

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Inside

Fire fatality reported in Hertford

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

An elderly Hertford woman was found dead in her home by Hertford firefighters who answered a 911 call last Wednesday.

Vivian Reed Bush, 86, of 213 King Street apparently died as the result of an accident in her kitchen sometime after midnight, according to Hertford Fire Chief Sid Eley. Bush, known in the community as "Sis Reed," was found by firefighters on her kitchen floor, where she had sustained severe burns.

Eley said Bush, who used a walker, apparently had a pot on the kitchen stove. It appeared she had attempted to pick up the pot using a rag as a pot holder, then lost her balance and fell over backwards, spilling the contents of the pot on herself. Either the rag or an item of her clothing evidently contacted the burner during

the incident and caught fire, Eley said.

Hertford Police Sgt. Dale Vanscoy, also a Hertford firefighter, was first to respond to the 1:38 a.m. fire call reported to dispatch by a neighbor. Vanscoy's incident report filed with the police department stated that Vanscoy was told that an elderly female lived alone in the house, Hertford Police Chief Bennie Murphy said. After Vanscoy forcibly entered the house, he reported crawling to try to find a bedroom. He found a bedroom, but no one was in the room. Vanscoy continued to the rear of the house, making his way through heavy smoke to the kitchen. It appeared that a pile of rags or clothing was on fire on the kitchen floor, Vanscoy reported. He was unable to reach the fire due to heavy smoke and his lack of firefighting equipment.

When firefighters arrived, they put out the blaze and dis-

covered Bush's body. The floor around her was burned badly, however Eley said the house sustained little damage.

"Dale Vanscoy should be praised for what he did," Eley said. "He arrived on the scene as a police officer and went in and searched as far as he could (without firefighting equipment). He did a real good job."

As with all fire fatalities, an autopsy will be performed. Also on the scene were the Perquimans County Rescue Squad, Hertford Police officer W.F. Chory and Sheriff's deputy Billy Spruill.

Hertford firefighters also responded to a blaze in a garage on Hyde Street early Monday afternoon.

A plug to an electric heater had apparently shorted out in the garage, resulting in a small fire, Eley said. One of the homeowners, Mary Bullock, told firefighters she heard a noise and went to investigate. She found the fire and

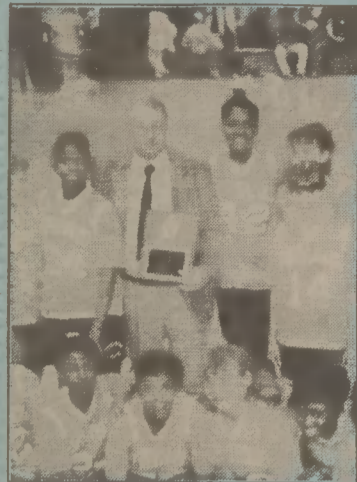


Only the fire scene tape around this house at 213 King Street tells of the tragedy that happened inside last week when Vivian Reed Bush, 86, apparently died in a fire-related accident in her kitchen in the early morning hours.

quenched the flames with a fire extinguisher. The noise was apparently a spray paint can exploding from the heat, Eley said.

The chief said fire person-

nel pulled one line and sprayed water to make sure the fire was out, then cleared the smoke from the room. Only minor damage to the garage resulted from the fire.



Lady Tigers celebrate undefeated season

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In the animal world, truth is stranger than fiction

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New faces fill new positions at PCMS

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Featured church: Cedar Grove Methodist

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Perquimans County an All of Us Care Community

February's theme:

Know That You Count

focusing on
Tolerance
Cooperation
Responsibility
Teamwork
Win/Win

Incorporate these Healthy HABITS into your daily life and help make our community a better place to live!

For All of Us Care information, contact Dr. Randall L. Henion, Perquimans County Schools 426-5741



Perquimans County Athletic Booster president Edgar Roberson (left) and high school athletic director Harrell Thach (right) recognize Curtis Lightfoot for his 30-plus years of service and support of the P.C.H.S. basketball teams and athletic programs during the final regular season home game against Williamston Friday night.

