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County 4-H'ers produce champions

By JANE B. WILLIAMS
Tommy and Sherry Harrell of Hertford are full of pride this week. The source of their pride is their children; Jason, 15, and Leah, 13.

Jason was the producer of the Grand Champion Steer in the Albemarle 4-H Livestock Show and Sale held last Tuesday and Wednesday at the Albemarle 4-H Livestock Building in Elizabeth City. Jason also had a hog in the show.

Leah was the producer of this year's Grand Champion Hog; she also had a steer in the show.

In commenting on her children's success Mrs. Harrell said, "I don't know what to say; we're mighty thrilled and naturally happy for our children, but we're glad for Perquimans County, too."

Pride for the county was also evident in talking with Jeff Copeland of the Perquimans County Extension Service. Copeland and Mrs. Harrell both stated that it had been a long time since the county had produced two grand champions.

The Harrell's have been participants in the show for the past five years, beginning with Jason and a hog project. Mrs. Harrell stated that "there's not much you can do with a hog, feed it, water it, and walk it a little," but a steer seems to be a different story.

According to Mrs. Harrell, the steers are purchased in September and brought home to the farm weighing about 600-pounds each. (At the time of the sale Jason's steer weighed in at 1235-pounds, and Leah's steer weighed 1200-pounds.)

Eight months of hard work, love and devotion go into the raising of a steer for the show. It entails daily trips to the pen in all kinds of weather.

The Harrell children name their steers upon their arrival at the farm, and then get down to the business of 'getting to

know' the animal. Initially they put halters on the steers and let them get used to the feel of them. Later, the lead ropes go on, and thus begins the slow process of teaching the steers to walk with them.

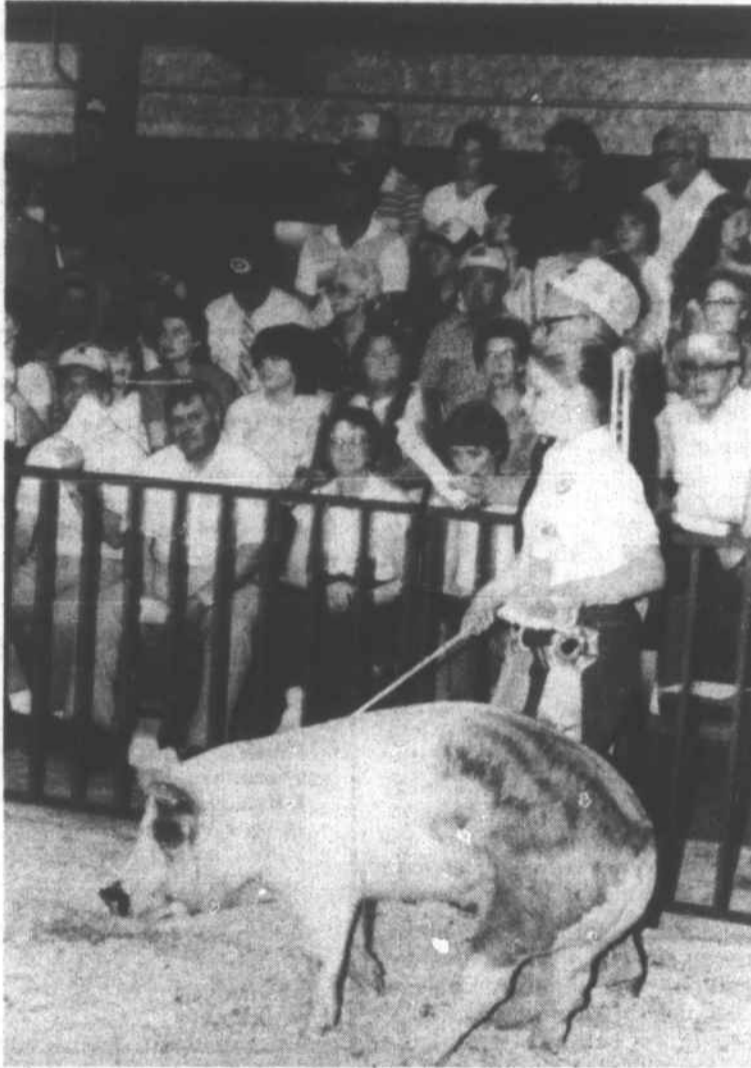
Leah's report with the animals is amazing; for the last two years she has been able to ride her steer. This year she even rode Jason's.

