

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

PAL ART SHOW AND SALE OPENS FRIDAY



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans Arts League will open its premiere art show and sale at the Perquimans County Library Friday with a reception from 6-8 p.m. Included among the artists participating in the show will be Linda Morris (above), a

Perquimans County painter with a love for bold colors. Morris is a professional artist who works in acrylics in her 1830s outbuilding turned studio in Bear Swamp. The show will run through April 15.

Fire destroys Hertford home

Kerosene heater in bathroom likely culprit

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

A mother and seven children were left homeless after fire destroyed their home on West King Street Monday evening.

Firefighters responded to the call around 6:08 p.m., according to Hertford Fire Chief Sid Eley. Eley said the department was on the scene very quickly, but arrived to find the two-story frame dwelling fully engulfed in flames.

Firefighters had the blaze under control in 5-10 minutes of their arrival, but Eley said it was too late to save the house and its contents. The entire downstairs and most of the upstairs of the dwelling were gutted, he said.

Jacqueline Thatch and her children were the home's occupants. Eley said Thatch told him that one of her children told her there was smoke seeping from under the closed

bathroom door. Thatch opened the door to find flames which quickly spread.

Eley said there was a kerosene heater in the bathroom. His initial investigation at the scene leads him to believe that articles of clothing probably got too near the heater, erupting into flames. The chief said there were three kerosene heaters in the house and two 5-gallon cans of kerosene, all of which probably aided in the spread of the fire.

No one was injured in the blaze.

Thatch and her children are temporarily staying with Thatch's sister, Maude Kee, at 330 Dobbs Street.

The family lost all of their clothes, even leaving one child without a coat. Sizes needed include girls 14, boys 5-6 and 10-12 slim, women's 18, misses 16 and men's 34 pants or extra large. Shoe sizes include girls 3, boys 1 and 4, and women's 7 1/2 and 8 1/2. The children are ages 7, 11 and 15 (boys) and 8, 9, 12 and 13 (girls).

Anyone wishing to contribute clothing or household items may take them to Kee's home.

Council seconds zoning board decision

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

With very little fanfare, the Hertford Town Council approved the recommendation of the town's zoning and planning board on allowing group homes in the municipality.

The zoning board recommended that group homes not be allowed in C-2 and O/I zones. The board also recommended a definition of group homes to be added to the town's zoning ordinance. Council approved both recommendations.

The town now defines a group home as a traditional housing facility for 30 or fewer residents, licensed by the state or a nonprofit corporation chartered by the state pursuant to state statute. The facility provides room and board, personal care and rehabilitative services while people receive therapy or counseling. Group homes may have accessory uses conducted on premises, including, but not limited to, education, occupational training and production of good and crafts. Group care facilities provide, to name a few, care and services for individuals suffering from physical and mental impairments, autism, and nonviolent mental illnesses as well as drug and alcohol abuse.

Any entity wishing to operate a group home in Hertford must meet the guidelines in the definition and must request that a facility be allowed in a specific zone. The town would then turn the matter over to the zoning board for review.

