

Newly named Perquimans Schools Teacher of the Year 1992



Community: Library's Halloween family storytime draws crowd; more programs set: Page 2

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Two Perquimans women are murdered

Husband, stepfather charged with slayings

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

An ongoing domestic feud erupted into violence Halloween night, leaving a Holiday Island woman and her 16-year-old daughter dead.

The bodies of Beverly Irene Pulley, 48, and her daughter, Tracy Lynn Franco, were found Sunday around 10 a.m. by Mrs. Pulley's son, 17-year-old Duffy Franco, according to Perquimans County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Tilley.

Tilley was the first law enforcement officer to enter the doublewide mobile home at 48N Flyway Drive, where the women resided. He found both in the kitchen, each with a single gunshot wound in the chest. He esti-

mated that the two had been dead around 10 hours when he arrived.

In the bathroom of the home was Edwin Eugene Pulley, 63. Tilley said Pulley was incoherent, apparently the result of mixing drugs and alcohol. He was transported by ambulance to Chowan Hospital, where he was later charged with the murders of his wife and stepdaughter.

The investigation by the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department and State Bureau of Investigation, assisted by the Hertford Police Department, unfolded a tragic set of circumstances officials believe led to the murders.

Tilley said domestic disturbance calls to the Pulley home

were not unusual. Deputies had responded to two calls the week of the deaths, he said.

From interviews with family and friends, authorities believe Mrs. Pulley told her husband Saturday evening she planned to move out of their home. Pulley did not want her to leave and allegedly shot Mrs. Pulley and Miss Franco in the chest with a 12-gauge shotgun. Preliminary investigation suggests that the women were shot prior to midnight on Saturday, and that both died instantly. Tilley said Pulley had apparently been drinking alcohol prior to the slayings.

The crime scene investigation was completed around 10 p.m. Sunday. Deputies served warrants on Pulley at the hospital around midnight. Tilley said. He has been charged with two

Drama students mourn loss of fellow actress

Tracy and Duffy Franco left first period class Friday along with other drama students at Perquimans High School after putting the finishing touches on the three one-act plays scheduled to be performed Monday evening. Monday was to bring the final run-through and the excitement of a season-opening production.

Instead, Monday found the drama students sitting in their class mourning the loss of Tracy, shot and killed over the weekend, and worrying about her brother Duffy.

Tracy was set to play her first role on stage as a spinster sister in the comedy *Not My Cup of Tea*. Last year she preferred to work behind the scenes, said drama instructor Lynwood Winslow, but had agreed to take an acting spot this year. Duffy, who had performed in numer-

ous productions, was also cast for a role.

The mood in the drama room Monday was grim, Winslow said. In the past, students have felt a need to talk about tragedies, said the teacher. But Monday the students did not want to verbalize the emotions they were forced to deal with. Instead, each student seemed to drift into a private world to deal with the harsh reality of Tracy's death.

The school system provided assistance to students through Tidewater Psychiatric Institute, local ministers and school counselors.

The productions set for Monday were postponed until Nov. 17.

counts of murder. He is currently being held without bond at Albemarle District Jail awaiting a Nov. 18 probable cause hearing.

Miss Franco was a junior at

Perquimans High School. Both she and Duffy Franco, a senior, were scheduled to appear in the school drama club's season opener Monday evening.

Pulley was retired from the military and had previously worked for a brief time with the U.S. Postal Service.

Three hurt in collision

Three people were sent to the hospital as a result of a two-car collision in the Bethel community early Sunday morning.

Regina P. Bivens of Route 1, Hertford and two juveniles received Class A injuries and were transported by Perquimans County Rescue Squad to Chowan Hospital. Bivens was admitted, and was released Monday morning, according to Chowan Hospital Public Relations Director Pete Rogers. No information was available on the two youths, Rogers said.

A vehicle operated by a juvenile was travelling north on Jordan Drive when it pulled into the path of a 1976 Ford passenger vehicle operated by Bivens. Bivens was travelling east on Snug Harbor Road. The Ford struck the juvenile's vehicle in the left passenger area, according to the report of N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper T.M. Lassiter.

The Ford sustained damages estimated at \$3,200. The other vehicle received approximately \$4,000 in damages.

Bivens was charged with driving while impaired. Several charges are pending against the juvenile. No other information could be released due to the age of the driver.

Happy being SADD



Members of the PCHS SADD Club encourage fellow students to sign contracts agreeing not to drink and drive. Jamie Hudson and Dena White manned the sign-up station during first lunch period, where (left to right) Hope Stallings, Shannon Long, J.J.

Weise, Amber Bass and Wes Woodell all signed contracts. The sign-ups were held in conjunction with the National Red Ribbon Campaign against drunk driving. (Photo by Susan Harris.)

Perquimans voters support Democrats

Perquimans County voters overwhelmingly supported Democratic candidates in Tuesday's general election. From the man who will serve in the White House to the man who will serve in the courthouse, the Democrats took every race in the county.

On the national level, presidential candidate Bill Clinton carried Perquimans by an 1816-1429 margin. Ross Perot collected 624 votes. The county also chose Terry Sanford over Lauch Faircloth, 1945-1666, for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Eva Clayton, a candidate for the U.S. House, won over Ted Tyler 1966-1544. Clayton also defeated Tyler in her bid to fill the unexpired term of Walter B. Jones Sr. in old house district 1.

Perquimans continued the Democratic voting trend on the state level, supporting James B. Hunt in his bid to once again occupy the governor's mansion. Hunt defeated Jim Gardner 2371-1358. Joining Hunt as lieutenant governor will be Dennis Wicker, who took Art Pope, 2215-1254.

Other Democrats elected to state office included Rufus Edmisten - secretary of state; Harlan Boyles - treasurer; Ralph Campbell - auditor; Mike Easley - attorney general; Jim Graham - agriculture commissioner; Jim Long - insurance commissioner; Harry Payne - labor commissioner; and Bob Etheridge - superintendent of public instruction.

County voters also chose Democrats to serve as judges. Sarah Parker was elected to the supreme court; John Martin, Anthony Brannon, and Joseph John to the court of appeals; and Richard Parker to the District 1 superior court judgeship.

Closer to home, Charles T. Skinner Jr. defeated Charles E. Woodard for the available seat on the county board of commissioners representing the first district. Skinner took 2,331 votes, Woodard 1,395. There was no local race for two seats in the second

Voter turn-out disappointing to officials

Early traffic in the county's polling stations lifted the expectations of election officials. When over 50 percent of the county's 5,966 registered voters had visited the polls before 5 p.m., officials expected a banner turn-out.

But obviously most voters decided to cast their ballots early. Only 62 percent of those registered voted in the election, 145 of those voting by absentee ballot. Local officials anticipated 65-70 percent turn-out for the election. The state board of elections forecasted a 72 percent voter turn-out prior to the election.

"I'm very disappointed in East Hertford," said board of elections chairman Irvin R. Bibb. "That's probably our lowest voter turn-out."

Bibb was right. Only 593 of the 1,100 registered voters in East Hertford, 54 percent, cast a ballot. The precinct with the highest voter turn-out was the smallest precinct, Nicamor. All but 40 of the 186 registered voters in Nicamor went to the polls. Parksville also enjoyed higher than average voter turn-out, with 68 percent of the 1,064 registered voters checking in Tuesday.

district, the register of deeds or Albemarle Soil and Water supervisor.

County officials agree on a new voting system

By TRACY E. GERLACH
The Daily Advance

Perquimans County commissioners and school board members voted on a new election plan Monday that will erase all district lines and make sure a black candidate is elected to both boards in future elections.

After five years of studying different ways to restructure the county's election system to make it more equitable to the minority population, the two boards agreed on a plan.

