

County churches plan Easter services

page 5

Eley wins HGS art contest

page 8

Silas Whedbee is a living book

page 4

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 58, No. 12

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C. Thursday, March 23, 1989

30 CENTS

Local Briefs

Students score well on test

Ten Perquimans Middle School were recognized recently for scoring a perfect 4.0 on the state writing competency test. The exam was taken by all sixth and eighth graders in North Carolina.

Eighth grade students were Dena Jo White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Towe White, and Cheryl Westbrook, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Westbrook.

On the sixth grade level, the perfect scorers were: Elizabeth Boynton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lin Boynton; Keri Drozdowski, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Drozdowski; Christina Godfrey, daughter of Mr. Vance Godfrey and Ms. Karen Godfrey; Hope Stallings, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Stallings; Jennifer Wiese, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Wiese; Margaret Hauptman, daughter of Mr. Thomas Hauptman; Donnie Markham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Markham; and Tasha Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith.

Winslow is state award nominee

Governor Jim Martin will present the 1989 Distinguished Women of North Carolina awards at a banquet March 29 in Raleigh.

The governor will award medals during the 7:30 p.m. ceremony which will honor as many as five of the state's outstanding women leaders. The 45 nominees will be guests of honor at a reception hosted by Kayser-Roth Hosiery, Inc. preceding the banquet. Activities will take place at the Raleigh Marriott at Crabtree Valley.

Senator Helen Rhyne Marvin of Gastonia, a seven-term member of the N. C. Senate, will be the keynote speaker.

"Women have distinguished themselves in many walks of life, and this award is intended to cull the cream of the crop in North Carolina," Administration Secretary James S. Lofton said. "In singling out these few, we honor all North Carolina women who work to make their communities and their state a better place in which to live."

The Distinguished Women of North Carolina Awards Banquet is hosted annually by the N. C. Council on the Status of Women, an agency within the N. C. Department of Administration. Created in 1963, the council advises the governor, the General Assembly and other state government leaders on the needs of women in North Carolina.

Mrs. Lucille Winslow of Hertford has been nominated for the award. The awards presentation coincides with Women's History Month in March.

Harrell inducted into honor group

North Carolina State University's chapter of Gamma Beta Phi Society, a national honor and service organization, recently inducted 265 students into membership.

Membership is open to sophomores and juniors who rank in the top 15 percent of their class.

The goal of the society is to foster excellence through service to the university and community.

This year's projects include collecting clothing for the Salvation Army and participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program.

Accepted into membership in Gamma Beta Phi Society was Charles Jason Harrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Harrell of Hertford.

Inside this issue

Beyond the weeds.....	10
Church news.....	5
Community happenings.....	2
Obituaries.....	2
Perspectives.....	4
School news.....	6
Senior.....	2
Weekly calendar.....	2

Funding of education vital to Perquimans

The Basic Education Program (BEP) implemented by the N.C. General Assembly in 1985 was supported by many candidates running for state office during their 1988 campaigns. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Bob Etheridge says that some of those elected are backing down from their education promises due to budget constraints. Etheridge, however, is not backing down.

Etheridge believes that the BEP is the most significant achievement made by the state on behalf of public education in half a century.

The first goal of the BEP was to achieve a degree of excellence never before seen in the state's schools by dramatically upgrading public school quality. Another goal was to promote equality by guaranteeing access to basic education for every North Carolina child.

Unfortunately, the wealth in North Carolina is not equally distributed throughout the state. The more affluent Piedmont school systems were able to offer programs not found in the poorer coastal and

mountain areas, including Perquimans County.

Basic subjects - math, English, science, history and geography - received renewed emphasis with additional teachers, instructional materials and a satellite program which brings advanced instruction to small schools who cannot allocate a teacher for such classes. Also offered are arts education, second languages, drama and elementary physical education.

In addition to offering more teachers and expanded curriculum, the BEP also addressed promotion standards, remedial education, support services, a prescribed minimum instructional day, staffing needs, materials, equipment and facilities standards.

Early efforts to implement higher standards began prior to the passage of the BEP with a competency test for high school juniors and seniors to make sure basic skills are mastered prior to graduation. Curriculum standards were tightened.

Although the program is not scheduled for full implementation

until 1992, it has already had a tremendous impact, especially on small, rural school systems.

Former staff member of the Department of Public Instruction and present superintendent of Vance County Schools, Howard Maniloff is a staunch supporter of the program.

"Through the Basic Education Program, North Carolina has: lowered class size, implemented promotion standards, started a summer school program which is a model for the rest of the country, provided in-school suspension programs to keep kids in school, paid for elementary guidance counselors which previously had been available only in the richer communities, more than doubled the money provided for textbooks, significantly increased the amount of instructional supplies and equipment in the schools and increased the number of secretaries available to assist teachers with paperwork," Maniloff said.

