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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

SURPRISE!/DEPUTY ROBINSON RETIRES



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Friends and co-workers threw a surprise retirement party for Perquimans Sheriff's Deputy Ralph Robinson Friday. Robinson retired on Dec. 31. He joined the department in

1986. Robinson will continue to serve as the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer and may assist with court, according to Sheriff David Lane.

Florida woman dies in wreck

■ Edenton woman charged with death by motor vehicle, failure to yield

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

A pre-Christmas accident on the outskirts of Hertford left a Florida woman dead.

Arline A. Milligan, 57, of Pompano Beach, Fla., died after sustaining injuries in the accident on Dec. 11, according to Hertford Police Chief Bennie Murphy. Murphy said Milligan was alert at the scene and was transported to Chowan Hospital. She died before a planned transfer to a larger facility.

Alma Armstead Saunders, 30, of Edenton, was charged with misdemeanor death by motor vehicle and failure to yield right of right. Bond was set at \$5,000 unsecured.

According to the accident report filed by Hertford Police Officer Fred Whitaker, Milligan was a passenger in a 1990 Ford operated by James M. Milligan, 58, also of Pompano Beach. The Milligan vehicle was traveling north on U.S. Highway 17 Bypass near

Wynn Fork Road around 6 p.m. on Dec. 11. Saunders, driving a 1988 Honda, told Whitaker she stopped at the stop sign at the intersection of U.S. 17 and Wynn Fork Road, then crossed the southbound lane of U.S. 17. She did not stop in the center of the northbound and southbound lanes before crossing the northbound lane. She told the officer she did not see the Milligan vehicle, the report states.

Saunders apparently hit the Milligan vehicle in the right-hand lane, forcing the Milligan vehicle across the ditch at Dogwood Mobile Home Park. The Saunders vehicle came to rest in the northbound lane of U.S. 17.

The report states that the Milligan vehicle was traveling around 55 mph at impact. Saunders was traveling at approximately 10 mph.

Damages to the Ford were estimated at \$1,500. The Saunders vehicle, owned by Jerald Lee Saunders of Edenton, sustained approximately \$2,000 in damages.

All passengers in the vehicles, including Shaquoya Saunders, 6, who was riding in the Saunders vehicle, were transported to Chowan Hospital by Perquimans County EMS.

County eligible for economic programs

Perquimans continues to be among the 50 North Carolina counties eligible to participate in two state programs designed to create jobs in economically distressed areas.

The county may participate in the Jobs Creation Tax Credit and Industrial Development Fund programs.

While Perquimans remained on the list, neighboring Pasquotank was declared ineligible for program participation. Camden and Chowan counties also remained eligible.

"These programs are intended to help these distressed counties attract new industry and improve their economies," said State Commerce Secretary Dave Phillips. "When we are able to improve these areas that need a little extra boost, we create jobs and investment that improve all of North Carolina."

The commerce department uses per capita income, the rate of unemployment and percentage population growth as the criteria to determine the state's 50 most distressed counties each year.

Gates was among four coun-

ties added to the 1996 list because of its slow population growth.

Pasquotank County was removed from the list because it saw slight improvement in per capita income and tanked just above the 50 distressed counties in all three categories. Also removed from the list were Cleveland, Duplin, Greene and Sampson counties. Craven, Onslow and Stanly counties were added, along with Gates.

The Industrial Development Fund provides both new and existing manufactureres and food processors in economically distressed counties with \$2,400 for each new job, up to \$250,000. Funds must be used to renovate existing buildings, purchase production equipment or to provide infrastructure to new or old sites.

The Jobs Creation Tax Credit program provides a tax credit of \$2,800 to new or expanding businesses for each new job created. The credit, taken over four years, beings with the tenth job created and can offset up to 50 percent of a firm's annual North Carolina income tax after other tax credits are taken.

PREMIERE CONCERT

The Perquimans Middle School seventh grade band made its debut at the school's annual Christmas program presented by the Fine Arts Department. The band performed for the evening program attended by parents and guests, then again during the performance for the students the next morning.



Telemedicine comes to Chowan Hospital

This is a typical scenario from a rural community in Eastern North Carolina:

An elderly person, who is in need of specialized medical care, is referred by their primary physician to see a neurologist in another community. This person, who has no transportation, is having difficulty keeping the appointment with the neurologist.

This person can now see a specialist at Chowan Hospital through a new program called Rural Eastern Carolina Health Network (REACH-TV).

The telemedicine program from the East Carolina School of Medicine, Pitt County Memorial Hospital, Eastern AHEC and the Center of Health Sciences delivers remote medical subspecialist consultations through a statewide video network with three channels of audio, video and data which links 30 sites and 11 institutions. Chowan Hospital is one of the latest

medical facilities to join the telemedicine network. The telemedicine suite at Chowan Hospital is located on the second floor.

When patients are referred by their primary care physician, they are seen by the consulting physician on a 30 inch on-site telemedicine TV monitor. The consultant not only sees but talks with the patient and performs an appropriate physical exam with the aid of a health care provider who is on-site with the patient.

The on-site provider is either the patient's primary physician, a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or specially trained nurse who works with the primary physician to convey the needed information to the consulting physician.

Electronic stethoscope, dermatology camera, otoscope/ophthalmoscope, ultrasound, and x-ray transmission are available to aid in the examination.

The program not only serves patients, it's also set up to support medical and nursing staffs with educational opportunities. Currently there are 30 hours of weekly programming for such purposes.

The telemedicine program began in 1991 when Central Prison in Raleigh approached the ECU School of Medicine to

explore the possibility of beginning specialty consultation services at the correctional facility. The purpose was to relieve prisoners having to be transported to Raleigh area hospitals for specialty health-care services.

For information about Chowan Hospital's Telemedicine program, call 482-6339 or 482-6229.

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 40s Low: 30s WINDY, COLD	High: 30s Low: 20s WINDY, COLD	High: 30s Low: 10s MOSTLY CLOUDY