

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

MAY 16, 2012 - MAY 22, 2012



A MOTHER AND HER BABY
See picture page, 10

50 cents

Budget plan includes 3 percent pay raise

Shoaf: Expect no layoffs or tax hikes

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Town Manager Brandon Shoaf presented a proposed 2012-2013 budget to Hertford Council Monday

night that keeps the town's tax and utility rates at its current level.

In the annual budget message to councilmen, Shoaf noted no increases in any rates, proposed a 3 percent increase in pay for town employees, and restored full funding for employee healthcare costs.

"This budget is the culmination of our efforts to balance the cost of government and services during economically challenging times," Shoaf said in his message.

"All expenses were analyzed and assessed to determine if they were at the proper level. Employees

have shouldered a portion of the costs of healthcare and have not had a raise in four years.

"This year, their hard work and determination will be rewarded by a three percent increase and a fully funded health insurance benefit. Due to conservative fiscal decisions for nu-

merous years, it appears the town is in a position to continue its commitment to its employees and citizens without any layoffs or tax increases."

Shoaf said three public works positions remain frozen in next year's proposed budget, "so that department will struggle to

maintain its level of service with reduced staff."

"Since service is our primary function, the council as well as employees will have to defend these decisions when faced with complaints of slower service," he added.

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VOLUNTEERS BAG TATERS TO FEED OTHERS



PHOTOS BY BRETT A. CLARK/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Makayla Williams (right), 10, bags sweet potatoes to give to local charities at the Hertford Rec Center where various organizations and Hertford Elementary students came to sort through the sweet potatoes donated by a grower in Warsaw. The potatoes will help feed local residents through area food banks and food pantries.

From staff reports

Local school students and other volunteers turned out in force Friday morning to help bag 40,000 pounds of sweet potatoes for donation to area food banks, food pantries, low-income housing communities and food insecure populations.

The potatoes were donated through the Society of St. Andrew NC (www.endhunger.org), the nation's largest fresh food salvaging ministry and provided by a packing house in Warsaw. Trucks dumped the potatoes on the road beside the Perquimans County Recreation Center. Older volunteers sat on stools or chairs to bag the vegetables while students jumped in to help. After bagging was completed, the potatoes were delivered to help feed those in need.



Rotarians Eldon Winslow (left), who is 92 years old, and Skip Matthews sort sweet potatoes that will be given to local charities, at the Hertford Recreation Center, where various organizations and Hertford Grammar students help to bag the potatoes. The potatoes were donated by a grower in Warsaw. More than one million pounds were sorted.

Boyce killed in hunting accident

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The community is mourning the death of a county man who died Friday as a result of a tragic hunting accident while turkey hunting off New Hope Road.

According to the John Beardsley with the N.C. Wildlife Law Enforcement, Ronald Eric Boyce, 46, of the 1300-block of Lake Road, was accidentally shot while he and his son were hunting together around 8 a.m. The accident occurred behind what's known as Steve Perry's barn located on New Hope Road.

Beardsley said the hunters had seen a turkey down the field and were attempting to stalk the turkey when the accident occurred. Boyce, wearing standard camouflage, was sitting on the side of the field while his son Jonathan Boyce, 25, walked behind brush and thick vegetation to get to where he thought the turkey was located. The son tripped on an exposed tree root and stumbled causing the 12-gauge shotgun to accidentally discharge.

The father, seated about 15-20 feet away, was struck in the body area. The younger Boyce immediately called 9-1-1 and began CPR in an effort to save his father.

Perquimans EMS was quickly dispatched to the scene and transported Boyce to Albemarle Hospital where he died.

"I have been to the scene and the son was walking through very thick vegetation," said Beardsley. "You couldn't see the field

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Abigail is a new dock dog!

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Abigail, a black Labrador retriever who belongs to Tracy and Rodney Franklin of Hertford, will jump at the chance to get in the water - literally.

In fact, the two-and-a-half-year-old dog loves

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PHOTO COURTESY TOM FEIST

Abigail, a black Labrador retriever owned by Tracy and Rodney Franklin of Hertford, springs off the dock for a 16-foot jump during recent competition.

Ross is Bearer of the Mace

From staff reports

Michael R. Ross of Hertford was one of two seniors chosen to be Bearers of the Mace during Elizabeth City State University's 154th Commencement Ceremony held May 5.

Ross and Jessica L. Coates were honored with the privilege reserved for the non-transfer graduating senior who has the highest cumulative grade point average. Both graduated from ECSU with a 4.0 grade point average. Additionally, both are local students who graduated from local high schools.

Ross graduated from Perquimans County High School while Coates, a resident of Elizabeth City,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michael R. Ross of Hertford was one of two seniors selected as Bearers of the Mace during Elizabeth City State University's 154th Commencement Ceremony May 5. Ross graduated from ECSU with a 4.0 grade point average and is a graduate of Perquimans County High School.

They simply wanted to perform as best they could as undergraduates.

Ross earned a bachelor of science degree in physics. He also earned enough credits to minor in biology and chemistry. He plans to have a career as a medical

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