

## Local hopefuls address issues at candidates night

Issues and past achievements flew last Wednesday night as incumbent and challenging candidates for county com-

missioner took advantage of the biggest event thus far in the spring primary campaign, the Hertford Business and Professional Women's "Meet

the Candidates Night," at Perquimans High School. A crowd of some 100 persons, smaller than the meets' organizers had anticipated,

listened as incumbents talked about past achievements and future goals, and challengers, in some cases, questioned those achievements and put

forth their own proposals for dealing with future issues. Jim Simmons filled in for challenger Lee Brabble, a Democrat seeking the District

I seat on the county board of commissioners. Simmons, who said that Brabble was too ill to attend the event, talked of scandal and corruption in politics, and said the way to combat these problems is to elect good candidates on the local level.

For starters, Ms. Garrison said she is not for women's liberation, but she is for equal rights.

In addition, she expressed her concern about the welfare program, maintaining that in some cases, "those who have don't need and those who need don't have," the schools, saying, "we need to instill incentive in the students as well as the teachers," a lack of medical facilities in the county and law enforcement.

## Fire ravages Front Street home

Fire raced through the waterfront home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stokes in Hertford last Wednesday morning, causing damage estimated by some to be well over \$50,000. The fire began in the kitchen, and went undetected some 45 minutes to an hour as it traveled up the walls and into the attic, according to Stokes.

Mrs. Betty Crawford, a next door neighbor, reported the fire at about 9 a.m., and the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department rushed to the scene to battle what turned out to be a difficult blaze to extinguish. "The fire was between the walls and went up into the attic. We couldn't get to it," said Pete Riddick, assistant

chief of the Hertford VFD. Riddick said that 19 members of the Hertford VFD and several Winfall firemen spent close to three hours in bringing the fire under control. Hoses were run from both Church Street and Front Street in an effort to get more water to the structure. The black charred remains

of what had been a recently remodeled kitchen and ruins of the room directly above only hinted at the damage to the eight room house and its contents. "We lost all our clothes," Stokes said. "Well, I'm wearing these shoes," he added, glancing down at his work shoes, "but I wouldn't dress in 'em.

The furniture in several rooms is gone. I don't know about the other furniture. All the appliances in the kitchen burned up," Stokes said. Smoke and water damage were extensive throughout, but Stokes said that structurally, there is a lot of house left. Originally clapboard, the house had been brick veneered and completely remodeled some 20 years ago, Stokes said. In the past year, he said, the kitchen had been redone and the den painted.

Now the Stokes' are planning to rebuild the home, and are staying at the home of Dr. and Mrs. John Crawford next door, "until we get organized," Stokes said. The Hertford postmaster fumbled around for the right adjectives when asked about community reaction to his family's plight, then gave up. "I haven't got words in my vocabulary... I can't even express... It makes me feel like a sorry citizen," he said of community efforts to help out.

Ms. Garrison also said that county residents need to be better informed on county affairs. "We pay the bills," she said.

London said he has served on many government boards in the past, and has had the opportunity and experience to know what government is all about. He said he is serving his third term on the ABC board, is serving on the county social services board and is serving



Taking aim

Hertford Firemen prepare to wet down the smoldering blaze at the home of Mr. and

Mrs. Henry Stokes. The fire, which took place Wednesday

morning, caused extensive damage to the Stokes'

waterfront home. (Photo by MIKE MCLAUGHLIN).

## Land use plan in serious trouble

Perquimans County may be penalized nearly \$8,000 for failing to meet a federally set deadline for completing its land use plan. Required by the Coastal Area Management Act, the plan would identify problems and issues that could confront the county in the next five years, and project an overall picture of desired land use in 1985.

But progress on the plan was deemed in "serious trouble" by the Coastal Resources Commission at their regular monthly meeting last Tuesday. According to T. Erie Haste, who represents Perquimans County on the CRC, Perquimans County's plan is not in compliance with the federally set time schedule for completion.

Cantral also mentioned that most of the counties had completed 50 percent of the work required for the Land Use Plan during the first half of the contracted time. He said that Perquimans County only had completed 30 percent of the land use work during that time.

Haste, who said that the commission also defined four other Eastern North Carolina counties as severely off schedule, added that due to severe time restraints (the draft plan is due June 30 and should be finalized by August

31) the CRC felt that direct action was needed. The idea of cancelling the contracts and helping local governments find new contractors was discussed by the commission. The CRC also moved to set up staff meetings with any local governments having serious planning difficulties "in order to come up with positive action which will produce a high quality land use plan."

And, according to Cantral, the Perquimans County questionnaire only addressed about one-third of the issues that the commission advised each plan to include. "We have a lengthy list of policy statements to be used in each plan," said Cantral. "Perquimans County's survey does not adequately cover some of these."

## School board candidates speak

Six candidates for the Perquimans County Board of Education were among those who expressed their views last Wednesday at "Meet the Candidates" night.

Parksville seat, Ed Brown, touched on a wide range of concerns he believes to be pertinent to the future of the Perquimans County School System.

"Every year students graduate who have never had the opportunity to develop their talents," Towe said. The school system should see to it that talents are recognized and that each student has an opportunity to succeed, he said.

Crises should be recognized before they occur. In addition, Underwood said the board needs to be committed to two programs within the system.

feels he is qualified to sit on the board, look at problems objectively, and make sound decisions.

All six shared a common concern for the welfare of Perquimans County's children, but there was some difference of opinion on how those young people could best be served. "I'm interested in young people and providing the very best of opportunities for them," said Janice Boyce, a candidate for the Parksville Township board of education seat. "If elected I promise only one thing," she said, "to do my best to serve our county and its young people."