"North Carolina remains the only state in this country to put its

money behind its commitment to serve all children, rich and poor alike," Maniloff continued.

The support of public education carries an enormous price tag - \$800 million spread over an eight-year period. But proponents of the plan defend the cost because North Carolina's 1.1 million students must be prepared to enter institutions of higher learning or the job market after graduation. A good, comprehensive education program can be the key to their future success.

A significant result of the \$350 million allocated thus far under the program is that the state's per pupil expenditure has risen 59 percent since 1985. North Carolina has seen the fourth largest increase in the nation in per pupil expenditure since 1983.

The Basic Education Program was not implemented as a cure-all for the ailments of the North Carolina public school system. However, it does help to equalize students' access to good, sound, basic education all across the state.

Studies have shown that three-

fourths of our prison population consists of high school dropouts. This statistic adds credence to the need for school improvement in North Carolina.

"When you take into consideration that we spend four times more (\$12,000 per year per inmate) to incarcerate a person in Central Prison than we do to educate him (\$3,500 in our public schools," said Superintendent Etheridge, "then you can comprehend the urgency of this problem."

Perquimans County has benefited greatly from the additional funds and positions created under the BEP.

To date, says Superintendent Mary Jo Martin, 12 additional staff positions have been created thanks to BEP. The county will add a total of 22 if BEP continues to be funded. Total monies expected from BEP are \$1.4 million over the eight-year implementation span.

Martin said that the average teacher salary in the county is \$24,000, while secretaries and teacher assistants earn around \$11,000.

School board discusses N.C. BEP funding

The Perquimans County Board of Education Monday night viewed a panel discussion of the Basic Education Program via the North Carolina Distance Learning Satellite Network. State Superintendent Bob Etheridge was joined by legislators and educators supporting continued funding for the program.

Dr. Mary Jo Martin, who has travelled to Raleigh on several recent occasions to discuss the program with Etheridge, legislators and educators, told the board that should the BEP not be funded for the next year, the local board would be forced to re-align goals, and that some positions would be jeopardized.

She also told board members that the county stands to receive approximately \$1.4 million over the eight-year implementation period.

If the BEP is cut, Martin said, Perquimans might not be able to add staff positions because of the great capital outlay needs in the school buildings.

Middle School must have a new septic system, which could cost \$200,000 to install. Other needs at that school could also carry a big price tag.

The county would have to decide whether to spend local funds on facilities improvements or teaching positions.

Facilities must meet state accreditation standards. Those standards address classroom size, as well as minimum building requirements.

Martin said that one of the most critical reasons for funding the BEP is due to remediation on the college level. She said that a high percentage of students from less affluent counties must take remedial courses upon entering college in order to "catch up."

During the panel discussion, Etheridge said that the BEP is in "jeopardy." "Those who would tamper with this program want to go back on a promise made in 1985," he said.

Perquimans County desperately needs the funding from the state through BEP. Jeanie Umphlett, community schools coordinator, has recently received information indicating that the county ranks 96th in per capita income in the state. The average income is under \$8,000 per year. Without BEP monies, students here stand to lose many proposed programs.

Programs at risk would be cultural arts, physical education and vocational education. Clerical staff would also be lost.

The board asked Martin to write legislators, especially education committee members, endorsing the BEP.

The board voted to reschedule the next regular session until April 10. Chairman Clifford Winslow and Vice-Chairman Clifford Towe will be attending the upcoming national school board convention on April 3.

Correction

In last week's edition, we identified Dean Lane, Rountree Stallings and Charles Mathews as soybean production winners. They actually were peanut production winners.

Gene Perry, Eure Seed Farms and Pendleton Brothers were the soybean, not peanut, production winners.

The paper regrets the error.



This Harvey Point Road home was completely gutted by fire last Friday. Firefighters responded to the call in approximately six minutes, but were unable to control the blaze which had fully engulfed

the home. No one was at home at the time of the fire. A passerby spotted the smoke and called the dispatch office.

Friday fire completely destroys home

Hertford firefighters responded to a structure fire alarm Friday morning on Harvey Point Road. Upon their arrival, the twelve responders saw heavy smoke pouring from the house. The back of the house and the attic area were engulfed in flames.

Four of the volunteers donned air packs to enter the dwelling. The brigade entered through both the front and rear doors of the house. Hampering efforts to gain entry to the front was a bed placed in front

of the door. Firefighters had to force open the door and push the bed across the burning carpet.

After the department was on the scene for a few minutes, flames began to surge through the roof. Efforts to salvage the structure were futile.

The Hertford Department called for back-up from the Bethel unit. Several firefighters from that department responded with two trucks.

Also on the scene were Deputy

James Logan of the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department and Patrolman Robert Harvey of the Hertford Police Department who directed traffic.

