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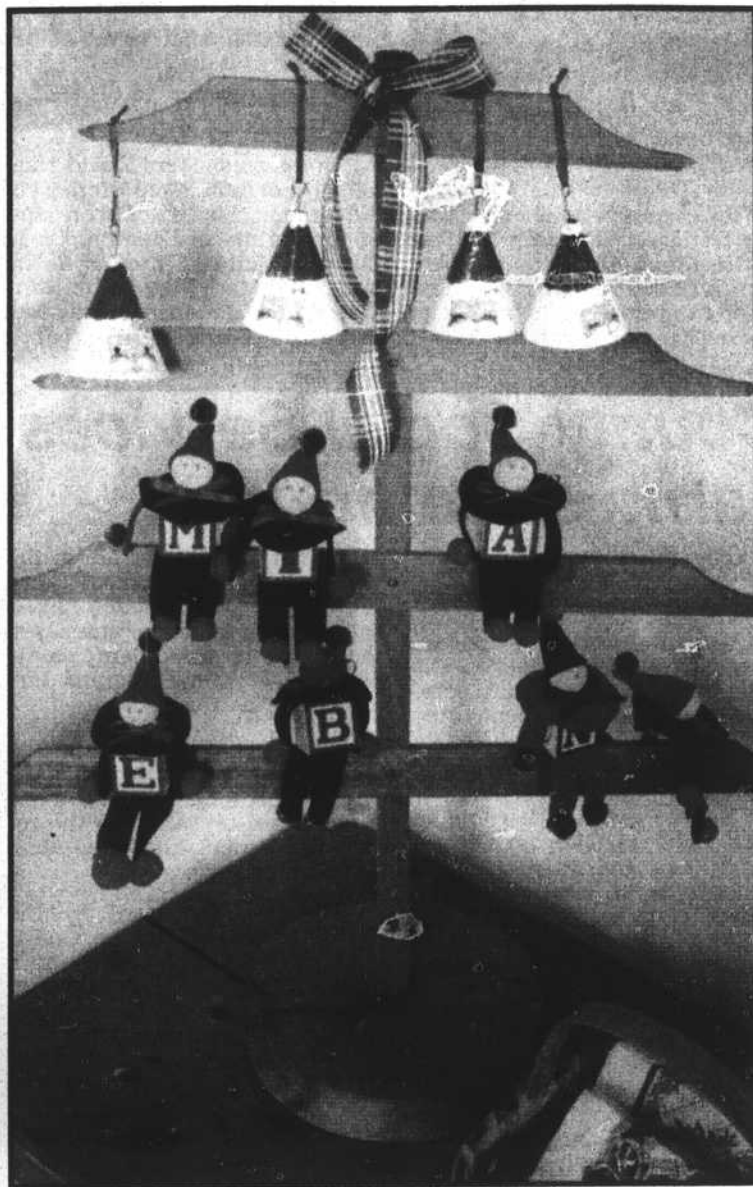
THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 Cents

Getting ready for Santa



Paige Underwood has the Orchard Shop all ready for Santa to come by and choose gifts for special friends. The Christmas tree lights one room of the shop's new addition (left). Throughout the store lie home accents and handmade Christmas ornaments that anyone on most Christmas lists

would love. These little Santas (right) would brighten up any tree. The elves make great stocking stuffers, or can even be used instead of a bow on a package for someone special. All across Perquimans, merchants are gearing for holiday shoppers. (Photos by Susan Harris).

Burke is guilty

Prosecution gives account of murder

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Assistant District Attorney Frank Parrish gave Superior Court Judge William C. Griffin an overview of the state's case against Vivia Darvis Burke Monday after Burke pleaded guilty to second degree murder and first degree burglary.

Parrish said Rosa Lee Overton Newton, a Winfall native, moved back to the town after living in Philadelphia for 40 years. She was renovating a home.

Mrs. Newton spoke by telephone with a neighbor around 11 p.m. on Sept. 7, 1989. The two confirmed an appointment for early the next morning.