Lightfoot recognized for support of P.C.H.S. athletics

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

Coaches come and go and athletes graduate. But the one constant at Perquimans County High School basketball games over the past 30 years has been Curtis Lightfoot. For his continuous support, Lightfoot was recognized by the school's athletic department and the Perquimans County Athletic Boosters Friday night.

Formerly with the maintenance department at the school, Lightfoot could always be seen after games, sweeping the floor and consoling team

members who took a tough loss or had a bad game. The team members could always count on Lightfoot's presence. As a matter of fact, he was on the premises long after everyone else had cleared out.

It was Lightfoot to whom those operating concessions turned when ice was running low or an extension cord was missing. He always took the time to help out where he could.

Even in his retirement, Lightfoot still shows up faithfully for home games, quietly encouraging the Pirates from his seat on the bleachers next

to the coaches' offices. Athletic Director Harrell Thach and the school administration want to make sure Lightfoot can keep that seat as long as he likes. In addition to a plaque recognizing his contributions to athletics, Lightfoot received a lifetime pass to the games.

Booster co-president Edgar Roberson presented an athletic afghan to Lightfoot in recognition of his support of Booster projects, mainly the concessions operations. During his tenure with the maintenance department, Lightfoot was always helpful to Booster efforts to support youth.

Winfall sewer project moves 'slow but sure'

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

"Moving forward slow, but sure" is how Winfall Mayor Fred Yates describes progress on the town's sewer system.

Yates said the survey has been completed and engineers are ready to draw the final project draft. Tests are underway on the plant site, and all funds are available.

The mayor anticipates groundbreaking in early summer, with the system operational by late 1997 or early 1998.

Yates' primary goal as Winfall's mayor has been the construction of a sewer system. It is a project begun by his wife, county commissioner Shirley Yates, when she served on the Winfall Town Council. Fred Yates was appointed to council to fill Shirley Yates' unexpired term after her election to the county's governing board in November 1991. He has since been elected mayor twice. Each time his campaign focus was a sewer system to serve the town.

Years of Yates' searching for every possible avenue to pay for a sewer system yielded huge financial rewards. At a March 1996 public hearing, Yates told the 40 Winfall resi-

dents in attendance that he had secured \$3.7 million of the \$4.2 million projected sewer costs in grants. The funds are from the Department of Commerce, The Rural Economic and Community Development program (formerly FmHA) and the Rural Economic Development Center.

The balance of the needed funds, \$500,000, was raised through the sale of municipal bonds. The bond sale was approved by Winfall residents in a May 1996 referendum.

Hook-up to the sewer system will be mandatory. For low- and moderate-income residents, financial assistance for the estimated \$75-\$125 hook-up fee may be available through two of the agencies from which the town received grant funds. The anticipated minimum monthly fee will be \$19.25.

Both Fred and Shirley Yates contend that the sewer system is essential for the health of Winfall residents — some of whom still use outhouses for economic reasons and because their properties will not pass state regulations for private septic systems — and for economic reasons. Fred Yates said a public sewer system will help Winfall expand housing and business opportunities.

Survey complete and engineers are ready to draft final plans.

Waterfront park in works in Winfall

Winfall will feature a waterfront park by this summer, thanks to a public access matching grant the town received last month.

The \$33,375 grant will fund a park near the former Major and Loomis Mill along the Perquimans River and two canals. Bulkheading, a 200-foot boardwalk, security lights, a gravel road and a parking lot will be funded by the grant.

The town provided \$4,000 in in-kind services as its match. The Gates County

Correctional Facility provided inmate labor to clear underbrush on the property and along the canal banks at the site. The debris will be burned when weather permits, Winfall Mayor Fred Yates said. Then the site will be leveled, grass planted and a road cut to the park.

The town is applying for a permit to allow the construction of the boardwalk.

If all goes well, Yates said he hopes to see the park open to the public by early summer.

Winfall Town Council voted last week to apply for a second grant to extend the boardwalk, widen one of the canals, and add picnic tables, benches and playground equipment at the park.

Land for the park was donated to the town by John Harris. Harris owns adjacent lots upon which he plans to build mid-priced homes. The developer said a park will enhance the town's appeal and take advantage of its scenic waterfront.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 70 Low: 50 CHANCE OF RAIN	High: 70 Low: 50 CHANCE OF RAIN	High: 60 Low: 40s DRY