

HEE HAW

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we'll do all we can to make sure everybody has a good time!"

Opry cast member Sammy Morris, who will be among those performing in the local Hee Haw fundraiser, echoed that sentiment. Morris said that he has appeared in previous Rocky Hock Hee Haw shows and has always had a great time.

"I enjoy the humor and I love hearing people laugh," Morris said. "I think it's good for the soul to laugh."

When asked what he would be doing in this year's show Morris said he would be singing a very

funny song written by Mel Tillis, "I've Got the Horse, If You've Got the Saddle."

Beyond that, Morris said with a chuckle, "I'll just do whatever Jack (Evans) tells me he wants me to do. He's the one that comes up with the ideas for what we do in these shows."

Evans said he is always looking — and listening — for anything that he could adapt for use in one of the shows.

"I'm always writing things down," Evans said. "If I'm riding down the road listening to the radio and I hear something I think I can use, I'll write it down. And if I'm somewhere I can't write it down I'll do my best to remember it until I can."

Evans said he also

watches reruns of the old Hee Haw shows for inspiration. "They had a lot of funny stuff that went on during their shows, and I sometimes get ideas from watching them," Evans added.

Evans said that the community center seats 200 people per show, so early ticket sales are encouraged. Tickets are \$10 each and are available from any member of the Rocky Hock Ruritan Club or by calling Evans at 221-4875.

"It's (show) a lot of entertainment for just ten bucks," Evans said. "And we're hoping for a full house both nights."

Proceeds from the two shows are earmarked for community service projects, Evans said.



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Sammy Morris sings "Rainy Night in Georgia" during a recent Rocky Hock Opry Show. He will be among the Opry cast members taking part in the upcoming Rocky Hock Hee Haw Show.

FLYING

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"She a natural — an excellent student," Clarke says. "She absorbs the information and then applies it accurately."

Amy has logged 60 hours — enough to qualify for her private license.

She'll have wait, however, until her 18th birthday before federal law allows her to secure the coveted license.

Amy takes the wait in stride with the same methodical attitude that makes her an accomplished pilot.

"A pilot's license is just a license to learn. You never stop learning," says Amy.

One woman who hopes to be flying on her 51st birthday, Jan. 31, is Viola White, Amy's mother.

Between the inspiration of her daughter's newfound wonder and the accompanying jaunts to Edenton for Amy's lessons, Viola, or Vie for short, decided she'd give aviation a try too.

"I always thought I was too old," admits Vie. "I see how much Amy had to absorb."

Both Amy and Clarke keep reassuring Vie that she's a better student than the mother of three realizes. And that she too is destined to acquire her pilot's license.

"The hardest thing is convincing Vie that she knows what she is doing," says Clarke.

So far Vie has accrued 17 hours. It requires a minimum of 40 hours before qualifying for a license.

The daughter and mother tandem from Askewville have further invested in their future in aviation by sharing the purchase of an aircraft with their instructor.

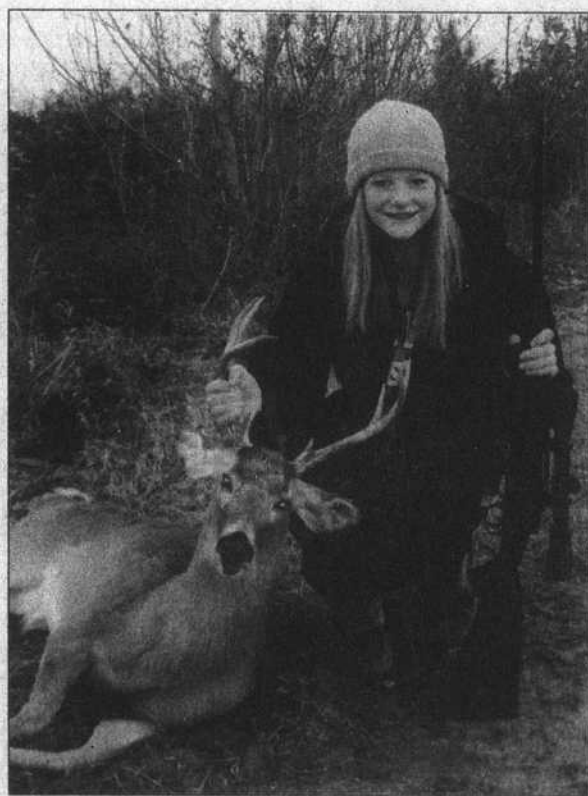
It's clear Amy, an 11th grader who has been homeschooled since the third grade, is mature beyond her teenage years. Only a T-shirt beneath her hoodie suggests that she's having fun with this flying business. It reads — "Silly Boys, Flying is for Girls."



