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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 CENTS

Briefs

Boosters to host Merchants' Night

The Perquimans County Athletic Boosters will host a Merchants' Night on Friday, Sept. 21 during the Perquimans-Weldon football game. Local merchants are invited to attend the game and enjoy coffee and doughnuts at half-time courtesy of the Athletic Boosters. The event is slated to show appreciation to the local businesses whose support has allowed the Boosters to upgrade athletic facilities in the school system.

Democrats sponsor Janice Cole dinner

The Perquimans County Democratic party is sponsoring a fish fry for Janice McKenzie Cole, Democratic candidate for 1st District court judge on Friday, Sept. 21 from 5-7 p.m. at the Albemarle Commission building. Tickets are \$4 each and can be purchased from Democratic Party members.

AARP to meet on Monday at Center

Perquimans Chapter 4118 of AARP, Inc., will meet on Monday, Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Center on Grubb Street. There will be a board meeting at 1 p.m.

This month we are pleased to have the Senior Citizens Chorus from the Knobbs Creek Center, Elizabeth City, as our program. They will sing a variety of songs. We look forward to their performance.

Perquimans Chapter 4118 is open to membership from all of the surrounding counties. Please come and join us.

Ducks Unlimited sets skeet shoot, dinner

Ducks Unlimited is sponsoring a skeet shoot and dinner on Saturday, Sept. 29 at Jimmy Hunter's farm. Tickets are available for the shot and meal, to the meal only, and for the sponsors, which includes the shoot, meal ticket to the annual banquet and two baseballs. Registration is limited and tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-sold basis. For more information or to register, contact Aubrey Onley, Jeff Perry or Bill Glover.

Holiday Island Civic group plans theater

Tickets are on sale now for the Holiday Island Civic League Dinner Theater which will be held at the Holiday Island Clubhouse on Saturday, Sept. 29. The festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a sing-along followed by a gourmet dinner. The production, "The Hairy Man", is a Dismal Swamp folk tale.

Seats may be reserved by calling Glenda at 426-7581 or Judy at 426-5937.

Elections board sets registration closings

The Perquimans County Board of Elections has announced that the registration books for the Nov. 6 general election will close on Oct. 8. That is also the deadline for changing registration for voters who have moved or had a name change. These changes should be filed by the close-out date to insure that everyone is eligible to vote.

Oct. 30 is the last day to apply for absentee ballots. One stop voting begins Tuesday, Oct. 9 and ends on Friday, Nov. 2 at 5 p.m.

For more information, call the Board of Elections office at 426-7630.

DEADLINES FOR THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NEWS RELEASES ... 3:00 PM
RETAIL ADVERTISING ... 3:00 PM
CLASSIFIED & LEGALS ... 3:00 PM

MONDAY PRIOR TO THURSDAY PUBLICATION PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
119 W. Grubb St.
426-5728
8 AM-5 PM, MON-FRI.



Photos by Susan Harris



Festival fun

The first-ever shag contest was held during the Indian Summer Festival. Tony Meads and Margaret Ann Williams, Dorothy Owens and Faye Nixon, and Earl Owens and Mary Baumbush vie for the title of Perquimans' best shaggers. At left, Middle School students perform the pantomime "The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter" sponsored by the Perquimans Playhouse, Inc.

Festival is success

The 9th annual Indian Summer Festival was a success, according to Chamber organizers and those who attended the two-day, fun-filled affair.

On Friday morning rain clouds hovered over Hertford, threatening the festival's success, but by mid-morning the sun burst through the cloud cover, much to the relief of the Chamber's executive director Mary Harrell.

Highlights of Friday included sidewalk sales, window displays, the Albemarle Fire Safety House, train rides, an open-air cafe and entertainment.

The day was kicked off with a story hour for the children, courtesy of the Perquimans County Library. A variety of entertainers performed throughout the day. The Snug Harbor Quartet, PCHS Marching Pirate Band, Central and Middle School choruses and Thistle and Roses band provided music for all tastes.

Children and adults enjoyed touring the Albemarle Fire Safety House manned by firefighters from several county departments. The Hertford Fire Department Hurst Tool demonstration was taken in by a large crowd.

Over 75 booths lined Missing Mill

Park on Saturday, featuring delicious foods, a wide array of crafts, games and information. Locals and those from out of town flocked to the park to enjoy offerings.