The neighbor telephoned Mrs. Newton again at 6:15 a.m. on Sept. 8, 1989. When Mrs. Newton failed to answer her telephone, the neighbor and another neighbor went to Mrs. Newton's home to check on her.

There, they found the door to Mrs. Newton's home broken. They entered the house and found Mrs. Newton's lifeless body on the kitchen floor in a pool of blood.

The neighbors called law enforcement officials. Sheriff Joe Lothian and deputy George Long were the first on the scene. They immediately contacted the State Bureau of Investigation.

SBI crime technicians took flooring from the house which bore shoe impressions in blood.

A change purse was found on Mrs. Newton's bed. Drops of blood were near the change purse. An open pocketbook marked with blood was also found in the bedroom.

On Nov. 18, 1989, Burke's former girlfriend told law enforcement officers that Burke confessed the murder to her. Burke told his girlfriend he first went to the house and asked for money. Later he went back, broke in, stabbed Mrs. Newton and left.

Burke also told his girlfriend he threw some of the clothing he wore the night of the murder in an outhouse on the property where he and his brother lived.

Sheriff's officers and SBI agents searched the property on Two Mile Desert Road. The officers found Puma tennis shoes buried under the outhouse.

SBI experts matched the left shoe impression from the flooring take from Mrs. Newton's house to Burke's shoe.

The postmortem report said Mrs. Newton was stabbed 25 times. Thirteen of the wounds were described as defense-type wounds. The report said no sin-

Confessed killer to be sentenced this week

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

More than three years after the murder of Rosa Lee Overton Newton in Winfall, her killer admitted his guilt.

Vivia Darvis Burke, 30, of Winfall, pleaded guilty to second degree murder and first degree burglary Monday in a special session of Perquimans County Superior Court.

Burke was arrested and charged with first degree murder and first degree burglary on Nov. 18, 1989, after two months of investigation by the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department and the State Bureau of Investigation.

Burke originally entered not guilty pleas, but chose to seek a plea bargain with prosecutors Frank Parrish and Robert Trivette Monday. Under the terms of the plea arrangement, the state reduced the murder charge from first to second degree. While Burke no longer faces a possibility of the death penalty, he faces up to two life sentences for his crimes.

Also under the arrangement, the prosecution will allow Burke to present evidence at a sentencing hearing. No date had been set for the hearing at press time, but prosecutors expect it to be held this week.

Burke's court appointed attorneys Gary Underhill and Samuel Dixon told Superior Court Judge William C. Griffin they plan to offer testimony from Virginia psychiatrist Dr. Robert Brown Jr. at the sentencing hearing. Brown, who evaluated Burke earlier, could not be reached by telephone Monday to set a date to testify.

Griffin recessed court until further notice to allow the defense time to contact Brown.

The jury pool, sworn in because Burke had initially requested a jury trial, was asked to wait outside for over an hour during the legal wrangling that led to the plea agreement.

gle wound hit a vital organ, and that no single wound was fatal. Mrs. Newton bled to death on her kitchen floor.

National Home Care Week celebrated

Families can provide medical care at home

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Caring for the sick at home is a concept as old as the human race.

Families can continue to care for sick loved ones in the comfort of home while meeting the patient's medical needs by using the services provided by Albemarle Home Care.

Albemarle Home Care was founded in 1964 to provide professional health care services to patients in Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan and Currituck counties. Nurses; in-home aides; physical, occupational, and speech therapists; hospice workers; nutrition counselors and personal care service providers travel the five counties, taking professional medical services to patients in their own homes.

Home Care offers advantages to patients, said Kay Whedbee, coordinator of Albemarle Home Care. Hospital stays are usually shorter when home health services are available. Readmission is

District health agency joins in observance

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Albemarle Home Care joined home care providers across the nation to observe Home Care Week, Nov. 30-Dec. 4.

Proclamations issued by North Carolina Governor James Martin and President George Bush honored the professional and paraprofessionals who provide quality, cost-effective services to patients in their homes.

