a full report.

Winfall raising fees, buying new police patrol vehicle

MARGARET FISHER

The town of Winfall is preparing its budget, has raised impact fees and is purchasing a new second police vehicle.

Mayor Fred Yates said that sanitation fees will be the only fee increase on the 2006-2007 fiscal year's budget. The monthly trash pick-up fee is proposed to increase from \$7 to \$8.

Residents can pick up a copy of the proposed budget at the municipal building prior to the public hearing scheduled at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 12.

Impact fees, one-time

utility fees charged for new developments, were increased on April 10 from \$500 to \$2,500 for water and from \$750 to \$3,000 for sewer. The increases are in line with similar towns and only affect new residents, Yates said.

"It wouldn't be fair to charge the citizens already here," he said.

While the town searches for another police officer to replace Angela (Castro) Turpin, who resigned on April 7 after about four months, it has purchased a new unmarked police car.

The 2006 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor is being retrofitted with

police equipment, including a Digital Eyewitness in-car camera system. With a cost of more than \$43,200, the vehicle is being paid for by a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant and \$28,800 loan.

Police Chief David Shaffer said that a second police vehicle is needed because operating one vehicle will wear it out quickly. He also said that two police officers are needed in order to have better police coverage.

"You've got to have coverage," Shaffer said. "I mean, one person just can't do it."

Plan now for hurricanes

MARGARET FISHER

Jarvis Winslow is the new emergency management coordinator for Perquimans County. He assumed the duties upon the retirement of Harry Winslow.

A Perquimans County native, Jarvis Winslow took the position about a year after retiring after 38 years in civil service in Norfolk, Va. Winslow worked in a number of positions in the electronics field. He has been a volunteer fireman with the Winfall Fire Department for more than 25 years. His emergency and computer use experience fitted him for the job, he said.

"My basic goal is to make Perquimans County as safe as I possibly can," he said.

Winslow said that he hopes to help the county recover from, or even prevent, possible disasters. Possible events include fires, accidents, chemical and hazardous materials, pandemic flues, drownings, floods, tornadoes and, particularly from now through November, hurricanes.

The hurricane season started last week, but its peak activity runs from mid-August to late October. From 13-16 named storms with four-six storms possibly developing into Category 3 or higher are predicted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Preparation is the first step, Winslow said.

"That's basically what the job is," he said. "You prepare for the worst and

hope for the best."

Each individual needs to be involved in that first step, he said. That includes preparing a three-day emergency kit, listening to weather reports and evacuating if told to do so.

Shelters within the county approved by the American Red Cross are limited. The primary shelter is the middle school in Winfall which holds about 225 people. A secondary shelter is the Albemarle Commission Building on Church Street, which will hold up to 25 people. Pets are not allowed.

"I strongly urge people to head west to I-95 and evacuate early," Winslow said.

An emergency operations center will be set up at 104 Dobbs Street before, during and after a hurricane. The emergency phone number will be made available to the public if a storm approaches.

The county has purchased and contracted for generators to run the water system. Generators are also ready to back up fire departments, shelters, central communications and other vital facilities, Winslow said.

Officials are looking for a permanent debris site where yard debris can be taken after a storm. A temporary location this year may be the Brinn Farm on Grubb Street, he said.

Winslow recommends that residents seek assistance from the county first after a disaster, then the state and federal contacts, such as FEMA.

The N.C. Department of

Insurance advises homeowners to find out what their policies cover and do not cover, including wind and flood damage, detached buildings, items such as jewelry, furs and art collections, living expenses when your house is not fit to live in and tree removal. NCDOT recommends purchasing a policy that covers at least 80 percent of the full replacement costs of the dwelling. Renters should consider insuring their personal belongings.

Other reminders include to gather important papers in a waterproof container, keep an inventory list of belongings and take pictures of them, put away or tie down items that could become projectiles, cover windows with plywood and create a communication and evacuation plan for your family.

Emergency Supply Kit

The American Red Cross recommends putting together a three-day supply kit for your family before a hurricane strikes.

First aid kit and medications.

Canned food and non-electric can opener.

At least three gallons of water per person.

Protective clothing, rain-wear and bedding.

Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.

Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.

Written instructions on how to turn off utilities, if advised to do so. (A professional will need to turn them back on.)

MOVING DAY



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Workers are building a trailer under the Brinn House, owned by Dennis Williams of Virginia Beach, Va., so it can be moved from the town's spray field about one and a half miles away. Worth H. Hare & Son of Edenton will moving the 2,600 square-foot home to 243 Riverwood Dr. after power, cable and phone lines are temporarily moved. Worth Hare Jr. said the trip will take at least four hours. Williams plans to upgrade the home before selling it.

Search dog killed in line of duty

MARGARET FISHER

A young pup born in the New Hope area was rescued and trained in search and recovery work. On May 8, K9 Jacob Ray was killed while on duty in Greenville at his second search assignment. Last Friday, Hertford Town Mayor Fred Eley proclaimed June 2 as K9 Jacob Day.

While on the scent of a missing person at a car show at the Pitt County Fairgrounds, Jacob was hit by a passing box truck.

"He died in my arms on the way to the vet," said Steve Canady, who handled and owned the dog, along with his fiancée Ginny White, both of Edenton.

Canady's first encounter with the puppy was through the Tri-County Animal Shelter, where White is employed as an animal control officer, when the pup was about three months old.

"He clung to me and I ended up keeping him," Canady said. A month later in April 2005, Canady, who owns Dreamcatchers in Hertford, began taking Jacob through obedience training. In January, the dog and handler joined the VK9 Specific Scent Search and Recovery team in Portsmouth, Va.

Jacob, a mixed breed, was hot on the trail where it was confirmed that



K9 Jacob Ray, born in Perquimans County, was killed while searching for a missing person in Greenville. In memory of his good work, June 2 was proclaimed K9 Jacob Day.

Kristie Hahns, 22, had last driven out of the fairgrounds. Jacob was certified as a scent specific mantrailer and was also cross-trained to detect the scent of human remains.

"Jacob's scenting ability impressed me the first time I met him at obedience class and further sessions revealed that Jacob had an uncanny desire to work," wrote Margie Spensor, officer in charge at VK9SSAR.

Jacob was given personal articles belonging to Hahns and taken to the fairgrounds where she was last spotted. Even though she was driving in a car, her car was vented so her

scent left a trail, Canady said.

"Our dogs can pick somebody out of a crowd if they know what they are looking for," he said.

Three hours after Jacob died, Hahns, who had a history of disappearing, was found to be checked in at a Jacksonville hospital, Canady said. Ten days later she was killed in an automobile accident, he added.

But Jacob had done his job well. Before her death, Hahns had confirmed that she had been on the trail Jacob was following, Canady said.

"It's been terrible to lose him and all the training he's been through," he said.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 82, LOW: 65
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 81, LOW: 65
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 86, LOW: 63
MOSTLY SUNNY