"Energy and economic problems will affect business and school systems alike," Brown said. "Declining student enrollment means less state funds while fixed costs continue to rise," he said. Efficient use of funds is a key to dealing with the dilemma, Brown said. At the same time, he said that the school system needs to continue to upgrade facilities within its economic means.

These, he said, are extracurricular activities, and academic excellence. The two areas, he said "can and must be improved upon." Underwood also said the board should make known that meetings are open to the public and should solicit public involvement.

White said he also serves on the county recreation department's board of directors, and has coached a great many children in youth athletic programs. "I will do the best I can to see that your children and mine get the best education they can through the Perquimans County School System," White said.

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Governor's school

Perquimans High School students Robin Bullard (right) and Diane Jordan have been selected to attend governor's school, an intensive academic

summer session for gifted and talented students. Ms. Bullard will attend Governor's School West at Salem College in Winston Salem in the area of

Natural Science. Ms. Jordan will study English at Governor's School East, conducted at St. Andrews College in Laurinburg.

Another candidate for the

### Spring Fling

Spring Fling is coming May 18, and it may just be the biggest celebration of the arts that Perquimans County has ever seen. Sponsored by the Perquimans County Arts Council, the Sunday afternoon extravaganza will feature artists, craftsmen, dancers, singers, and just about every mode of artistic expression, said Billy Wooten, president of the arts council. Wooten said the event will be advertised and publicized Albarmarle wide in order to attract a wide array of participants and spectators. The event will be preceded on Saturday night by a fish fry at the American Legion building and activities in the park

"The band program is one example of how students can learn and excell just given the opportunity," he said. Athletic facilities need to be improved, he said, and should receive maximum use. A third candidate for the Parksville seat, Cliff Towe, began his speech with a long list of professional experiences that he said qualify him to serve on the school board. Towe said he spent 10 years teaching high school English, chaired his language arts department, coached, and was for four years faculty representative to the board of education in the Delaware school district. The school system should offer an opportunity for the student to succeed, Towe said. Each student invests 12 years of his life in public education, and at the end of those 12 years he should be able to look back and say it was worth it, Towe said. "Surely I would not be a success today if it were not for the opportunity presented me

to succeed," Towe said. "Every year students graduate who have never had the opportunity to develop their talents," Towe said. The school system should see to it that talents are recognized and that each student has an opportunity to succeed, he said. Preston Stevenson, incumbent Hertford Township candidate, advocated a return to prayer in schools. "We certainly should look up," said Stevenson. "I believe in prayer in schools and Bible reading," he said. Stevenson said that the recent acquisition of some 20 acres of land and the nearly completed million dollar plus addition at Perquimans County High School represent progress by the school system. He said he is "dedicated to the best education possible" for the county's young people. Gil Underwood, also a candidate for the Hertford Township seat, took issue with claims to progress in Perquimans County's schools. "The school board is a policy making board," Underwood said. "It should have long range vision and long range goals and objectives," he said. In the past, he said, the school board has not had sufficient foresight. As an example, Underwood cited the high school addition. "It was not the first option, the thing the children of this county needed most," Underwood said. He said the board needs to be looking some 20 years in to the future when it makes such decisions today. The land purchase at the high school, he said, should have been made 20 years ago and a new high school built in this county. The board should be one of action, not reaction, he said.

White, who has served for 14 years in a management capacity at the Carter Ink Company in Edenton, said he

### Volunteer Day set

In an effort to salute volunteers in Perquimans County, the third annual Volunteer Day will be observed on Saturday, May 3, at the Perquimans County Courthouse in Hertford. Festivities, which will begin at 2 p.m. and last until 4, will include entertainment from the Perquimans County High School Band, and demonstrations from county volunteer fire departments and the Perquimans County Rescue Squad. Guest appearances from Little Miss and Mister Perquimans County and Little Miss and Mr. Sweetheart are also expected. Refreshments will be served. Participation from all area

civil, fund-raising, and community organizations is also encouraged. It is anticipated that all such service organizations will be on hand to answer questions about their organizations, and to offer information about their roles as volunteers in the community. Any community groups interested in participating in Volunteer Day should contact Hertford Mayor Bill Cox at 426-7805 or Noel Todd-McLaughlin at 426-5728. Volunteer Day was originally encouraged statewide by Governor James B. Hunt in an effort to recognize the importance of volunteer contributions throughout North Carolina.

## State House, Senate hopefuls speak here

Six candidates are seeking to represent Perquimans County as First district state senators and representatives. Only four will be elected, and all six took the opportunity to plug their campaigns at the Hertford Business and Professional Women's "Meet the Candidates Night" last Wednesday. Each candidate received five minutes to plead his cause, beginning with the three Democratic candidates who are seeking two seats in the N.C. Senate. Incumbent Melvin Daniels

of Elizabeth City said it takes a lot of attention and a wide range of expertise to deal with the problems of the 14 county first district. Daniels said that he has fought for improved transportation in the area and was one of the perpetrators of Veeco criticism. "Four or five years ago, when I started talking about VEPCO I was very very lonely," Daniels said. He said that the one man one vote concept which has two senators representing 14 counties needs to be

examined, and that economic problems need to be addressed. Incumbent Monk Harrington said he has served in the senate for the past 18 years. He said that a senator has got to learn how to get a long with the governor, and he has learned to just that. Harrington's 14 years as chairman of the public transportation have given him influence with the state Department of Transportation, he said. "It's difficult to be able to

(Continued on page 2)