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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

## Vanscoy resigns

Chief Dale Vanscoy is leaving Hertford Police Department to accept employment elsewhere.

Town Manager John Christensen said Vanscoy notified him March 12 of his intentions to leave effective April 16.



Vanscoy

Vanscoy said he has enjoyed his years with the town, but declined to say where he has accepted employment. He will not be moving from the area, he added.

Christensen will name an interim chief and then begin the search and selection process to find a new chief for the department.

"We certainly appreciate all he has done for the town and wish him the best of luck in his endeavors," Christensen said.

Vanscoy joined the Hertford Police Department in 1992, and was promoted to chief five years later. A former military police officer, he served previously with the Virginia Beach Police Department, the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Department and chief of the Winfall Police Department.

In addition to serving with the town police, Vanscoy is also sergeant of the Perquimans County Rescue Squad's Technical Dive team, where he helps recover evidence underwater, rescue victims in open water incidents, locates and assists missing or overdue boaters and boats, and locates and recovers bodies when necessary.

## Bridge will be replaced

The North Carolina Board of Transportation has awarded a \$669,521 contract to replace an existing bridge east of Hertford on Cartwright Swamp Road (State Road 1304) over Sutton Creek in Perquimans County. The contract was awarded to T.A. Loving Co. of Goldsboro.

Work is scheduled to begin between March 31 and June 15, with final completion 135 days after the start date. The project includes replacing the current bridge and repaving approaches on Cartwright Swamp Road.

The bridge will be closed to traffic and a detour will be in place. Motorists traveling around the construction site wanting to access either side of Cartwright Swamp Road will use U.S. 17 and Woodland Church Road (S.R. 1303).

"Local bridges are a vital part of the transportation infrastructure in northeastern North Carolina, and we are committed to completing projects like this that ensure their safety and condition," said board member Stan White of Nags Head who represents Highway Division 1 which includes Perquimans County.

## READY FOR EASTER



Perquimans Weekly photo by CATHY WILSON

THE SIGNS OF THE Easter season came early this year: colorful flowers and young ladies carrying Easter baskets! Megen and Morgan Hurdle, daughters of Matt and Nikki Hurdle, look forward to Easter as they admire the colorful yard of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Darrow of Hertford.

## Layden will campaign

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Diane Layden's name will still appear on the May 6 primary ballot for election to the county school board and she is actively campaigning for the seat.

Citing health reasons, she notified the local elections board recently that she was withdrawing from the race that has seven people vying for three seats on the non-partisan school board.

However, Eula Mae Forbes, director of the county's elections board, said a check with the State Board of Elections deemed Layden can't withdraw.

"It's too late. Her name stays on the ballot and the votes are counted," said Forbes.

Layden said she has rethought the matter and decided to continue her election campaign.

Those seeking election to the school board are incumbent Gail Hill and newcomers Lula Eason, Susan Cox, Arlene Yates, Amy Spaugh, Pam Modlin-Hurdle and Layden.

The top three vote-takers on May 6 will take office in June.

In addition to the school board election, the May 6 primary will also include local candidates vying to run on their party's ticket for three seats on the county board of commissioners. Incumbents Mack Nixon and Shirley Wiggins as well as newcomers Neil Trueblood and Tommy Lynn Riddick are each trying to be the Democratic candidate while incumbent Sue Weimar is the only Republican seeking election.

Those who vote on the Democratic ballot may choose one candidate. The three candidates with the most votes will appear on

the general election ballot in November.

Weimar will automatically go on to the general election.

Those who haven't registered to vote, or need to change address, name or party affiliation, can do so until April 11. You must be 18 by the general election in order to register. Voter registration applications are available at the board of elections office, at any public assistance office, the library, and on the State Board of Elections website.

One stop early voting will open April 17 and run through May 3. You may vote in person at the elections office located at 601A South Edenton Road Street (the Extension building) during that period. Forbes said she does not expect to add any additional sites for one stop early voting in Perquimans County. Call 426-5587 with questions.

