

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

KING STREET HOUSE FIRE



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Hertford firefighters responded to a house fire at 330 King Street Sunday evening. They arrived to find the rear portion of the house totally engulfed, according to fire chief Sid Eley.

The fire blazed again later Sunday and shortly after noon on Monday. The occupants got out unharmed, but Eley said the home's contents were destroyed.

Fire destroys home of Hertford couple

A fire and subsequent flare-up destroyed a local minister's home Sunday.

Bishop R.A. Griswold and his wife escaped injury when their 330 King Street home caught fire around 4:40 p.m.

The Griswolds lived in a two-story wood frame house that had a three-room addition built off the first floor. The fire began in the three-room addition, Fire Chief Sid Eley said.

The couple, who are in their 80's, were in the front section of

the house counting Sunday's church offerings and did not know the fire had started. Neighbors had to go in the house to rescue them, Eley said. The money was saved.

The Hertford Fire Department, along with the Bethel and Winfall departments, responded to the call. The three-room addition was destroyed and there was extensive smoke and water damage throughout the first floor, but the second floor was spared.

Approximately four hours later the fire departments returned to the scene. The fire had rekindled on the second floor, gutting the entire building.

The main group of fire fighters left the scene at 11 p.m., but Hertford fire fighters rotated shifts at the scene throughout the night to watch for flare-ups.

Early Monday afternoon a second flare-up occurred but was quickly contained, Eley said.

Fire fighters have not determined what caused the original blaze.

The Hertford Department also responded to a mobile home fire at Wynn Fork Trailer Park Monday evening around 5 p.m. Eley said one bedroom was totally gutted and the rest of the mobile home sustained heat and smoke damage.

Eley said the fire was started by children playing with a cigarette lighter.

Perquimans SADD gets grant funds for safety projects

Planned activities will target drunk driving, seat belt education

Perquimans was one of 78 high schools across the state to receive a \$500 cash award to conduct activities aimed at encouraging its students to buckle their seat belts and avoid alcohol.

The University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center and the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Programs are sponsoring the funding project.

All award recipients will conduct programs that will periodically monitor seat belt use by student motorists and will promote

belt use with events and activities. Program events will also sent the message that alcohol is not needed to have a good time. Schools will use the cash awards to purchase small prizes and supplies.

Perquimans' program to run from January until the end of school. The Students Against Drunk Driving Club, with the help of the Health Occupations Students of America, will coordinate the program. The goal of the program is to increase seat belt usage while promoting the message that alcohol and drugs kill.

A special kick-off activity has been planned for Jan. 24. The event will include assemblies at Perquimans High and Perquimans Middle schools during the day, and a community assembly at Perquimans High School at 7 p.m. Lin Dawson, former New England Patriots football player, will be the speaker for these assemblies.

Other scheduled activities include seat belt surveys, the Prom Promise Campaign, and Lights for Life.

Studies conducted by the UNC Highway Safety Research Center show that teenage motorists stand the greatest risk of being involved in automobile crashes. Teenage drivers also suffer more serious and fatal crash injuries than any other motorist age group. In fact, nearly one-half of all the youth, ages 16-19, who die each year in the United States are killed in automobile crash-

es. To compound the problem, younger drivers tend to use their seat belts less than older drivers.

The Governor's Highway Safety Program and the UNC Center are providing the funds as part of a research project.

Researchers are trying to determine if high school-based, student-coordinated promotional programs can affect the seat belt-wearing and alcohol-consuming habits of teenagers, and reduce crash-related deaths and injuries.

The local SADD Club has not waited for its funds to sponsor public awareness campaigns. In addition to activities conducted during

Red Ribbon Week and homecoming, SADD has a number of December activities underway designed to promote student involvement and raise awareness.

A Christmas tree in the school library is being decorated with ornaments made by SADD members. Students sign the ornaments to show that they promise not to drive drunk over the Christmas holidays.

A "Graveyard of the Greats" has been erected between the school and the student parking lot. Crosses bearing the names of famous people who have died from drug or alcohol use create the graveyard.

The club asks that the entire county become involved in its Lights for Life Campaign on Dec. 15. Drivers are asked to drive with their lights on all day during this one-day, nationwide observance in remembrance of persons killed or injured in alcohol-related crashes. This event also serves as a reminder that law enforcement throughout the nation will especially target impaired drivers during the holiday season.

Lights for Life is sponsored by the National 3D Prevention Month Coalition.

SADD has just ended its coat collection drive. One hundred twenty-five coats of all shapes and sizes were donated. Hands were attached to the coats reminding people that when they put their coats on, they should also remember to buckle up. The coats will be distributed through Catholic Social Ministries.

Lights for Life
Friday, Dec. 15
Drive with your headlights on all day in remembrance of those killed and injured in alcohol-related crashes

20/20, county seek to hatch new business

Perquimans 20/20 Vision Coalition and Perquimans County hope to establish an incubator to hatch new businesses in Perquimans and the surrounding counties.

The 20/20 Vision incubator would provide facility and business services assistance to new and emerging technological companies willing to share temporary office space. Answering, secretarial, consultation, legal and tax services; copy and FAX machines; and work processing/computer use would be shared by the businesses in the incubator.

The objective of this community-based project is to help area business owners get the information and knowledge they need to develop their businesses.

Because technology companies comprise the major engine of new job creation and have the greatest economic impact on communities, these types of companies are being targeted for assistance.

Model incubators operating in 16 locations around the state have proven extremely successful.

For information, contact 20/20 coordinator Leo Higgins, 426-2020, or county economic development director Robert Baker, 426-2027.

NEW VEHICLE IN SERVICE



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans County (Volunteer) Rescue Squad recently purchased and had repainted this former N.C. Highway Patrol car. According to rescue squad spokespersons Larry Chappell and Darlean Perkins, the vehicle has already been used by the squad to transport additional personnel needed on a call. The county commissioners agreed to house and maintain the vehicle.

Inside

Holocaust study stimulates student creativity

Page 7

Coming up

Get next week's issue of The Perquimans Weekly.
It's our annual Christmas edition, including holiday greetings and letters to Santa.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 50s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 60s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 60s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY