

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 58, No.16 USPS 428-080 Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C. Thursday, April 20, 1989 30 CENTS

Local Briefs

Kindergarten sign-up set for end of April

April 24-28, 1989
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Perquimans Central Grammar School
Hertford Grammar School
Kindergarten registration will be held at Hertford Grammar School and Perquimans Central Grammar School, Monday through Friday, May 24-28, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.
Parents should register their children with the school secretary, Mrs. Symons at Hertford Grammar School, or Mrs. Winslow at Central Grammar School. The parents need to bring the child's birth certificate to verify that the child will be five (5) years old on or before October 16, 1989.

Newspaper will feature county civic groups

Perquimans County has many civic organizations which do a tremendous amount of volunteer and charity work. We wish to recognize these groups in a series of articles.
Our plan is to run weekly features this summer highlighting each civic organization. The articles will include membership qualifications, the purpose of the organization, a brief history of the local chapter and other interesting features of the group.
Please have a spokesperson from your organization contact Susan Harris at the PERQUIMANS WEEKLY office to set up an interview so that you can be included in this series.

Stop smoking class to begin at hospital

Edenton—A third smoking cessation program, "FRESHSTART GUIDE", co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society and Chowan Hospital, will begin Thursday, May 4th.
The four one-hour sessions will conclude Thursday, May 25th. Sessions are broken down into: (1) understanding why and how, (2) managing the first few days, (3) mastering obstacles, (4) enjoying it forever.
Sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Chowan Hospital classroom. A \$5 incentive fee - returned upon completion of the course - will be charged. To register, call Pam Stallings at 482-8764 or Claire Mills at 482-8451, ext. 219 or Pete Rogers at ext. 359.

Hertford Police make arrest on DWI charge

Hertford Police were called to Hardees Restaurant to investigate the driver of a car that had been idling at their drive-up window for quite some time. Officer Tim Spence answered the April 15 call.
When Spence arrived, he found Norman Lee Hill, who listed his address as Route 4, Box 14, Edenton, asleep under the wheel of his vehicle with the motor running. Spence noticed a moderate odor of alcohol and found a partially-empty can of beer in the driver's lap.
A breathalyzer confirmed Hill's intoxication. He was arrested and charged with driving while impaired.

Senior Center sponsors trip

The Perquimans County Recreation Department and Senior Center is sponsoring a cruise to the Caribbean, June 18-15, 1989. We will depart from Norfolk, fly to Miami and then board the S. S. Seabreeze, for our seven day cruise. We will visit Nassau in the Bahamas; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and St. Thomas-St. John in the Virgin Islands. The cost of the trip is \$899 per person. This price covers roundtrip airfare and the cruise which includes all meals and port taxes. Registration is limited, so call now to reserve your space. For more information or to make reservations call 426-5404.

Tuesday blaze claims life of woman

Second fire destroys business

A Tuesday evening fire took the life of a Hertford woman last week. Dorothy Tucker was pronounced dead on the scene by Dr. Robert Earl Lane. The cause of death, established by autopsy at Pitt Memorial Hospital, was smoke inhalation.

The Hertford Volunteer Fire Department received the call at 6:44 p.m. and responded with 28 firefighters. Assistance was requested from the Winfall Department. One intercounty fireman responded.

Upon their arrival, firefighters found the back of the house which contained the porch and bedroom areas involved. Within five minutes the brigade had the blaze under control. The body was found after firemen donned airpicks and entered the dwelling. Tucker was found on the bedroom floor.

Officer Steve Thomas of the Hertford Police Department was the first to arrive on the scene. He saw William "Rip" Brothers and Guam Skinner making valiant efforts to reach the victim; however, the would-be rescuers were unable to enter the dwelling due to smoke and active blaze.

Because the fire involved a fatality and because the police and fire departments had questions about the incident, the State Bureau of Investigation arson department was called. David Campbell, who was described by police Sargeant Tim Spence as "the best arson investigator in the state," conducted a thorough review of the burned dwelling, and ruled the fire accidental.

The cause of the fire was determined to be a faulty electric heater. Responding to rumors of arson, Spence commented, "At this point, it's not even questionable as far as I'm concerned."

