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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Hertford man killed in boating accident

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

A Perquimans County man was killed in a boating accident Sunday morning, apparently after his boat hit an unidentified obstruction below the surface of the water.

Thurman C. Whedbee, 57, of Route 6, Hertford, was boating alone on Sutton's Creek in the

New Hope community when his boat's motor apparently hit some underwater debris, throwing him from the vessel, Perquimans County Sheriff David Lane said. The accident happened around 10 a.m.

A nearby resident, Tom Graham, heard Whedbee calling for help and had family members call emergency services, Lane said. Graham and

others got into a paddle boat and searched for Whedbee. When they found him, he was floating unconscious, Lane said.

The Grahams put a life preserver on Whedbee, pulled him to the shore and administered CPR. The Perquimans County Rescue Squad responded along with officials with officials with the sheriff's department,

N.C. Wildlife Commission and the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Elizabeth City.

Lane said Whedbee was unresponsive to rescue squad efforts and was transported to Albemarle Hospital where he was declared dead.

Lane said it was reported Whedbee could not swim and he apparently was not wearing a life jacket.

Lane said officials at the scene could not identify what Whedbee's boat struck. Officials would not speculate on whether Whedbee's boat might have hit debris created by Hurricane Bertha. The storm damaged or destroyed many area piers and private docks when it struck the area July 14-15. Area boaters have reported seeing pilings, trees

and decking materials floating in waterways.

Whedbee was a native of Perquimans County. He was married to the former Kay Matthews. He was a sales representative with Furst/McNess Feed and employed part time with Albemarle Builders Supply. (See complete obituary information on page 3.)

Renovations at high school move as scheduled

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Four new rooms will be added at Perquimans County High School when renovations underway at the site are complete.

Schools superintendent Randall L. Henion said Monday that the new teaching areas are being created in the upstairs section of the 1924 building. Henion said the renovation will add two large classrooms on the Edenton Road Street side of the building, a smaller classroom and a teacher resource room. Two restrooms are also being installed.

"We desperately need the space," Henion said. He added that the decision to utilize the upstairs of the 1924 building was made because the renovation is cheaper than new construction, and because the 1924 building is important to the history and tradition of Perquimans County.

The renovations carry a \$240,000 price tag, Henion said. The superintendent said new construction would have run up to \$100 per square foot. The renovations are being completed for approximately \$50 per square foot.

Henion said the project is running on schedule. It is supposed to be complete when students return to school.

The new classrooms are needed, Henion said, because of increasing enrollment. The additional teaching areas should meet immediate space needs.

"Looking at the numbers, we should be in pretty good shape there (at the high school)," Henion said. Henion said there will be renovation needs in the future such as a track field, the front entrance area and parking areas.

Access to the new classrooms will be by stairs located at both ends of the building.

High school principal Elaine Pritchard said that last year, some classrooms were used by more than one teacher. The classrooms

assigned to some teachers were used by roving teachers during the planning periods of the teachers assigned to the classrooms. The roving teachers were assigned office space. Pritchard said she feels that being able to assign each teacher a specific classroom will be beneficial to teachers and to students.

Pritchard said at this point, she plans to use the new classrooms for science, history and English. The teacher resource room may also house a classroom if there is a need. Because there is no elevator, Pritchard and Henion both said that all subjects taught in the upstairs classrooms will also be taught by a teacher assigned to a downstairs classroom. That will allow the school to offer all subjects to students with physical disabilities, while avoiding the high cost of installing an elevator.

After contractors leave the site, Henion said the schools maintenance crews will perform minor cosmetic finishes, such as painting and overseeing carpet installation.

The high school is not the only school in need of additional classroom space. The school board approved leasing two mobile units for the 1996-97 school year to serve Central School.

Henion said a higher student population at that facility coupled with current overcrowding made adding classrooms imperative at Central.

The board opted to lease the units rather than buy or build because officials hope to build a new facility to replace Central School in the foreseeable future, Henion said.

Henion said the state schools capital funds bond referendum which will be put to voters in November will be very important to Perquimans County. If passed, Henion said it will help smaller counties like Perquimans with facilities needs. The greatest overall need at present is replacing Central School, according to the school system's long-range capital needs plan.

