

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

Vol. 63, No. 38

The only newspaper for and about Perquimans County people

Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Winfall gets fire grant

The Winfall Fire Department purchased new equipment with the help of a matching grant check from the N.C. Department of Insurance.

The check, amounting to \$7,323.24, was delivered to the department last week, according to Winfall Fire Chief Wayne Winslow.

Winslow said the 50-50 grant helped to purchase turnout gear, hose, protective clothing, breathing apparatus and upgraded lighting on the fire truck.

The money came from the Volunteer Fire Department Fund set up by Insurance Commissioner Jim Long to assist fire departments all over the state.

"One of the reasons that we feel so strongly that this fund is needed is that it frees up the time of these fire fighters for further training, Long said. "Without this grant, fire fighters would be forced into spending too much of their time fundraising, just to keep departments afloat."

Long praised the service volunteer fire fighters provided in North Carolina.

"Providing these fire fighters with better equipment will further help public safety and keep fire insurance rates as low as possible," Long said.

The Volunteer Fire Department fund was established in 1988 and has granted nearly \$7 million dollars through 1993. To qualify for a grant, the fire department must be able to match the grant for up to \$20,000 and must show need based on a set of objective criteria.

Brian Center holds voter registration

Brian Center has elected to try something new this month. The facility will host a voter registration drive in its living room on Sept. 26, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Anyone who is not registered to vote may visit the center to register. Those participating in the drive will be registered in time for the November elections.

"This drive will give our residents, their family members, and our facility employees the chance to vote," said Joseph France, Brian Center administrator. "It is also an effort to encourage members of our community to register to vote in the upcoming election. The long term care community represents a very large constituency."

A member of the North Carolina Health Care Facilities Association, Brian Center is joining in the statewide effort to register voters during the last week of September.

NCHCFA is based in Raleigh and represents over 90 percent of the for-profit and not-for-profit licensed nursing homes throughout North Carolina. NCHCFA and its member facilities are committed to providing quality care to the more than 34,000 residents in long term health care facilities across the state.

COLORFUL/LIBRARY ART SHOW



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

This oil painting titled "Red Tulips" by local artist Jackie Hobbs is one of over 40 beautiful pieces on display at the Perquimans County Library Fine Arts Juried Show and Sale. Thirty percent of the proceeds of the show will go to the library for computerization of its card catalog. The show will run through Sept. 26

Hertford man charged in vehicle death

A Hertford man died from injuries he received when he was hit by a car in the early morning hours of Sept. 9.

Reginald Gaylor Hardy, 40, of 106 N. Edenton Road St., Hertford was charged with felony death by motor vehicle and driving while impaired as a result of the incident. He was released on bond.

Hardy told Hertford police officers he was traveling east on King Street shortly after 1 a.m. when Ronald James, 45, of 314 King Street, Hertford, "Jumped out" in front of his car. Hardy was unable to avoid James and hit him. Hardy was apparently standing on the corner of King Street and Stokes Drive, according to an

accident report filed by Patrol Officer P.H. Smith.

Hardy told police he first drove away from the scene searching for help but realized that was wrong. He backed into Stokes Drive and waited for police and rescue workers to arrive.

James was transported to Chowan Hospital and then to a Norfolk hospital. He died several hours later.

Tests showed both men had been drinking. James had a blood alcohol level of .268 and a breathalyzer recorded Hardy's alcohol level at .12.

In North Carolina, a person is considered intoxicated if their blood alcohol level is .08.

Chappell resigns from Hertford board

Hertford Town Councilman Larry Chappell resigned from his seat Monday night.

The first-term councilman moved outside the city limits earlier this month, a move which required that he resign from the town's governing board.

A resolution was passed by council in honor of Mary Harrell for her many years of dedicated service to the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce. Harrell resigned recently as executive director, a post she had held for many years.

Hertford Police Chief Bennie Murphy announced that Sgt. Dale Vanscoy has been named the department's full-time investigator. Murphy

said Vanscoy's new assignment has not affected the number of officers on duty at all times.

Town manager John Christensen told council he has checked with a new official at the Gates County Correctional Facility about the possibility of the town using inmate labor for such jobs as causeway clean-up. Christensen reported that the official was very encouraging, and talks will continue.

No action was taken on a request from Bobby White to allow Albemarle EMC to supply electricity at a lot on Wynne Fork Road. Council said the property lay within the town's limits, and should be served by the town.

County native collects medal earned during WWII

A Perquimans County native earned an Arctic Service Medal for service to his country under adverse conditions in May 1955, almost 54 years after the incident for which he earned the honor.

John A. Elliott, 80, was a survivor of the USS Alexander Hamilton, a Coast Guard Cutter that sank after being torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Iceland on Jan. 29, 1942.

Elliott recently recounted his World War II days in the Advertiser-Herald newspaper in Bamberg, S.C. He said the Hamilton towed the USS Yukon, a Navy supply ship which lost all power between England and Iceland, over 500 miles before a Navy tug came out and took over the Yukon about 8-10 miles off the coast of Reykjavic, Iceland.

With over 1,000 feet of tow line out, the Hamilton was forced to cut its engines to avoid getting line caught in the ship's propellers. The crew of the Hamilton had just gotten in the line and the ship had begun to move forward when the torpedo hit, Elliott said.

The veteran described the scene as sounding like the world was coming to an end. Twenty-six men were killed

immediately and six others died later in a hospital as a result of the attack.

The survivors got into lifeboats. Elliott said he was assigned to a boat with several injured men. While Elliott received shrapnel wounds to his head, he wasn't seriously hurt. Others were scalded.

With no engines on the lifeboats, the men rowed away from the Hamilton. Elliott said the lifeboats floated around in a snow storm and high seas for about eight hours before being rescued by fishing trawlers. The trawler crews took the survivors to a British outpost in Iceland, from where the Army picked them up and took them to get medical attention. Elliott said the men's clothes were frozen and had to be cut off.

Later, Elliott said he learned that the Hamilton capsized while being towed and was sunk with gunfire. Twenty mortally wounded crew members went down with the ship.

Elliott served a total of eight years in the Coast Guard, Navy and Army prior to and during WWII. He saw action in the European-African-Middle East area, the Arctic Circle waters and the Asiatic-Pacific

arena. He participated in landing operations against Japanese-held Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands and Japanese-held Saipan in the Marianas and Aleutians.

Besides the Arctic Service Medal, Elliott earned other medals and ribbons, including: Coast Guard Good Conduct, American Defense Service Ribbon with star, American Area Ribbon, European-African-Middle Eastern Area Ribbon, and Asiatic-Pacific Area Ribbon with two stars.

Elliott was born in Chapanoke on Dec. 3, 1914 to Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Elliott. He and his first wife, who died in 1957, lived in Perquimans County and were the parents of two children, Becky (Rosenheim) and John Elliott Jr., both of Elizabeth City. Elliott and his present wife, Hettie Nixon Elliott, live in Bamberg, S.C., near her sons, Sidney Layden Jr. of Ehrhardt and James E. Layden of Bamberg. Mrs. Elliott is also a Perquimans County native.

Elliott still has siblings close to home, Lessie E. White of Edenton, Sarah E. Hollowell of Edenton and Bill Elliott and L.B. "Ranzy" Elliott of Chapanoke.



Perquimans County native John Elliott, 80, was one of the survivors of the USS Alexander Hamilton attack during World War II. In May, he received a medal for his service.

Outside

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
High: 70s	Low: 50s	High: 60s	Low: 50s	High: 60s	Low: 50s
MOSTLY CLOUDY		MOSTLY CLOUDY		COOLER	