Tucker occupied the first floor of the 100 W. Railroad Avenue dwelling with McKinley Jones. Jones was not at home at the time of the fire, nor was a man identified only as Forehand who rented the upstairs. The house is owned by the Bertha Lane estate.

Spence commended Brothers and Skinner for their courage shown trying to enter the burning house in their rescue attempt. He also said that the fire department

went above and beyond the call of duty in assisting with the investigation. He said that the SBI agent was very pleased with the professionalism shown by the department. Campbell said that they did an excellent job. The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department assisted by handling the Hertford Police Department's cases in court, which enabled an officer to be near the scene at all times awaiting the arrival of the state investigators.

Friday at 2:13 a.m. the Hertford Fire Department answered another call in town. Cannon Cleaners, owned by Elizabeth Harrell of Hertford, was reported to the Perquimans Dispatch as being on fire.

Firemen arrived at the site to find smoke billowing from the structure and the windows blackened. Back-up was requested from Winfall.

After forcibly entering the back door, firefighters contained the blaze located on the east wall adjacent to Alexander Appliance. Next the department forcibly entered the front door. The fire was under control in less than 10 minutes according to Fire Chief Edgar Roberson. The cause of the blaze is still under investigation.

The fire department notified the police department of some suspicious areas in the dry cleaners. Police arrived and found evidence of a break-in, according to Officer Spence. Spence said that the department does have some leads in the case. A reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest of the party responsible for the incident. The caller does not have identify himself in order to receive the reward, but should contact the Hertford Police Department.

While fighting the Cannon Cleaners fire, the Hertford department received a call to respond to a fire at 204 Wynne Fork Court. The caller indicated to the dispatch office that a child was trapped in a burning apartment. Two trucks left the fire at the cleaners to answer the Wynne Fork call. Bethel was also dispatched.

Firefighters arrived to find no evidence of fire, nor anyone who knew anything about the call. The incident is under investigation.

Forest service has new policy

County Forest Ranger Mark Williams of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development's Division of Forest Resources has announced a change in Forest Law Enforcement Policy. The primary objective of North Carolina's forest fire statutes has always been to prevent forest fires. Ranger Williams said that the new Forest Service policy assures that all violators of the forestry laws will be treated fairly and equally.

Present policy requires forest rangers to issue a written warning ticket or a citation to any person who violates one of the forestry statutes or permits a fire to escape control. Williams said that until recently, policy permitted rangers to give violators a verbal warning or a written citation. The new policy requires a written warning or

citation. The policy requiring a written warning will assure equal treatment of all parties.

A warning ticket may be given to first offenders when the Ranger determines that the party allowed a fire to escape due to ignorance, carelessness, or accident. Second offenders must be given a citation for violation of a specific statute. Ranger Williams said that first offenders who allow a fire to escape due to negligence, indifference, or deliberate set must be given a citation.

William would like for all citizens to realize that the purpose of the forestry statutes is to protect our forests and people from the hazards of wildfire. Anyone may pick up a copy of the forestry laws from County Ranger Williams at his office at Winfall or call him at 426-5551 for more information.

Students win state competition

A group of Perquimans Middle School students captured first place in the North Carolina State Odyssey of the Mind finals held this past weekend at Carnegie Middle School in Raleigh.

The Cause and Effect team won the Division II competition and earned the chance to compete at the University of Colorado in Boulder in the World Finals May 24-28.

Coaches Paul Gregory and Lydia Perry were extremely pleased with the students' efforts. Perry attributed the win to the cooperation of the group. She said she and Gregory had been very impressed with their willingness to work together as a team, which is part of the philosophy of Odyssey of the Mind.

The Perquimans County Board of Education received the news at their Monday night meeting. Superintendent Dr. Mary Jo Martin commented, "It is an outstanding example of what parental involvement can bring about in a school system."

Board member Clifford Towe reflected the feelings of the board in his statement, "We're certainly proud of them." Towe said he felt one of the program's merits was that any student who wishes to participate can become involved in O.M. Grade point average or enrollment in specific classes is not a requirement which allows a cross-section of students to compete, rather than just a certain sector, he added.

