

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Search continues for area fisherman

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

The search for a Bethel man, reported missing late Thursday evening after a day long fishing trip, was still underway at press time Tuesday afternoon.

Perquimans County Sheriff Julian "Little Man" Broughton stated in a telephone interview on Tuesday that the search for Billy Corprew was still underway, but as of yet the only thing that has been recovered is a new gas tank that authorities are sure was his.

The tank was discovered in Bull's Bay in the Albemarle Sound on Sunday morning after more than two days of searching the Sound for Corprew.

Broughton said that the search was being conducted by his department, N.C. Wildlife, N.C. Marine Fisheries Dept., the Coast Guard, Hertford and Edenton Rescue Squads and numerous volunteers.

The Coast Guard has employed the use of planes and boats, but have failed to turn up any trace of Corprew other than the gas tank that was found on Sunday.



And A One, And A Two...

Local ladies have been getting into the basics of physical fitness during the month of March at a series offered by the local Extension Service that highlighted nutrition and fitness. Earline White, pictured center,

was the coordinator for the workshop, that included exercise sessions, aerobics, and a program on food, fitness and health. (Photo by Jane Williams.)

Two bus drivers suspended after accidents occur

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

Two school bus accidents, four days apart and approximately one-mile apart, occurred last week in Perquimans County.

The first incident occurred on Rural Road 1300 (New Hope Road) on Monday morning when Bus 6, driven by Kenny Nixon, apparently ran off the right edge of the road towards the ditch and then veered back onto the road turning over on its right side.

Nixon was charged with reckless driving. The accident was investigated by Trooper Billy Long of the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

The second incident occurred on Thursday morning when Bus 7, driven by Robert Andell Mullen of Route 4, Hertford, proceeded across the intersection of Rural Road 1300 and U.S. 17 By-Pass and was hit by a delivery truck owned by Colonial Sales Inc. of Elizabeth City.

According to Winfall Police Chief Joe Lothian, Mullen had apparently stopped at a stop sign to cross the intersection, and evidently did not allow enough time to cross the intersection considering the oncoming traffic.

The truck was operated by

James Clifton Simpson, Jr.

Lothian stated that the truck driver said he realized that he could not avoid hitting the bus, but Lothian commended Simpson on a "very good piece of evasive driving." The vehicle operated by Simpson hit the right front of the bus. No one was injured.

The accident occurred at approximately 7:40 a.m. on Thursday morning. Mullen was cited for a safe movement violation.

According to Perquimans County School Superintendent Pat Harrell both of the drivers have been suspended from the roster of bus drivers.

Harrell stated that the bus drivers are all continually evaluated. Drivers are secretly observed throughout their routes at varying intervals by school officials. Drivers are also checked on whenever the school receives any report of problems on the individual bus.

Drivers for buses in Perquimans County are chosen based on factors of driving experience and maturity, and scores on written and driving tests administered when they obtain their bus license.

Harrell stated that these were the only accidents reported this year involving buses in the school system. When asked to comment on adult drivers vs. student drivers Harrell stated that he did not favor the use of all adult bus drivers. Harrell said that the average bus route was one and one-half hours each morning and afternoon, and that he knew of very few people that would be willing to work those kind of hours at the pay offered by the schools. He also stated that state-wide there was indication of a significant difference in the safety records of adult and student drivers.

High percentage of county children immunized

North Carolina remains a national leader in immunizing children against communicable diseases, according to State Health Director Dr. Ronald Levine. State records show that 99.2 percent of the 179,443 children who entered kindergarten and first grade last September met the

minimum requirements of the immunization law.

In Perquimans County, 99.6 percent of the students were properly immunized.

"We're very proud of our immunization record in North Carolina," Levine emphasized. "The

persistent efforts of our physicians, local health departments, licensed day care operators, and public and private school officials have helped us reduce the incidence of some vaccine-preventable diseases, and practically wipe out others."

He pointed out that North Carolina's immunization law required that children entering school be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), measles, rubella, and polio. The law applies to school children in grades K-12 as well as those in licensed day care facilities.

Levine stressed the importance of having children properly immunized and keeping medically verified records signed by a physician or clinic.

"Parents should start their children's immunizations at two months of age and then complete them on time," he noted. "They also need to keep their children's boosters and records up-to-date."

This not only protects our children now, but also the children of future generations."

Immunizations are available from private physicians and local health departments throughout the State.

Police investigate local scams

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

HERTFORD—Local police officers are continuing investigations into offenses that occurred late last week at two of the town's shopping centers.

According to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt, on Thursday, March 20, at approximately 8:30 p.m. two men entered a check-out aisle in the Super Dollar Store at Harris Shopping Center. The first man asked the clerk for change for a dollar. When the clerk opened her register to retrieve the change the second man, described as a young, thin, black male, approximately 5'5" to 5'7", and wearing a tan jacket, reached over the check-out counter and grabbed five \$10.00 bills out of the register. He then ran from the store and allegedly fled in a late model Ford or Mercury car, identified as being red or burgundy with a black vinyl top. The clerk asked the first man

for his name, address and telephone number so that he could be contacted as a potential eye-witness. The man gave his name, told the clerk that he lived in Elizabeth City, and gave a telephone number beginning with an Edenton exchange.