STAFF PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

Viola White, left, and daughter Amy sit in the cockpit of the Cessna that they share ownership with their instructor Robert Clarke.

FIRST DEER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Katie Rascoe of Edenton bagged her first deer, a nine-pointer, on Christmas Eve morning hunting on her family's farm in Bertie County. She is an eighth grader at Chowan Middle School, and is the daughter of Kathy Keel of Edenton and Peter Rascoe of Southern Shores.

IREDELL

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as he crafted the character for his book.

"I'm pretty factual with Iredell," Ferrell said.

Born and educated in England, Iredell later immigrated to the colonies where in 1768 became Colonial Comptroller of Customs in Edenton. While serving in that position, Iredell studied law under Samuel Johnston and was admitted to practice law in 1770. In 1776, he resigned from his position with Customs and joined the independence movement.

When North Carolina severed its ties with the British Crown, Iredell served on a commission to redraft the state's laws. In 1778, the Superior Court of North Carolina was created and Iredell was named one of its three Judges. He resigned after a few months because of the rigors of circuit riding and resumed his law practice.

He served as Attorney General of North Carolina from 1779 to 1781. Under a new state constitution, Iredell codified the laws of North Carolina.

In 1788, he served as floor leader of the Federalists in the North Carolina Ratification Convention. President George Washington nominated Iredell to the Supreme Court of the United States, in 1790.

He served for nine years on the Supreme Court.

"Iredell did not believe the Constitution gave the federal government any powers like regulating freedom of speech," Ferrell said. "He changed later when he became a judge."

Ferrell also references that Iredell's family owned slaves.

His novel, however, also takes artistic liberties with some of the facts.

The retired dentist turned author said he chose the state's founding fathers as characters because historians too often disregard North Carolina's place in history.

"We were a poor state in terms of population, but we weren't insignificant," Ferrell said.

The Secrets of Sterling Shearin, available on amazon.com, took Ferrell 20 years to write, he said.

And his first novel will likely be his last.

"This is a one-time probably do some more thing," he added. "I'll writing, but not a novel."

COMMERCIAL

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filmed in L.A. with a budget of \$300.

Watch Freiburger's commercial at <http://bit.ly/VoteFashionistaDaddy>. Voting runs through Jan. 29. One vote is allowed per day.

Freiburger graduated from UNC School of the Arts in 2005 with a degree in film directing. Since then he has worked in the independent film business, writing, directing and producing films. He has shot three movies in North Carolina, two of them based on novels by Charlotte author Robert Whitlow.

In 2007, Freiburger directed his first film with Dog Days of Summer, which was filmed entirely in historical Edenton with

many locals used as movie extras.

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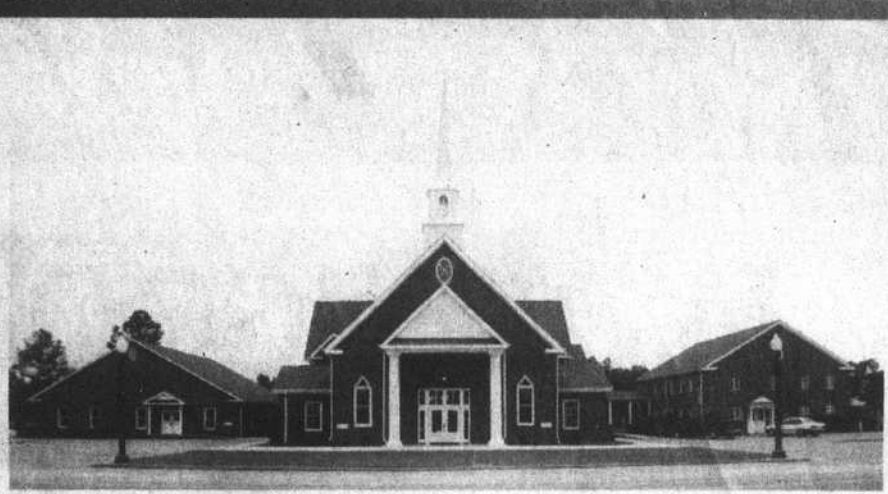
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