## 4th of July activities planned in Hertford

SUSAN HARRIS

An evening of old-fashioned family fun ending with fireworks is being planned for July 4th.

Mary Mc. White, events coordinator for the 250th anniversary of Hertford, said she already has a few groups signed up to offer traditional summertime foods in Missing Mill Park, and is looking for more. Other types of vendors and those who would like to offer children's activities, or even a horseshoe tournament at the regulation pits at the park are welcome.

Back from years ago will be a non-motorized 4th of

July parade. Pedal- and push-power will be energy source for this parade to feature decorated tricycles, bicycles, wagons, tractors, strollers — all types of people-powered contraptions.

A patriotic ceremony will take place once the parade arrives at the park.

The periauger will arrive at the park around 6 p.m. Organizers ask those who navigate boats near the park on July 4th decorate them in holiday style



in honor of the occasion.

Those who would like to participate should contact White at 426-8471 or Brandon Shope at 426-1969.

Winfall also plans to host activities at Winfall Landing Park. Those who would like to participate there should call Mayor Fred Yates at the town office at 426-5015.

The end to the evening at both parks will be the fireworks that will be set off from the riverfront lot of

## Bond denied murder suspects

### Katherine White moved to Central Prison

SUSAN HARRIS

One of two defendants charged with the murder of a Bethel man has been transferred to Central Prison after apparently threatening to commit suicide.

Katherine Ann White was transported to the Raleigh facility by the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department last week.

In a motion filed with the courts last Wednesday, Sheriff Eric Tilley requested the transfer to the state prison because facilities at Albemarle District Jail were "insufficient and inadequate" for her needs.

"Inmate made threats of suicide to medical department," Tilley wrote in the motion. "Inmate arrived at facility with methadone and prescriptions for other controlled substances."

White, 43, and her mother, Jennie Lee White, 61, were both charged with first-degree murder last Tuesday afternoon for the shooting death of Jennie White's husband, Thomas Woodrow White, on June 22, 2007.

Thomas White's body was found in his bed in the early morning hours of June 23, 2007. Tilley said his department was called to the residence at 117 Mill Road in response to a possible breaking and entering and an unresponsive subject. Officials arrived to find some items out of place and Thomas White dead in his bed, apparently from a single gunshot wound to the head.

At that time, the women told law enforcement officers that they had been out for the evening, and arrived home near midnight to find the front door to the home open and the dog at the front door. Jennie White said the dog wanted to go out, so she took the animal away from the house. When she entered the home after walking the dog, she found some items out of place. She went to check on her husband, but could not wake him.

Jennie White said her husband did not accompany her and her daughter earlier in the evening. He spent much of his time in bed, suffering from prostate cancer and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The sheriff said the



Katherine White



Jennie White

mother and daughter had been persons of interest in the murder since early in the investigation.

Officials got a break about two weeks ago when someone contacted the sheriff's department with information that Tilley said "connected the dots," and led to the recovery of physical evidence related to the incident.

Investigators with the sheriff's department and SBI took their evidence to District Attorney Frank Parrish last Tuesday morning. Parrish believed the case brought to him was sufficient to file warrants for first degree murder against both women.

They were arrested Tuesday afternoon and held without bond at Albemarle District Jail.

In Perquimans County District Court last Wednesday, Judge Christopher Bean denied bond reduction for both women.

Sam Dixon is the attorney of record for Jennie White and appeared in court with her last Wednesday.

Katherine White is seeking court-appointed counsel.

Sheriff's Investigator Shelby White said Monday that the women will appear in court again on March 26 for their probable cause hearings. He said his department expects to get grand jury indictments in the case.

Diana Mazzella of The Daily Advance contributed to this story.

### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 65 LOW: 43  
SUNNY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 65 LOW: 51  
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 65 LOW: 45  
ISOLATED T'STORMS