Clerks in the store told police officers that they had observed the two men engaged in conversation within the confines of the store prior to the larceny.

An unnamed Hertford man has been identified by the clerk as the witness. No arrests have been made in connection with the case; however an investigation is continuing.

In an unrelated case on Friday afternoon, March 21, a middle-aged white man, entered the BeLo Supermarket store at Perquimans Village Shopping Center to exchange six rolls of dimes for bills. The check-out clerk agreed to make the exchange and, following normal procedure, asked the man for his name and telephone number. The man complied and gave a name and a phone number.

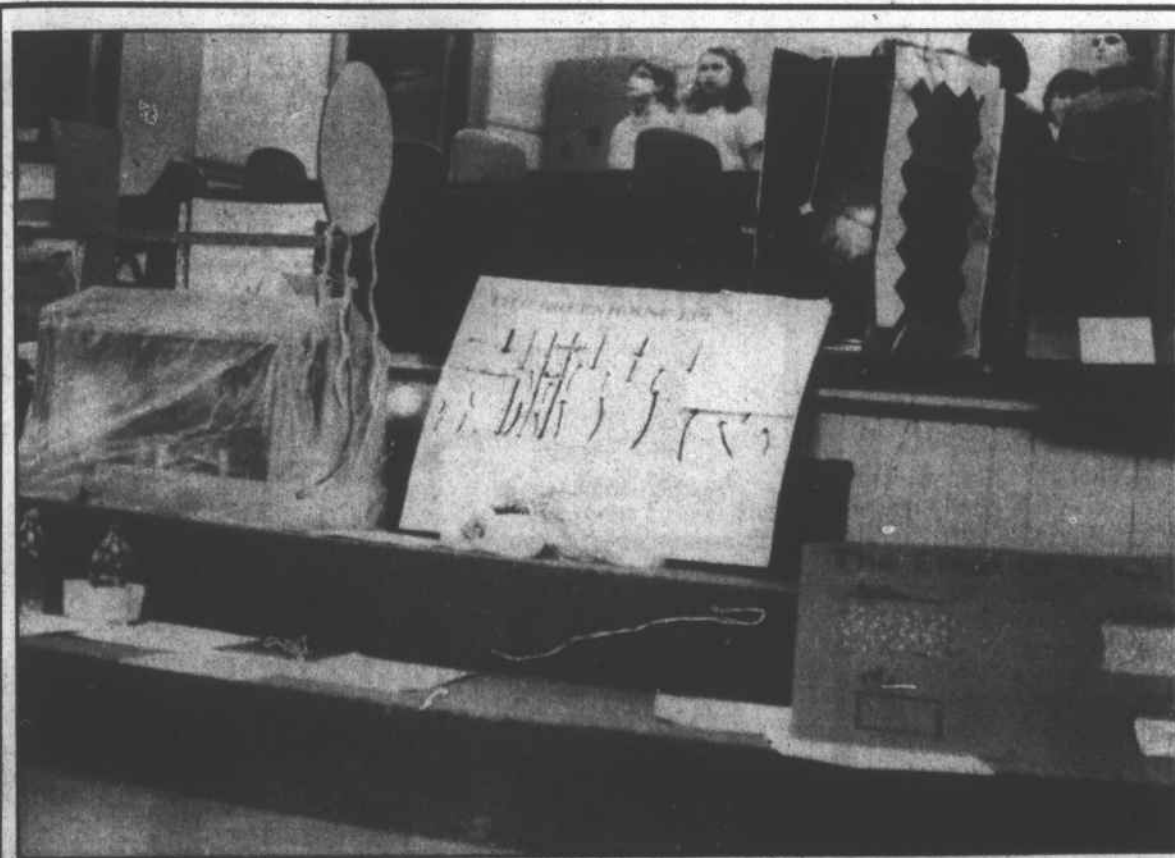
After he left the store, the clerk found that instead of six rolls of dimes, the man had given her six rolls of pennies in dime wrappers.

Upon being alerted to the incident, the Hertford Police Department notified the Elizabeth City and Edenton Police Departments of the scam as a courtesy. When they contacted Elizabeth City they found that the man had already been through that municipality and had used the same dupe at the Food Lion and Farm Fresh stores there.

The name that the man had given the clerk turned out to be a legitimate name; but when routinely checking the phone number the police learned that those people had never heard of the man.

Later information obtained by the police department indicated that the man was possibly working with a black man who had recently hit stores in the Gates County area with the same sham.

Senior Patrolman Timothy Spence investigated the incident.



Science Fair

Local students at Hertford Grammar School and Perquimans Central School took part in an annual science fair last week. Projects that covered a wide realm of scientific nature were on display in both of the schools. Students participating in the science fair were in grades two through six. (Photos by Jane Williams.)

This Week...

In celebration of Easter, a community-wide Sunrise Service will be conducted at Missing Mill Park on Sunday morning. The service will begin at 6:00 a.m. In the event of rain, the service will be held at the Hertford Pentecostal Church at 715 W. Grubb St. This is an interdenominational service and everyone is welcome to attend.

The Perquimans Weekly office will be closed on Monday in observance of the Easter Monday holiday. All news and advertising for the April 3rd edition of the paper should be received in our offices no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 28, to insure timely placement in that edition. The paper will be published on its regular schedule.