

The Perquimans Weekly

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The only newspaper for and about Perquimans County people

Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Hertford man dies during fire

Cause of death still under investigation

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

A Hertford man died Sunday afternoon after fighting an apparent grass fire near his home on Harvey Point Road, but the cause of death remains uncertain.

Jack William Harrell, 57, was found in his truck at the scene by fire and rescue personnel who answered a grass fire call.

Perquimans County Sheriff David Lane said his department was called in after Harrell's body was found in the truck. Lane said the truck had apparently hit a ditch, a pole and some trees before coming to rest. He said it is not clear whether Harrell died of natural causes prior to the crash, or from injuries sustained in the crash. The body was sent to Greenville for an autopsy. Results were expected on Tuesday.

Two vie for register of deeds

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

The Perquimans County register of deeds campaign is pitting a political upstart against an incumbent with 19 years of experience.

Deborah S. Reed, a former assistant register of deeds, was appointed register of deeds in 1994 when Jeanne C. White retired after 17 years in the office.

However, Reed has never run for elected office, and political newcomer Gregory C. Barclift says that gives him a good chance of being elected to her job.

Barclift said the register of deeds office seems to be a good place to start a political career as well as being a good job with good benefits.

"I also think the voters should have a choice. If we're going to have an election, the voters of Perquimans County should have two candidates to choose from."

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PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

Amy Whitehurst and Mary Woodell were victims in the mock drunk driving crash coordinated by the Perquimans County High School SADD Club with cooperation from the administration, Hertford Fire Department, Hertford Police Department, Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, N.C.

Highway Patrol, Perquimans County Rescue Squad and Nightingale Air Ambulance Service. As the PCHS student body watched, the victims were cut from the car with the jaws of life, triaged by the rescue squad, then flown away in the helicopter. A mock trial followed in the auditorium.

SADD message: Have a safe and happy prom night

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

If anyone drinks and drives on prom night, it won't be because the Perquimans County High School SADD Club has not tried hard to get the message across that drunk and drugged driving kills.

The group has been tireless in its efforts to promote safe and alcohol-free driving, especially with the Prom Promise campaign aimed at preventing tragedies during prom weekend.

Last week, all high school students were called from class to witness the results of a mock drunk driving accident. Students watched as student Amy Whitehurst and teacher Mary Woodell were cut from their "crashed" car with the jaws of life. A highway patrol trooper dealt with the "drunk driver," Jim Beam, portrayed by Phil McMullen. Rescue, fire and law enforcement personnel performed just as they would in an emergency situation. Nightingale actually lifted off

with the "patients."

The impressive portrayal was followed with a mock trial in the school auditorium. SADD members sat on the jury while District Court Judge Chris Bean presided over the session of Superior Court. Assistant District Attorney Michael Johnson prosecuted the case. Hertford attorney John Matthews represented the accused. Perquimans County deputy Jon Schultz was the bailiff.

Students listened as N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper C.T. Griffin told about investigating the accident and his findings at the scene.

After closing arguments, Bean instructed the jury on their duties. Jim Beam was found guilty of habitual drunk driving and was sentenced by Bean to 24 months with credit for time served.

Griffin then told the student body he hoped it wouldn't be them he found in a crashed car, especially on prom night. He warned that eight highway patrol troopers will be on duty on May 4,



Guest speaker Ann Smith prepares to tell her story of being permanently disabled in the drunk driving collision during the candlelight vigil Monday night downtown. Perquimans County native Brad Hurdle also spoke on the tragedy of losing his wife of six months, Kim.

the night of "Moonlight Serenade," the theme for the PCHS prom.

Sheriff David Lane said Monday that he will have four officers on duty. The Hertford Police Department will also be on patrol.

On Monday evening, SADD sponsored a community-wide candlelight vigil downtown. Drunk driving victims Ann Smith and Brad Hurdle told of the tragedies drunk drivers had caused in their lives after a concert by

the PCHS band.

Smith is permanently disabled as the result of a drunk driving crash. Hurdle said he watched as his wife of six months died after their car was smashed by a drunk driver in Greenville. His brother, Travis, was also a passenger in the car and was seriously injured in the crash.

SADD advisor Andrea Boone said her hope is that the message not to drink and drive can save lives on prom and graduation weekends.

Four up for three county board seats

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

Two incumbent commissioners will face a former commissioner and a current school board member for three seats on the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners in the May 7 Democratic primary.

Incumbents Archie Miller and Shirley Yates are vying with former commissioner Leo A. Higgins and L. Wayne Howell for three Democratic spots on the November general ballot.

Under Perquimans County's single-shot voting method, the top three vote getters in the Democratic primary will be on the November ballot, where they may have to face independent candidate Bert Hayes.

Please see Board, page 9

Five run for school board seats

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

Five people, only one of whom is an incumbent, are running for three open seats on the Perquimans County Board of Education.

Elections for the seats will be held May 7 and the winners seated during the board's first meeting in July.

Hertford pharmacist Wallace Nelson, who's seeking reelection, is the only incumbent in the field. He is joined by Employment Security Commissioner Kathy Keefe, Perquimans County Farm Service Manager Thomas L. Riddick Sr., Apricot supervisor Cathy Terranova and retiree Helen Shaw.

Whoever is elected in May will have to deal with several hot-button issues over the next four years. Besides incorporating school reform efforts like charter school grants and accountability standards, the board of education will have to come up with a plan to replace Perquimans Central School. And like all area schools, the Perquimans County Board of Education must continue to update and improve its educational technology. To find out

Please see School, page 10

Perquimans youth win at stock show

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

It was a very good year in the barnyard for Perquimans County youth participating in the 51st annual Albemarle 4-H Livestock Show and Sale last week.

Tara Thach was especially impressive in the showmanship category. Thach took first place junior showman in both swine and steer competitions. In addition, Thach's steer

earned reserve champion honors. It was purchased by Hobbs Implement Company for \$1,000.

"Tara had a great year," said Cooperative Extension Agent, Livestock Jeff Copeland. "To take first place showman with two animals is quite a feat. That just doesn't happen very often. That says a lot for her ability as a showman."

Another top finisher from Perquimans was Earlie Byrum

Jr. Byrum showed the grand champion pig and also earned third place junior showman with his steer. R.O. Givens bought Byrum's pig for \$3,000.

The reserve champion pig was also from the county, entered by Adam Stallings. It was purchased by Harrell's Funeral Home for \$1,000.

Patrick Gregory took second place in senior showmanship of pigs.

Copeland said he was pleased with the overall per-

formance of the 55 county youth who showed 27 lambs, 35 pigs and nine steers.

"I think we did very well," Copeland said. "We were at the top or near the top in many categories. I'm pleased with the outcome (of the show)."

A comprehensive list of show winners and awards will be sent to The Perquimans Weekly for publication soon, Copeland said.

An awards banquet will be held on May 10 at ECSU.

Outside

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
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| | | |
| High: 70s Low: 40s PARTLY CLOUDY | High: 70s Low: 40s PARTLY CLOUDY | High: 70S Low: 50s PARTLY CLOUDY |