Caring for the steers gets a little more complicated in the last few months before the show when washing and grooming become part of the routine. The "caring for" process is a binding one for the Harrell family. "The four of us spend as much time together with their projects as we do on anything else as a family," Mrs. Harrell said.

Pictured are (top) Leah Harrell showing her Grand Champion Hog and brother, Jason Harrell (bottom) with his Grand Champion Steer. The Harrell children were among many county youth that participated in the Albemarle 4-H Livestock Show. (Photos by Monica Roach) See related story and pictures on Page 9.

The daily routine of "wash, walk, practice" is tough for the Harrell children to let go of. Mrs. Harrell said that Jason had summed it up best

when he said, "When you have to go back there and break ice for them to drink in the winter, well you think about that when they're gone."



Perquimans chosen for nursing facility

By SUSAN HARRIS and JANE B. WILLIAMS

The North Carolina Department of Human Resources announced their decision on Monday to reject five recommendations made earlier this year by the Eastern Carolina Health Management Agency regarding the placement of nursing homes to be constructed in eastern North Carolina.

Among the decisions overturned was a recommendation to construct a 78-bed nursing home unit in Gates County to serve Gates and Perquimans County.

A preliminary certificate of need was issued to Unifour Medical Management of Hickory, N.C. to construct the planned facility in Perquimans County. Unless the proposal is contested within 30 days by Gates County the state will issue a certificate of need to the Hickory based company for construction of the home here. It is expected that Gates County officials will file an appeal.

County officials throughout eastern North Carolina have been waiting for more than two months to hear the decision of the Department of Human Resources, who postponed the decision amid charges of political meddling.

The nursing home will bring added revenue and jobs to the community. According to Don Beaver, President of Unifour Medical Management the home will create between 80 and 90 full and part-time jobs in the county, with \$60,000 to \$80,000 in salaries being generated each month.

Beaver hesitated to name a site for the home, stating that he received notification of the decision on Tuesday morning, and would rather wait until af-

ter the appeal date had passed before disclosing too much information.

He did state however, that the company would probably be using local sub-contractors to construct the single-level structure.

"We look forward to being a part of the Hertford community," Beaver said, and added that they "pledge to provide a quality service."

"Our number one goal is to provide good, basic care," Beaver added.

Perquimans County Manager Randy Keaton stated that the commissioners were "very excited about it." Adding that the addition of a nursing home in the county would add considerable economic benefits.

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox said "It's great news, it will be a boost to Perquimans County's economy, and it will provide jobs and a great facility. I believe that the choice was a correct one. When the facts were looked at I feel certain that the number of elderly residents here, the availability of water and sewer facilities, along with the proximity to hospitals were major factors involved in the decision."

The certificates will be the first to be issued by the state since a ban was placed on construction of nursing homes in 1981. High interest rates stalled the construction of homes in the late 1970's causing the state to enforce the ban. The ban was lifted in July 1984 after lower interest rates and new legislation allowed contractors to begin building homes that had already been granted certificates.

The state controls nursing home construction to assure quality care and equal distribution of homes throughout the state.

Jail-A-Thon today

By CINDY LEICESTER

Everything is in place as members of the Perquimans County Chapter of the American Cancer Society prepare for a Jail-A-Thon to be held today, Thursday, May 2, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Perquimans County Courthouse.