According to Hertford Fire Chief Edgar Roberson, the cause of the blaze reported by a passing motorist is still undetermined.

The McKinley Gilliam family, who rented the home, lost everything to the flames. They are staying with family at 100 Edenton Road Street, according to friends.

Mr. Gilliam wears a size 32 pants, 15 1/2 shirts, 40 regular suits and 11 shoes. Mrs. Gilliam needs size 9-10 skirts, 6 or 8 blouses, 9-10 dresses and 7 shoes.

A teenage son can wear 31 waist pants, 15 shirts, 9 1/2 D shoes and medium coats. Size 7-8 or 9-10 pants, medium blouses, 7-8 or 9-10 dresses, 7 1/2 shoes and 9-10 coats can be worn by the 16-year-old daughter. Anyone having any items to donate can taken them to 100 Edenton Road Street.

Berry has expanded bank role

ROCKY MOUNT - Peoples Bank and Trust Company has assigned five officers expanded responsibilities. Peoples has divided its branch system into four areas, each with a regional executive to oversee its administration and operations.

D. Ben Berry, senior vice president and Hertford city executive, is in charge of Peoples' offices in Edenton, Harrellsville, Elizabeth City and Hertford.

Other regional executives are James E. Brown of Raleigh, S. Bruce Gillikin of Wilson and H. Kel Landis, III of Rocky Mount. Ronald E. Johnson as assumed overall

responsibility for retail credit administration.

William H. Wilkerson, executive vice president of the banking group, in making these personnel announcements, stated, "Each of these officers has made significant contributions to the success of Peoples Bank. We feel these areas of the bank will continue to prosper under their leadership."

Peoples Bank and Trust Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Peoples Bancorporation. As of December 31, 1988, the corporation had total assets of \$1.3 billion and total deposits of \$1.1 billion.



Ben Berry

Highway patrol revs up for holiday traffic

Raleigh-Traffic is expected to be heavy this Easter holiday. With the first long weekend following winter, many will try to do as much as they can in a limited amount of time. The North Carolina Highway Patrol urges vacationers to plan their trips, take frequent rest-stops and make sure they and their cars are "trip-safe."

Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety Joseph W. Dean said, "After the cold weather of recent weeks, I'm sure a lot of people are going to take advantage of our state's numerous vacation and recreational areas. I urge all motorists to drive defensively, enjoy their trips and consider the safety of other travelers."

Colonel J. F. Cardwell, Commander of the Highway Patrol, announced that all available troopers will be on duty during the long Easter weekend. "They will be visible, and watchful for dangerous situations, particularly drunk drivers," the Colonel said.

"Each year far too many people are injured and killed during this holiday period. Every effort will be made to provide assistance to those who need it," Cardwell continued. "With everyone's help, we can make this a safe holiday."

Last year there were 1,275 accidents, resulting in 955 injuries and 15 deaths during the Easter weekend.

The 1989 Easter holiday weekend begins on Friday, March 24, at 6 p.m. and ends at midnight on Sunday, March 26.

Tri-county landfill commission approved

By SCOTT YATES
Staff Writer

HERTFORD - Perquimans County commissioners approved the formation of a tri-county landfill commission and agreed to purchase additional land for the landfill site on Monday night.

The formation of the commission and the purchase of the land is contingent on the approval from Chowan and Gates counties.

The agreement states that each county will split the cost of equipment. Chowan County will pay 50 percent of the cost for operation of the landfill. Perquimans County will pay 28 percent, and Gates County will pay 22 percent. Perquimans and Chowan counties will split the costs of collection and Gates County will not contribute to this cost as long as it continues to

collect its own solid waste.

The additional land to be purchased is adjacent to the existing landfill site in Belvidere in Perquimans County. County Manager Paul Gregory said the state has granted approval of the landfill site for five more years and he hopes the counties will be able to operate the site for an additional 15 years.

The 98-acres of additional land will be purchased from Thomas and Mae Belle Chappell at a price of \$115,000.

Perquimans and Chowan counties formed a commission to oversee joint operation of the existing landfill 10 years ago.

In the new tri-county commission, two commissioners and the county manager from each county will serve on the commission board and have voting rights. The District Health director will serve as the secretary and the landfill su-

pervisor will also sit on the board, but neither will have voting rights. Pay raises

Commissioners agreed to consider a 5 percent to 7.5 percent pay increase for county employees during budget deliberations this spring. County Manager Paul Gregory said salaries in Perquimans County are lower than in other counties in the area.

Commissioner Durward Reed said the county should also give more merit raise increases.

"I don't think the residents of Perquimans County want to see the employees in our county be paid less than in other counties around us," said Chairman Lester Simpson. He added that commissioners should compare salaries in other counties to the salaries in Perquimans.

See Landfill, page 2