

The Perquimans Weekly

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D.A.R.E. is positive weapon in drug war

School system to observe National D.A.R.E. Day

Perquimans County Schools will join school systems and law enforcement agencies across the country today in observance of National D.A.R.E. Day.

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program is offered in Perquimans County through a cooperative partnership of the local sheriff's department, school system, and parents, according to schools' Alternative Services Coordinator Jeanie C. Umphlett. Deputy Ralph Robinson serves as the D.A.R.E. instructor.

"When talking with Officer Robinson, it is apparent that he enjoys working with students," Umphlett said. "He is filled with enthusiasm and goes out of his way to talk and interact with students at school and in the community. He attempts to make each student feel special, because they are very special to him."

The program curriculum includes facts about drugs, including alcohol; resisting peer pressure; reasoning to make decisions and accepting consequences; dealing positively with stress; building positive self-esteem; ways to say no; dealing with problem; resolving conflicts; and positive alternative activities.

Prior to the 1994-95 school year, over 1,000 students had participated in the initial phases of the D.A.R.E. program since its inception in 1988. With state grant funds allowing a full-time officer this fiscal year, 994 students in kindergarten and first, second, fourth, fifth, seventh and eighth grades have been involved in the program.

"Drug prevention programs are the most important effort in keeping our community drug-free, preventing acts of violence, and helping our students live healthy and happy drug-free lives," Umphlett said. "National D.A.R.E. Day is a great time to express our appreciation to our county manager, county commissioners and sheriff's department, and of course to our D.A.R.E. Officer Robinson for their commitment and dedication for the D.A.R.E. Program."

The D.A.R.E. program will celebrate the completion of the initial program for fifth graders at a graduation ceremony on May 11.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS/BANNER ATHLETES



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans County Special Olympics kicked off with a parade of athletes highlighted by spirited marches from the Perquimans County Middle School eighth grade band. Athletes, teachers, huggers and friends of Special Olympics enjoyed a beautiful day of fun and competition at Perquimans High School.



Students at Perquimans Middle School celebrated the Very Special Arts Program by planting an FDR redbud in front of the school. Before actually planting the tree, Tom Dyson, Specialized Horticulture Agent with Cooperative Extension in Perquimans Chowan and Gates counties, talked with the students about what plants need to be healthy. Dyson also assisted with the planting. The bed was prepared by art instructor Brenda Hollowell and Nancy Morgan. The two returned that afternoon to finish off the bed with flowers.

JTPA offers five programs

Many people think of teens with summer and after-school jobs when they hear the term JTPA. But the Job Training Partnership Act Program provides much more to a wide variety of people.

According to Lisa Johnson, JTPA Administrator at the Albemarle Commission, there are five programs available to assist potential employees through JTPA.

The individual referral program provides training in an institutional setting designed to upgrade or retrain individuals with technical skills and information required to per-

form a specific job or group of jobs. Training is provided in occupations identified as being likely to result in unsubsidized employment.

The on-the-job-training program enables participants to learn a job skill or qualify for a specific occupation through demonstration and practice. The employer must agree to hire prior to training, with the intent of retraining the participant as a regular employee after completion of training.

The Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance component of JTPA assists those who have been laid off, long-term employees who have limited opportunities for employment and former self-employed persons who are unemployed as a result of general economic conditions.

Persons 55 and over can receive assistance through JTPA through the Senior Employment Program.

The Summer Youth Employment and Training Program is the one with which the public is most familiar.

For information on any JTPA program, call Johnson at the Albemarle Commission at 426-5753 or stop by the office on Church Street Extended.

Hearing for murder suspect is continued

The probable cause hearing for Christopher Lee Barnes, accused of beating to death his 77-year-old uncle, was continued last Wednesday.

No information is available about when the hearing will be held.

Samuel Dixon of Edenton has been appointed by the court as Barnes' attorney.

Law officers said Barnes, 20, of Rocky Mount, confessed to killing Harold Copeland of Winfall on March 21, one day after he came to visit his family.

Barnes, who was arrested March 24 after a three-day search for him, told law officers he beat his uncle in Copeland's Main Street home. Copeland was discovered by his son and taken to Albemarle Hospital, where he died the next morning. Police say Barnes took his uncle's pick-up truck and drove to Hertford, where he threatened a teenage girl at her house before she escaped. He is charged with communicating threats and assault on a female in connection with that incident.

Barnes left the area for Rocky Mount where he stayed with friends until he was arrested by Nash County deputies and turned over to Perquimans County law enforcement officers.

Barnes is being held without bond in Albemarle District Jail.

4-H child care program set

Perquimans County's 4-H program will expand on June 19, the first day of its new child care program.

Founded with grant money, the program will offer a seven-week full day care program tagged "Summer Sizzler." Care will be provided from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Parents will be able to enroll children for full or half day care. Half day care hours can be from 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. or 12:30-6 p.m. Part-time care is also available.

The program ends on Aug. 8.

For every week, a different theme has been planned. Each day children will participate in exciting and educational games and activities that will support the week's theme.

An after-school care program is also being planned for the fall from 2:30-6 p.m. week days.

The programs will be held at

Hertford Grammar School.

On Monday, May 1, program coordinator Josie T. Wills and home economics extension agent/4-H Juanita T. Bailey will hold an enrollment day. Those interested in enrolling children in the program can go to the Cooperative Extension Office to talk with the staff about the program. from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Enrollment will end on May 8.

"Our program is designed to fill the void in children's lives during the summer months by providing an educational and recreational alternative for them in a safe and structured environment," Wills said. "The 4-H Summer Sizzler will prove to be beneficial for both parents and children."

For information about the program, contact Wills or Bailey at 426-7697.

Whitney's heart is no longer broken

Winfall girl recovering well after heart transplant

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Whitney Stallings' heart is no longer broken. The 8-year-old Winfall girl underwent a heart transplant last month at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York. According to her grandmother, Viva Stallings of Hobbsville, Whitney is recovering beautifully.

"Things are looking up," Stallings said Monday. Whitney was scheduled for her third post-operative biopsy Monday. The first two indicated that her body accepted her new heart with no resistance. Her color and appetite have also returned, her grandmother said.

Whitney was released from Presbyterian on April 12, and is undergoing outpatient care. She and her mother, Toni Divers Stallings, are staying with Toni's aunt in Brooklyn until Whitney is well enough to come back home and check in with her doctors at Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters in Norfolk, Va.

The family has been looking forward to the time when Whitney could do all the things other children her age can do. Whitney had to stop attending school in November 1993. The strain of day-to-day activities sapped much of her energy, leaving her weak. Her immune system was also affected by her disease, meaning Whitney was especially vulnerable to communicable diseases. Through the Perquimans County Schools homebound program, Whitney has been receiving in-home schooling.

Although the transplant is by far the most extensive surgery Whitney has faced, it is not the first. She had a band placed around her pulmonary artery when she was just five months old, her grandmother said. There was another operation two years later. Her heart problems were first discovered by Dr. Robert Earl Lane.

Dad Marty and 3-year-old sister Kinnan flew to New York for an Easter visit with Toni and Whitney. Stallings said little Kinnan has been a real trooper through all the ups and downs the family has faced. And even though there was statistically a good possibility that another child could be born to Toni and Marty with Whitney's heart conditions, Stallings said Kinnan is a healthy tot with no signs of problems.

While the emotional toll of having a family member with a life-threatening disease is great, the financial stress is also a consideration. Friends of the Stallings family have established a care fund to assist with expenses. Donations can be made by sending a check to Whitney Stallings Care Fund at Centura Bank in Hertford.

A benefit supper is being planned for June 10. Those interested in donating money, supplies or time to the effort should contact Linda Bundy or Tommie Dale.

Hopefully, those who attend the supper will get a glimpse of Whitney running and playing like most other little girls her age.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 80s Low: 50s WARM	High: 70s Low: 50s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 70s Low: 50s CHANCE OF RAIN

Inside

Pirates take Williamston, 8-4

Page 6

Easter tourney offers tough competition

Page 6

White builds name in boat-construction industry

Page 3

Obituaries

Page 3

Classifieds

Page 8