"In comfortable and familiar surroundings, home care patients gain a sense of independence and security that contributes to their well-being," Governor Martin said when he signed the state proclamation.

sometimes prevented. In some cases, home health visits mean a patient can stay at home, rather than be admitted to a nursing facility. And perhaps most importantly from a psychological standpoint, patients are usually more comfortable and secure when they can remain in familiar surroundings.

Whedbee said Home Care is not only for elderly or economically disadvantaged patients. Services are available to patients of all ages and all economic levels.

Charges for services can be billed to private insurance com-

panies, Medicaid, Medicare or the patient, depending on the patient's financial circumstances.

Home Care services must be ordered by the patient's doctor.

Whedbee said about 60 patients in Perquimans County received Home Care services in September. The number changes monthly, but normally 50-70 county residents use the services each month.

Home Care professionals usually visit once or twice each week, Whedbee said. But visits have been made up to three times a day in unusual circumstances. In other cases, visits are

only needed once a month.

Home Care administrator Howard Campbell believes in the importance of offering health care services to patients in their homes.

"We want everyone to know about our work to bring health care back home where it belongs," he said.

Anyone interested in learning more about Albemarle Home Care or volunteering time to its hospice program should call 338-4066.

Christmas should be glowing, not flaming

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

A state fire code effective this past summer is designed to make sure the glowing lights on live Christmas trees spark good cheer, not flames.

Hertford Fire Department Lieutenant and Training Officer Parker Newbern said the law requires any decorative material placed in a business or public place of assembly be treated with an approved flame retardant. Decorative materials include live Christmas trees, bushes or branches.

Newbern said the law applies to churches and other public

places of assembly, schools, restaurants, theaters, nightclubs, commercial industries and businesses. While the law does not apply to private dwellings, Newbern recommends the use of a flame retardant on home decorations as well.

In addition to treating live greenery with flame retardant, officers said following other safety tips can prevent a fire from ruining the holidays.

Live trees should be recut at home to allow water absorption and moisture retention. The water level in the tree stand should be watched closely. Trees should be watered regularly.

Tree lights should be turned

off when no one is at home. If the tree dries out and leaves begin to drop, the lights should not be turned on.

Extension cords should be used only when necessary. Cords should be UL approved and should not be frayed. They should not be run under rugs. Only those cords approved for outside use should be used with lawn decorations.

Outlets should not be overloaded.

Newbern said by following the new law and fire safety guidelines, the fragrant live greenery used during the holidays can add to your Christmas celebration, not lead to tragedy.

Parade set for Saturday

The Christmas holidays officially kick off in Perquimans County Saturday when the annual Christmas parade steps through the streets of Hertford.

Leading the "Christmas in the Albemarle" caravan will be grand marshal William Byrum, Perquimans County High School principal. Behind him will be a group of his charges, the pride of Perquimans - the Marching Pirates Band.

Floats, decorated cars, Boy Scouts, dancers, baton twirlers and other entries will spread holiday cheer throughout the town.

Parade participants will line up at the high school at 1 p.m. The parade will step off promptly at 2 p.m. The route begins at the corner of Jimmy Hunter Drive and Edenton Road Street. The parade will move north on Edenton Road Street, turn right (east) onto Dobbs Street, turn left (north) onto Church Street, turn left (west) onto Grubb Street, turn left (south) onto Edenton Road Street and proceed back to

the high school.

The floats will be judged at the high school prior to moving onto the parade route.

Near the end of the parade, Santa Claus will be drawn by his reindeer. The jolly old man will stop downtown and sit at the courthouse green to hear the Christmas wishes of children.

Businesses downtown will extend their hours beginning Saturday to allow residents the opportunity to browse and purchase gifts for special people on their lists. Merchants have ordered a wide selection of gift items to please every taste and every budget.

The parade is co-sponsored by the Perquimans County Jaycees and the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce. Entries will be accepted until 1 p.m. Saturday. Contact Parker Newbern or Sara Winslow for more information.

Who's Who In The News

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Help Us Begin This Service Again!

The Perquimans Weekly

See Page 4 for information