"Any time you win a state competition, that's really a great honor," said board member Ben Hobbs.

Although the cost of the trip has not been determined, Wayne Howell said he felt the board should try diligently to pool all available resources to fund the trip to Colorado. "This is something they've earned," he said, not something they've been invited to or something they just want to attend.

The Odyssey of the Mind philosophy is based on team effort. Competitive activities are performed as a team including the long-term, spontaneous, and style categories. Divergent thinking is rewarded. The O.M. competition encourages the development of individual creative problem-solving skills.

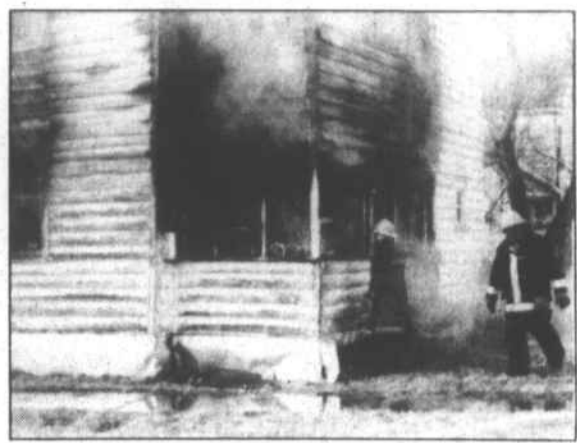
Parents of the students coach the teams. This provides an excellent opportunity for parents to become involved in the education process.

The program has grown tremendously over the past 11 years. In 1978, 28 high schools and middle schools comprised the entire O.M. membership. This year, over 5,000 elementary, middle and high schools are O.M. members. Teams from most states in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, China and West Germany will be competing along with Perquimans Middle School in the World Finals.

Members of the winning team are Christopher Gregory, Buddy



The aftermath of the Cannon Cleaners fire was clothing and other items scattered on the ground. All the clothes were damaged by smoke, fire or water. The blaze is still under investigation.



A house fire at 100 W. Railroad Avenue last Tuesday claimed the life of 38-year-old Dorothy Tucker. The fire was declared accidental.

Athletic director updates school board Monday

Athletic Director Spencer White brought to the attention of the board of education several problems in school athletic facilities and equipment at the board's regular Monday night meeting.

White told board members that the old locker rooms in the gym have leaking pipes and ceilings. He said that uniforms stored there must be moved constantly in order to avoid water damage. He recommended refurbishing the areas so that the facilities can be used as they were intended.

He told the board that it was embarrassing and inconvenient to use only the two newer locker rooms during basketball season. Three teams, junior varsity, girls and varsity, must take turns dressing and showering due to inadequate facilities.

It took White three weeks, he said, of working all day to clean the locker rooms when he was hired last summer to serve as athletic director. He reported that there were cobwebs and filth everywhere in the areas.

Part of the problem, he noted, was student athletes not being made to clean up after themselves. That situation is being rectified by White and the other members of the coaching staff.

Another problem White encountered in his efforts to clean and organize was poor planning and maintenance by his predecessors. He said that football helmets must be reconditioned every five years according to regulation. He found some helmets that bore a 1974 reconditioning date. The unsafe helmets were reconditioned where possible or discarded.

He told the board that there are not enough helmets for the number of students who play junior varsity and varsity football. However, White said that there were too many shoulder pads.

Conference rules state that football teams wear white uniforms to away games, but the athletic director was forced to call teams who hosted Perquimans and ask for a change, because the junior varsity team had no white uniforms.

The condition of the junior varsity basketball uniforms as well as the track uniforms are also a ma-

ior concern, according to White. He told the board that the junior varsity basketball team wore a combination of four uniforms during this year's games, because there were not enough of any one uniform to dress the entire team.

"We're in bad shape with uniforms at the present time," White summed up the situation.

His remedy to the uniform crisis is two-fold. First, he recommended purchasing new uniforms for the teams on a five-year rotating basis. Secondly, he asked the board to institute a policy of withholding 25 percent of a coach's local supplement until all of the uniforms and equipment from the coach's sport were turned in. He said that he had already spoken with Superintendent Mary Jo Martin and PCHS Principal William Byrum regarding his plan, with positive feedback. The board will review the

policy for implementation. White has inventoried all uniforms and equipment in writing so that he knows what is available, and its condition.

"We're trying to get a lot more organized," White said of his efforts, adding, "It'll take a couple of years to fully organize."

Because of interest expressed, White has reorganized the girls' track team. When no coach could be found, he decided to tackle the job himself. Although the team is not winning their meets, he sees this year as a building season, and predicts great success next year.

No track meets can be held in Perquimans because of lack of facilities. White has estimates of \$10,000 to upgrade the field. Although there is no money to put into the program at present, the board felt that it was helpful to be aware of the need.

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Heritage Day set at county historic site

Perquimans Heritage Day on May 6 will be an observance of two of the most important events in 300 years of the state's history. There is no known record of any historic date when a first settler came to Carolina, so, no birthday.

Captain John Smith recorded for posterity the 1607 arrival of settlers at Jamestown, Virginia. Thirteen years later the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, and duly recorded a 1620 birthday.

Earliest records show that unhappy settlers from both colonies began coming south to the Albemarle, in what is now North Carolina, in the early 1650s. They were seeking available land, and more freedom than the former two settlements offered. When Charles II gave these lands which they had already occupied to eight of his cronies in 1663, there was a natural resistance to any form of government and taxes imposed by them. The territory given in the Carolina Charter of 1663 also included land now known as South

Carolina, and the Proprietors tried to rule the northern and southern areas as one Carolina. Suffice it to say that several attempts to have joint rule failed, and in 1689 Philip Ludwell was appointed "to govern that part of Carolina lying north and east of Cape Fear". Gradually "northern Carolina" and "North Carolina" came into general usage.

One historian has said that "North Carolina is a state in search of a birthday". And so 300 years after Ludwell's appointment, the Perquimans County Restoration Association is rather arbitrarily having a 300th birthday celebration for North Carolina, complete with cake cutting on May 6.

One hundred years after this birthday, in 1789, North Carolinians joined together in Fayetteville to ratify the new Constitution of the United States of America. George Washington also became the first President of the new Republic in that year, giving it double significance. Appropriate ceremonies will make this milestone in the state's history.

The Newbold-White site now consists of three properties: the 1685 Newbold-White House, the 1820 David Newby Coastal Cottage, and the recently completed Visitor - Interpretive Center. This Center will be named and dedicated in ceremonies beginning at 1:00 p.m. on May 6. The exercises will be held on the lawn between the buildings, following which the three will be open to the public.

The principal speaker will be Senator Marc Basnight, First District North Carolina General Assembly. Also appearing on the program will be Mrs. Walter Spaeth, National President General, Colonial Dames Seventeenth Century; Mrs. Wiley William Jordan Ellis, President, North Carolina Society Colonial Dames XVIII; Mrs. William Nixon, Regent, Edenton Tea Party Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution; Representatives Vernon James and R. M. "Pete" Thompson; the Hertford Fifes and Drums; and Charles T. Skinner, Jr., representing Albemarle Lodge 463, Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society in the presentation of a flag pole to the site. Dr. David Martin will portray North Carolina's first governor, Philip Ludwell, assisted by his wife, Dr. Mary Jo Martin, Superintendent of Perquimans County Public Schools.

The public is cordially invited to attend the ceremonies and share in the birthday cake cutting in the new Heritage Center at the conclusion of the program.

Hollowell, Troy Higgins, Tanya Everett and Denise Perry.

Also competing on the state level was the Classics...Ye Gods team who won second place in the Regionals in Wilmington in March. Members of that group included Keisha Brown, Abby Corprew, Missy Umphlett, Chemise Overton,

Denny Wallace, Jenny Hurdle and Beth Boynton. Jeanie Umphlett served as their coach.

Both teams represented the Perquimans County Schools well. Commitment, diligence and hard work was displayed by all team members.



This group of youngsters won the state Odyssey of the Mind competition last weekend. They are Tanya Everett, Christopher Gregory, Troy Higgins and Buddy Hollowell. Not pictured is team member Denise Perry.