An at large, limited voting system was chosen which would increase the number of members on the school board and board of commissioners from five to six. Under the system developed by the Perquimans County Electoral Study Committee, three seats would become vacant every two years and voters would be allowed to vote for only one candidate. The top three vote getters would be elected to office.

At large, limited voting is new to North Carolina, although it has been used in other parts of the country for some time.

"The reason we felt like we did about the at large plan is it was the most equitable way to get people elected in Perquimans County," said school board member Clifford Towe who was also chairman of the electoral study committee.

Now that both boards have agreed, the plan will be forwarded to the state legislature for its approval and then the U.S. Justice Department. If approved, the plan would apply to the 1994 election.

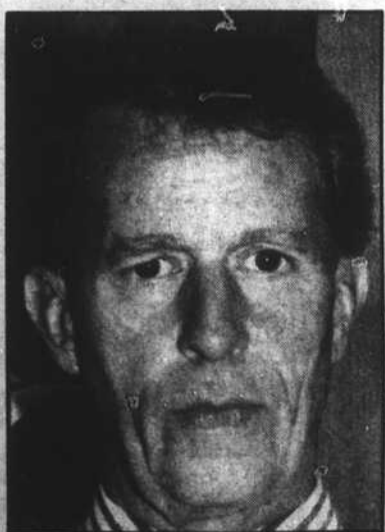
Some concerns were raised that the system made it possible for a candidate to be elected without a majority vote.

"Nobody will have a majority of the citizens of anybody," said school board member Benjamin Hobbs, the only one to vote against the plan. "I think it's a horrible assumption that blacks are only going to vote for blacks and whites are only going to vote for whites. That's a racist assumption to begin with."

County Manager N. Paul Gregory, also a member of the committee, said under the plan, voters, black or white, will vote for the best candidate instead of along racial lines.

Once implemented, the plan would be reviewed again by the boards after four years.

Fred Yates, president of the local chapter of the NAACP, said his organization endorsed the at



Clifford P. Towe

large plan although originally the group favored its own five district plan with two majority black districts. Yates said the two districts restricted blacks living in other areas from becoming involved in the political system.

"Do all the best black or minority people live in those districts? I don't think so," he said. "As a compromise we would offer the at large, limited vote providing the NAACP would have a part in appointing those (first two) members to the board."

Once the system is in place, the plan calls for a black member to be appointed to fill the sixth seat on both boards.

Perquimans County's electoral system was first questioned

in 1988 by the NAACP after the board of commissioners overlooked two black candidates vying for a vacant position on the board and voted for a white.

The electoral study committee submitted a seven district plan in 1990 that was rejected by the justice department.

According to a letter from Raleigh attorney Michael Crowell, attorney for the electoral study committee, the at large, limited voting system allows voters to choose two candidates over a four year period rather than just one. It also ensures that minority candidates don't have to live in a specific district to be elected and all county residents get the same ballot.

Some disadvantages to the plan are confusion created by only being allowed to vote for one candidate, the possibility that a candidate can be elected with few votes and more than one candidate could be elected from the same neighborhood, Crowell said.

Crowell said a districting plan would have assured minority representation and provided representation for every area, but lines could be confusing to voters and people who were minorities in their district would have little chance of being elected.

Regional health department may administer landfill authority

By TRACY E. GERLACH
The Daily Advance

The PPCC District Health Department may be used to administer the newly formed Albemarle Area Solid Waste Management Authority rather than creating another layer of bureaucracy, an official involved with the authority said Friday.

Following a meeting of the Administrative Committee - a subcommittee of the authority - officials agreed to look into using the health department staff, including Jerry Parks, manager of the Perquimans, Chowan and Gates county landfill to run the authority instead of hiring staff.

The PPCC District Health Department already serves four counties - Perquimans, Pasquotank, Chowan and Camden and has been the administrative agency for the three-county landfill.

"It's a potential way of starting the program with the smallest staff possible with the same benefit. We feel we can do that," Parks said. "We see this as a way of helping everyone get the service for just a few dollars."

Under the proposal, payroll

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Football CONTEST
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