Big River band led off the entertainment. The Flatland Cloggers, always festival favorites, had attendees crowded around to watch their fancy footwork. "The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter," a pantomime featuring middle school students, was sponsored by the Perquimans Playhouse twice during the day. Two demonstrations were given by the Dragon Combat Martial Arts students and instructors.

Also performing twice were the Cornfield Cloggers from neighboring Gates County. Wild Streak band added music during the afternoon. A shag contest elicited laughs and applause from the audience. The first round was won by Dorothy Owens and her partner Reggie. Owens teamed up with her sister, Faye Nixon, to win the second contest.

The climax of the festival, the street dance, was deemed the best in many years by Harrell and participants. Overtime band played music to suit a variety of tastes and were the hits of the festival.

Indian Summer Festival T-shirts are still available at the Chamber office for \$8.

Martin leaves schools

Schools superintendent Mary Jo Martin resigned Monday night during the board of education meeting.

Martin, who has served in Perquimans for two years, resigned effective Oct. 31 to accept the position of superintendent with the larger Alamance County School System. She said that the new position will offer her chances to grow professionally.

The board voted to accept Martin's resignation after chairman Clifford Winslow read her short letter. Martin chose to allow her letter

to speak for itself, and made no further comments.

Gene Causby, director of the N.C. School Board Association will meet with the board in executive session Monday night to discuss a replacement for Martin.

Martin will probably be best remembered in Perquimans for her work in the Small Schools Consortium and other organizations designed to bring legislative attention to the plight of poor rural school systems, and for engineering the reorganization of students and administrative personnel.

Downed power line lights up Winfall sky

A downed power line at Perquimans Central School lit up the night sky over Winfall Saturday, and brought emergency personnel from several county departments racing to the scene.

Around 9 p.m. Saturday, residents in front of Central School reported that their houses "lit up." When they looked out their front doors, flashes of white light were seen behind the school building.

"It was lighting up the whole school," said Denise Marriner, who lives across the street from the school. Marriner said it appeared a tree was on fire, but the blaze extinguished itself.

Another neighbor reported hearing popping noises that sounded like firecrackers and seeing big blue balls flying toward the sky.

Residents enjoying the Indian Summer Festival street dance in Missing Mill Park could see the sky lighting up in Winfall.

Winfall Fire Chief Wayne Winslow said that one power line snapped, and that the arcing that resulted probably caused the noise residents heard. Firefighters sus-

pect that a tree limb resting on the power line caused the break. There was no sign of active blaze when firefighters arrived, however Winslow said the leaves on one of the trees near where the break occurred were scorched.

Town of Hertford maintenance personnel repaired the line Saturday night, and worked Sunday trimming the trees that line the driveway behind the school.

"We were very fortunate that it was a time when there was nobody there," Winslow said of the incident. He said that the school's buses usually park where the line fell, and that there could have been injuries had children been on the playground when the incident occurred.

Those who live near the school said that they take walks and allow their children to play on the school ground in the evening.

Also responding to the call was the Hertford Fire Department, the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, the Perquimans County Rescue Squad and the Winfall Police Department.

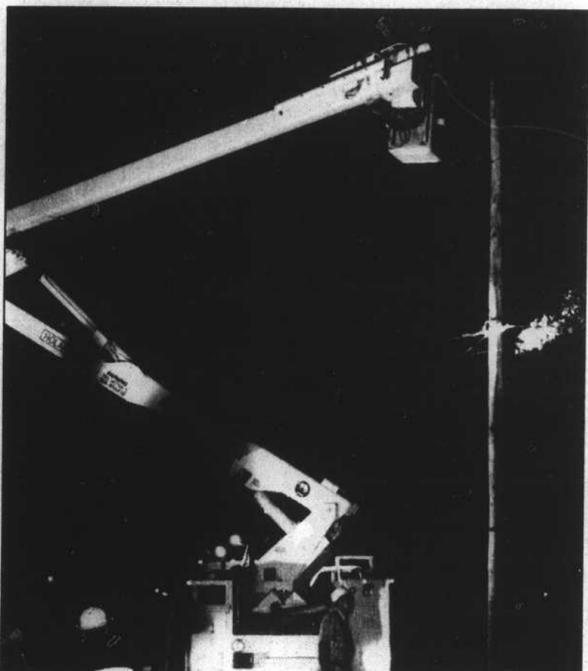


Photo by Gary Costy Jr.