HISTORY MAKERS

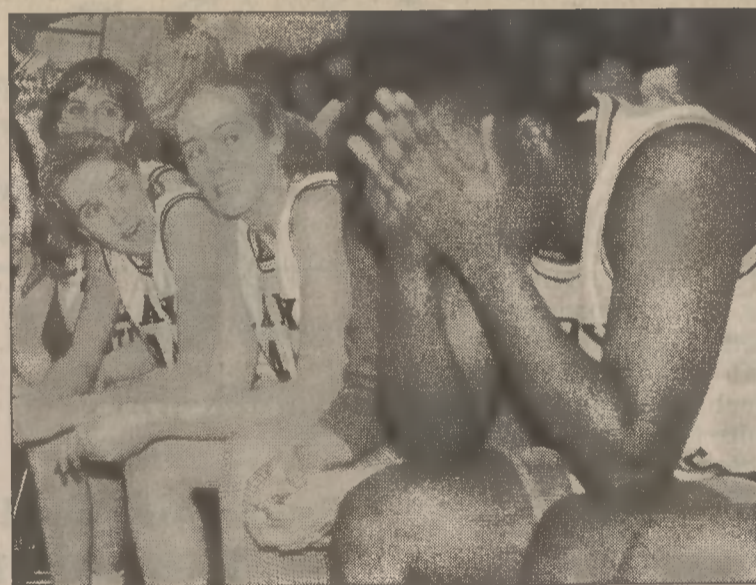


PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Veteran Lady Pirates basketball team members (left to right) Alison Boone, Stacy Caswell, Kristie Roberson and Danita Whidbee are a picture of mixed emotions just after Perquimans defeated Gates County Saturday to become the first-ever Perquimans team to earn a sectional championship. Please see page 7 for complete details.

Family celebrates Christmas

For Navy family, holidays mean being together - whenever that is

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

There's no place like home for the holidays, even if the holidays come several months late.

Sherry Kime of Belvidere and her four children, Bryce, Brandt, Blayne, and Shiloh, celebrated Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's without husband and father, Brad. But when Brad returned home from a 6-month Navy cruise on Feb. 24, he arrived to find the Christmas tree still up and a second holiday celebration planned for him.

"It was great," Brad said of his homecoming. "I was really surprised."

Even the Kimes' friends got into the spirit. Renee Toon and Janice Layden put up signs from Morgan's Corner to Belvidere bearing welcome home messages complete with balloons.

"It was so neat. It just made me feel so good," Brad said.

The Intelligence Specialist Chief Petty Officer has been in the U.S. Navy about 15 years. He is now stationed aboard the USS America (CV 66) homeported in Norfolk, Va. This was his second Christmas spent away from his family.

Unlike many other Navy families, however, the Kimes serve double duty. Sherry is also a 17-year Navy veteran with the rank of Yeoman 1st Class Petty Officer.

The Navy has been kind to the Kimes for the most part. While both have been deployed for what they figure is about 75 percent of their marriage, one is assigned to shore duty while the other cruises. Their children have had at least one parent at home with them every night since 1981.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Kime family of Belvidere celebrated Christmas in February when husband and father, Brad, returned from a six-month deployment in the U.S. Navy. The family (left to right, back) Bryce, Brandt, (seated) Blayne, Sherry, Brad and Shiloh, said it's tough being apart, especially during the holidays, but living in friendly Perquimans County helps overcome the stresses of a two Navy member family.

"The Navy has been very supportive," Brad said. "They try to keep families together."

The prospect of not being together, as a matter of fact, caused Brad to return to civilian life in 1984 for 18 months. He was scheduled to go to Hawaii. Sherry was assigned to Nebraska. Getting out of the Navy was a choice Brad made for his family.

"Family is so important to Sherry and I. It's everything to us," he said.

Looking for a good place to raise a family is what brought the couple to Perquimans County. They spent a lot of time looking for a community that appealed to them. When they found Perquimans, they found home.

"People are really down to earth here. They're genuine. What you see is what you get," Brad said.

The Kimes said they've found good friends, wonderful neighbors and a community where everyone pulls together for the common good.

"We've been here for three years and in that time I haven't had one bad experience. The people here are wonderful. They are so warm and so welcoming," Brad said.

"If you're from here, you might not appreciate it, but I've been around the globe and the people here are the best anywhere. We just fell in love with the area...the people really. That's what makes Perquimans County is the quality of the people. They just embraced us and made us feel welcome."

Although being single parents 75 percent of the time is tough, Brad said he and Sherry are best friends who believe in sharing parenting and family responsibilities.

So with jobs from which they can retire in a few years, a close-knit family, and a community they've come to love, the Kimes will stay in the Navy for now, even though it means being separated often.

And the homecoming celebrations will continue.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 60s Low: 30s FAIR	High: 60s Low: 40s MOSTLY CLOUDY	High: 60s Low: 40s MOSTLY CLOUDY