

Woods celebrate 65h anniversary

Page 2

Plantation hosts regatta

Page 3

School administrators hit the road

Page 6

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35 cents

Ka-boom!



TOP PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS. RIGHT PHOTOS BY PHIL HARRIS



County residents turned out in droves to enjoy the fireworks and traditional outdoor festival food at Missing Mill Park on July 4th. Hundreds turned out, many arriving in late afternoon to stake their claim to their favorite viewing spot and enjoy grilled favorites, cold drinks, pizza and homemade ice cream offered by vendors. In Winfall, between 200 and 300 folks showed up to see the show in the air and as it was reflected in the river off Winfall Landing Park.

Body of Pasquotank man found in Perq. River

SUSAN HARRIS

The body of a Pasquotank County man missing for over two days was found in the Perquimans River early Saturday morning.

Roger Wayne Turner Jr., 41, of Nixonton Loop Road, Elizabeth City, went missing on a 4th of July boating trip after his vessel encountered rough waters off Durants Neck. His body was found just off Winslow Road near the Carolina Shores subdivision Saturday morning around 6 a.m.

Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley said Temple and his wife, Susan Temple, left Temple's parents' home at 109 Nixonton Loop Road Wednesday in a 20' Maycraft boat planning to travel to Manns Harbor to fish.

But rough water sent them up the Perquimans River instead, where Tilley said they had friends at Strick's Campground.

Around 9 p.m., they headed back to Nixonton, and again hit rough water. Tilley said evidently Susan Temple was sitting in the front of the center console boat. Her husband suggested she move to the back of the boat, and when she tried, she lost her balance and fell backwards out of the boat.

Tilley said Susan Temple reported that she came to the surface of the water and got her bearings, and could hear her husband calling for her, telling her to swim toward the boat. She said she tried, but the waves kept pushing her back. Soon, she lost sight of the boat and could no longer hear her husband calling, Tilley said.

Susan Temple was treading water when she saw a crab pot. She clung to it all night. At day break, she saw more crab pots, and began to swim from one to another, using them for flotation devices and resting places as she made her way to shore. A resident on Webb Street at the tip of Durants Neck saw her coming

out of the water and went to help her. Temple called family members to come and get her.

Meanwhile, when the Temples did not return home by midnight, family called the Pasquotank Sheriff's Department. The Coast Guard was notified about 2 a.m. on July 5. Perquimans County agencies, including the Sheriff's Department, Rescue Squad's Technical Dive Team and Emergency Management Coordinator, found out about the search and recovery operation around noon that day.

The boat was discovered Thursday morning in a marshy area not far from where Susan Temple came ashore, Tilley said. A member of his family came and got the boat.

Tilley said Friday that the GPS from the boat indicated that the boat had slowed and circled around the time Susan Temple fell over, then stopped. The boat motor was off when it was found.

No one knows how Roger Temple left the boat, whether, for instance, he was also knocked overboard by rough water or perhaps went into the river to try to rescue his wife.

The Coast Guard suspended its search and rescue mission around 10:30 a.m. Friday, turning the recovery effort over to the sheriff's department. The sheriff's department, dive team, state Wildlife and Marine Fisheries continued the operation. The search continued until Friday night, with plans to meet early Saturday morning to begin again. Tilley said he got a call shortly after 6 a.m. Saturday that Temple's body had been found.

Tilley said North Carolina Wildlife officials are in charge of the accident investigation because it happened on a waterway, but he said from his knowledge of the incident, there is no reason to suspect foul play.

Temple was co-owner of Climatemasters, a heating and air conditioning company.

Yates will seek election

SUSAN HARRIS

The filing period for the November municipal elections opened Friday at noon and will remain open until July 20 at noon.

Voters in Winfall will elect a mayor and two councilpersons, with Hertford voters electing two for council.

Winfall Mayor Fred Yates said last week he intends to seek another two-year term. He said he wants to see plans on the drawing board and projects already underway continue before he gives up his post.

"We've got a few things in the pan," he said. Yates mentioned equipment needs of the fire department, subdivisions in progress and bringing a town administrator on board as projects he'd like to see through.

It appears there will be new people sitting on council to work with the mayor in Winfall.

Kenneth Rominger, who has served as mayor pro temp, said he will not seek another term.

"It's taken up a lot of time," Rominger said. "I've enjoyed it, but I'm taking a reprieve. Eight years is a good time to serve."

Bertha Dixon, who was appointed to council to fill a vacancy, said she is undecided about whether to run, but is leaning toward not seeking election.

In Hertford, Carlton Davenport said he is not ready to announce his decision on whether he will seek re-election.

Anne White, who is finishing her first term, could not be reached by telephone at home or at work.

Emergency organizations briefed for hurricane season

SUSAN HARRIS

Court wasn't in session, but the courtroom was full recently when Emergency Management Coordinator Jarvis Winslow called a pre-hurricane meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to pull together representatives of all agencies who respond to disasters to touch base before a weather emergency. Hurricane season began June 1 and runs through November, with August and September typically the most active near North Carolina.

"One hurricane can wipe us out," Winslow told the group of about 80 people. He reminded everyone of the damage the county suffered when Isabel struck in September 2003, and it hit the area as a Category 1 storm. Storms are categorized from one to five, with five being the most violent and destructive.

Winslow said one of the biggest changes since Isabel is the installation of a reverse 911 system that is presently underway. The system will allow emergency officials to warn residents of imminent danger from hurricanes or other disasters or hazards by phone. Like the Connect-Ed system employed by the school system, the reverse 911 system will be able to make thousands of calls quickly to alert residents.

"You need to thank our county

commissioners for that (funding the system)," Winslow said, adding that it could save lives.

Winslow also stressed the importance of having residents with special needs sign up to be put on the special needs registry.

"This is really important to the county," Winslow said. "You've got to help us do it."

The registry will contain names, addresses and special needs of residents so that they can be checked on in the event of an emergency, such as a hurricane. For example, a resident who must have electricity to operate a life-support device should get on the registry. Forms are available at social services, the health department, the senior center and other places throughout the county.

In addition to the reserve 911 system, upgrades to emergency response since Isabel include generators to keep the water system operational, the approval by the Red Cross of the community building at the commerce centre as a secondary shelter, and a debris removal contract in place.

The county office building at 104 Dobbs Street, formerly social services, will serve as an operations center in the event of a disaster, Winslow said, with an alternate location at the Hertford water plant.

The schools bus garage would

Continued on page 8

Boone faces federal charges

SUSAN HARRIS

Craig Lavelle Boone, 26, of 155 Fourth Ave., has been indicted by a federal grand jury for selling more than 50 grams of crack cocaine.

Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley said Boone was notified by letter by federal law enforcement of his indictment and fled the area. He was arrested by federal marshals in New York on June 5. He is presently being held in Raleigh awaiting a detention hearing Friday.

Continued on page 8

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 85, LOW: 69
ISOLATED T-STORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 87, LOW: 72
SCATTERED T-STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 85, LOW: 69
SCATTERED T-STORMS