Hertford maintenance crews begin to fix the downed power line at Central School Saturday night, while firefighters from the Winfall and Hertford departments breathe a sigh of relief that the situation was not as serious as it had at first appeared.

Police make arrests

The Hertford Police Department made the following arrests:

Antonio Roderick Williams, 32, of 504 Ray St., Elizabeth City was arrested on Sept. 7 and charged with breaking and entering and larceny of One Stop Convenience Store.

Delma Marcel Lee, 28, of 319 Market St. was arrested on Sept. 12 and charged with two counts of assault on a female, injury to personel property and three counts of failure to appear.

Sherrod Eric McCrimmon, 22, of 749 Franklin D. Roosevelt Dr., New York, N.Y. was arrested on Sept. 11 and charged with larceny and resisting a public officer.

Grandy White Jr., 40, of Lt. 29 Dogwood Trailer Park was arrested on Sept. 12 and charged with second degree trespass.

Linda Miller, AKA Linda Boswell, 43, of Lt 76 Holiday Island, was arrested on Sept. 15 and charged with possession of stolen property.

The department also investigated the following reported incidents:

Sept. 12 - larceny at Meads Trailer Park.

Sept. 14 - breaking and entering and larceny at Harris Shopping Center.

Sept. 17 - breaking and entering in the 100 block of Church St.

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department arrested Jerry Wayne Edwards, 46, of Rt. 1, Box 830, for one count of misdemeanor communicating threats. Edwards was released on a written promise to appear.

Fire Safety House is hit

The Albemarle Fire Safety House made its first appearance in Perquimans County during the 9th annual Indian Summer Festival.

Hundreds of children stood in line to tour the innovative teaching tool purchased by the Albemarle Fire Safety Committee.

The Committee is comprised of firefighters from Perquimans, Pasquotank, Chowan, Camden, Currituck and Dare counties. The primary goal of the organization is to provide fire safety education for children.

The safety house is a specially designed travel trailer with two floors which houses a simulated livingroom, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. Firefighters set up hazardous conditions in the rooms and ask children to point them out. Unsafe conditions include pots on the stove with the handles turned to the front, newspapers sitting too near

the fireplace, a curling iron placed too close to the bathroom sink and toys on the staircase.

When the children climb up the stairs to the bedroom-bathroom area, the door is closed. The firefighter operating the control room sends nontoxic smoke spewing into the room. Children crawl to the door, only to find that it is hot and unsafe to open. They are taught to find an alternate escape route, in the case of the fire safety house, through a miniature set of sliding glass doors leading onto a porch. The children then climb down a ladder to safety.

The safety house was purchased for \$22,000 and insured for \$2,000, making the cost for each of the six counties involved in the Albemarle Fire Safety Committee \$4,000. Local government entities and businesses have made contributions. More funds are needed to pay off the note.

Perquimans resident guilty of fraud

A Perquimans County woman pleaded guilty to food stamp fraud in superior court on Aug. 29.

Debra Talmadge admitted to withholding earned income information from the Perquimans County Department of Social Services. According to DSS testimony, a routine review of Employment Security Commission records found that Talmadge had not reported income her husband earned during the period benefits were received under the food stamp program.

According to Social Services Fraud Investigator Carlyn Brown, Employment Security records are checked at the time clients apply to receive food stamps and on a regular basis thereafter. Ms. Brown discovered the income discrepancy during a regularly scheduled income check.

Talmadge received a 2-year suspended sentence and five years of supervised probation for the felony conviction. She was also ordered to pay \$2,719 in restitution.

Ms. Brown said that under food stamp guidelines, any person convicted of fraud is suspended from the program for six months for the first offense; 12 months for the second and permanently for the third.

"We are a helping agency," said Ms. Brown. "Preventing people from receiving benefits that they're not entitled to helps to insure that there will be funds there for those with legitimate needs."

Homes damaged

A fallen tree limb caused serious damage to one Hertford house and minor damage to a neighboring dwelling last week.

A limb crashed into Maude Tucker's Grubb Street home, causing about \$4,500 in damages, according to Ed Lane with Phillip Lane Contractors. Lane said that according to reports, high winds were not a factor in the incident.

Serious damage was done to the roof and wood siding of the structure, however, a stained glass window adjacent to the damaged area was not touched.

Next door, Marvin Hunter's home was grazed by the falling limb, damaging the siding on the west corner near the roofline.