CELEBRITIES COME TO PLANTATION



PHOTO BY BRIAN VANDERLIET, THE DAILY ADVANCE

Celebrities flocked to Albemarle Plantation Sunday for the Clifton Davis Celebrity Golf Classic held at Sound Golf Links. Funds from the tournament went to raise money for Elizabeth City State University Foundation for Scholarships and the Boys and Girls Club of Elizabeth City. University officials were pleased with the tournament, which teamed

celebrities with local golfers who support Elizabeth City State University. Participants and university officials tagged the effort a huge success. Among the celebrities who turned out for the fund raiser was Samuel Jackson (above), co-star of "Pulp Fiction" and other films. Like most of the rich and famous who attended, Jackson signed autographs.

8 teacher slots remain vacant

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The days of summer vacation are dwindling to a close for students and teachers. Teachers return to work on Aug. 14, with students following on Aug. 22.

Perquimans County Schools Personnel Director Paul Ward said Monday that he has filled seven of 15 teacher positions open at this time. With the interviews he had scheduled for this week, Ward said he anticipated having two or three more recommendations for employment to make.

"It's going slowly, but surely," Ward said of the interview and recommendation process.

The personnel director said one thing that hampers efforts

to reach potential employees is that many are working or continuing their education during the summer. That makes them difficult to reach during business hours. So Ward returns to work in the evening in order to attempt to reach them.

Another factor that can hold up the hiring process is the reference check.

"We're pleased with the ones (teachers) we've been able to interview and recommend for positions," Ward said.

While eight teaching slots remain open, Ward said there are no openings for administrative positions at the school level or teacher assistants.

Personnel items approved by the school board in July

included:

- Appointments: Doris Alligood, math/science teacher, middle school; Michael Lee Bonner, custodian, high school; Melvin Thomas Cook, science teacher, high school; Tina Louise Frazier, sixth grade language arts/social studies teacher, middle school; Martha Giraldo, Spanish teacher, Central School; Steven Jay Hunnicut, custodian, Hertford Grammar; Emily Jane Bass Parrish, math teacher, high school; and Wendy Curtessa Stover, English teacher, high school.

- Reassignments: Andrea Boone, from English teacher at high school to enrichment facilitator, middle school;

Bertha Moore, from vocational business teacher at high and middle schools to vocational business teacher, high school; and Donna Winslow, from kindergarten teacher at Hertford Grammar to third grade teacher, Central School.

- Transfer: Jerry L. Lightfoot, custodian Hertford Grammar to custodian, high school.

- Resignations: Karen L. Castranio, music teacher, Hertford Grammar; and Rhonda S. Tynch, eighth grade math/science teacher.

- Career contracts approved: Andrea Boone, Rhonda Tynch, Janet Cartwright, Andy Hunt, Nancy Morgan, Melissa Fields, and Brenda Matthews.

Juvenile crime rate on rise in Hertford

Curfew enacted to try to stop rise in crime rate

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

There is good news and bad news in crime statistics from 1994 and 1995, according to Hertford Police Chief Bennie Murphy.

The good news is adult arrests remained stable overall, with 157 arrests made in both years.

The bad news, however, is that juvenile arrests almost quadrupled during the same two-year period. There were 10 juvenile arrests in 1994 and 36 in 1995.

Murphy said the increase in juvenile crime is a national problem. Like many municipalities across the country,

Hertford passed a juvenile curfew to try to help stem juvenile crime. Still, Murphy said, juveniles roam the streets after hours.

"A lot of parents are not aware of it (the curfew) or they just don't seem to care," Murphy said.

It is unlawful for a juvenile to be on the streets unaccompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible adult between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

the next morning Sunday-Thursday. On Friday and Saturday nights, juveniles must be off the streets by midnight. If a juvenile is accompanied by an adult other than a parent or legal guardian, the juvenile must have written permission to be on the street. The curfew ordinance applies to juveniles who are walking or riding in vehicles in any public place.

Please see crime, page 3

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 90s Low: 70s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 90s Low: 70s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 90s Low: 70s PARTLY CLOUDY