Debbie Sutton, chairman of the event, stated that, "This is the first time we have tried the jail-a-thon in Perquimans County. We hope that it will be successful enough to make it an annual event. Everyone has a lot of fun and a lot of people are helped at the same time."

Twenty-five dollars is all it

takes to have your boss, employees, husband, wife, teacher or anybody arrested.

All you have to do is call and a uniformed policeman will come and arrest your friend. Bond will be set at a minimum of \$100.00 and the "outlaw" must raise this amount by calling on friends to bail him out.

All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society to help aid in the fight against cancer.

To have fun and help aid in a worthy cause simply call 426-9957, 426-9959 or 426-9960 and have someone you know arrested.

Winfall site selected for doctor's office

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

The Board of Directors of Regional Medical Services (RMS) announced last week that they will build a new \$135,000 doctor's office in the town of Winfall.

Bob Jeffries, general manager of RMS and administrator of Albemarle Hospital stated

Monday that "we're delighted to be able to provide more accessible health care service to Perquimans County."

According to Jeffries the doctor's office will be located on a one-acre plot of land on Highway 37 in Winfall. The site is approximately 200-yards down Highway 37 across from the

Towe property. The 2,208-square foot office, upon its completion, will have three examining rooms and a doctor's office, along with other facilities.

Dr. Neil DeNunzio, an internal medicine specialist, will man the new facility. DeNunzio is a 1982 graduate of Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia,

PA. He served his internship at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA., where he is currently completing his residency.

Jeffries stated that Dr. DeNunzio plans to move to the area on July 1. He will hold staff privileges at Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City.

The building will be constructed by Crown Point Development of Hubert, N.C., and Jeffries stated that he felt certain that contracts would be signed within the next two weeks, and construction should start immediately.

RMS is a private corporation that is affiliated with Albemarle Hospital. The purpose of the organization is to provide additional freedoms to accomplish various missions that are not allowed to hospitals under state regulations.

RMS is supervised by a ten-member board of directors. The board is comprised of the same ten members on the Albemarle Hospital Board of Directors.

Additional offices are planned in several areas that border Pasquotank County, with the purpose of these centers being to broaden the scope of health care in the Albemarle area, making it more accessible to area residents.

Winfall to open ABC Store

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

After more than a year of planning, Winfall officials will open a self-service Alcoholic Beverage Control Store in that community on Friday.

The decision to base an ABC Store in Winfall, the second such store in the county, came after voters in the town passed a referendum during a special election in March 1984, allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages in the town.

The three member ABC Board for the town, along with Winfall Mayor Lloyd Ray Morgan have put in extensive hours, not only in the planning and groundwork laying stages of the stores progress, but also in the task of getting the store's fixtures installed prior to opening.

W.L. Jessup, chairman of the

Winfall ABC Board, stated that there had been no outside labor involved in readying the stores interior. Two of the board members traveled to White Lake, N.C. to dismantle the fixtures in a store there, and then transported them back to Winfall for installation by the board and Morgan, saving "untold dollars" for the town.

The other Board members are Treasurer, Joe Lee Tunnell, and Secretary, Charlotte N. White.

The 3,000 square foot store is being leased to the town by Winslow Oil Company, and will be managed by Robert Allsbury, a native of Florida who has lived in Perquimans County for approximately 15 years. Other staff members will be Joe Harrell and Annie Mae Thompson, who has been em-

ployed as a bookkeeper. Terry Chappell, of Chappell and Associates in Hertford, will be the auditor for the new store.

Hours of operation for the store will be 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The store is located at Oak Point on U.S. 17 Business in Winfall.

According to Jessup the new ABC store boasts the most modern equipment available, including lighted display shelves throughout.

Mayor Morgan stated that a percentage of profits from the store will go to law enforcement and education, while the remainder will go into the town's general fund, "hopefully enabling the town's tax base to remain stable," thus benefiting the citizens of Winfall.