

# The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

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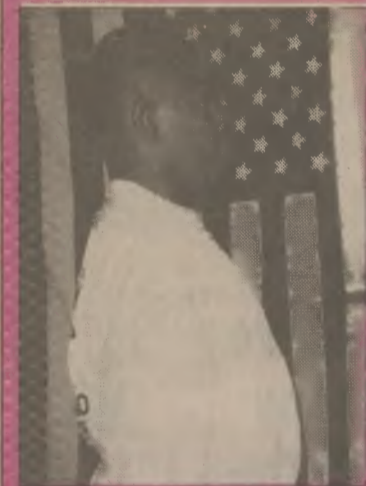
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**Perquimans County an All of Us Care Community**

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

## Students get free breakfast March 3-6

### National School Breakfast Week to be observed

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

There may not be such a thing as a free lunch, but Perquimans County Schools students will get a free breakfast all next week.

Perquimans County Child Nutrition will celebrate National School Breakfast Week, March 3-6, by offering free breakfast to all students at the county's four schools. In addition to the free meals, participating students will be given a reward for coming through the breakfast line.

Perquimans County High School students have had the opportunity all through the school year to receive free meals at breakfast. The program was funded with a breakfast grant. Offering breakfast at no charge has increased the participation levels at the school from an average of 85 students eating breakfast each day last year to a daily average of 144 students

**For many students, breakfast is not choice, but chance. School breakfast is the best and only opportunity some children have for a morning meal.**

Donna Harris  
Child Nutrition Director  
Perquimans County Schools

this year. A special celebration is planned at the high school during National School Breakfast Week to continue emphasizing the importance of eating breakfast. Two serving lines will be open to accommodate the overflow crowd child nutrition personnel hope will take advantage of the promotion.

For many students, break-

fast is not choice, but chance, according to Child Nutrition Director Donna Harris. School breakfast is the best and only opportunity some children have for a morning meal.

Studies have proven the importance of starting the day with a nutritious breakfast. The benefits include improved academic performance, lengthened attention span and better behavior.

In spite of all these proven benefits, many parents don't emphasize the importance of breakfast or they don't ensure their children are fed a good breakfast at home. For some it is a lack of resource, for others, a lack of knowledge.

The school breakfast program provides all children a

more equal way to start their day. But some ask, "Should breakfast be the school's responsibility?"

The breakfast program can be an integral part of a school's primary focus — educating youth, Harris said. A link exists between nutrition and a student's ability to learn. It is difficult to teach a hungry child who is more concerned about lunch than about reading, math or science.

School breakfast offers more than the fuel for learning. It provides educational opportunities. Breakfast is a time when students can learn first-hand the value of a morning meal and establish good eating habits that last a lifetime.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans Sheriff David Lane shows off the department's refurbished D.A.R.E. car.

### D.A.R.E. car gets facelift

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Perquimans County Sheriff David Lane rode by Central School one day while D.A.R.E. officer Ralph Robinson was on the premises. The condition of Robinson's car bothered the sheriff.

"I thought to myself, that car looks pitiful," Lane said. "We've got to do something about that."

So he did. Lane solicited help from Overton's Garage, Car-Va Signs, R.P. White and Eastern Truck Shop, all of whom agreed to donate labor and materials to spruce up

the department's D.A.R.E. vehicle. Now the Chevrolet features D.A.R.E. emblems and the names of the businesses who assisted with the project.

"Now we have a car that looks so much better and it didn't cost the taxpayers a dime," Lane said.

## Perquimans couple wins new car

### Truesdales get Firebird in school raffle

By DANIEL M. NONTE  
The Daily Advance

About 450 attended the 8th annual Cinderella Ball on Saturday to benefit Albemarle School. Two of them — a Perquimans County couple — left with a new car.

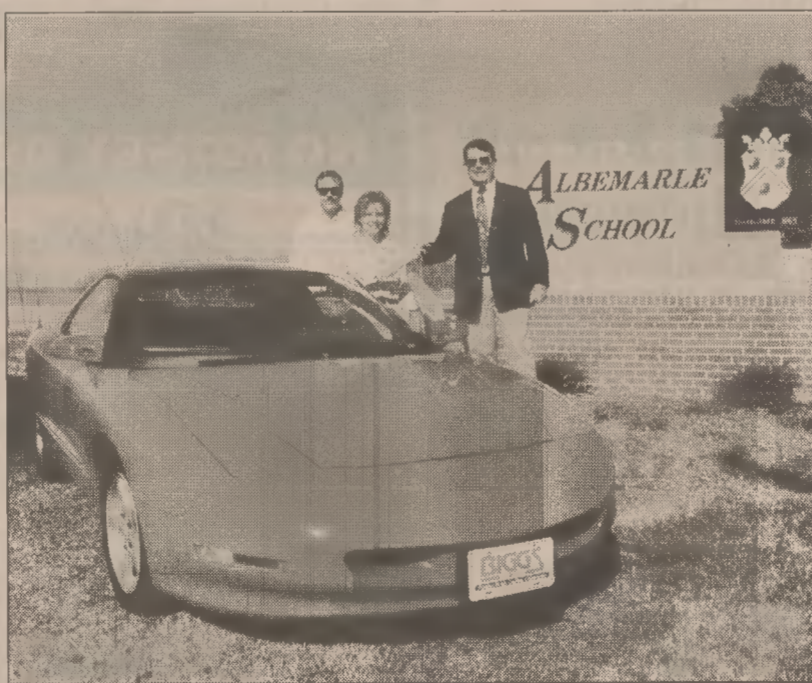
In a midnight drawing, Scott and Jeanie Truesdale won a red 1996 Pontiac Firebird that had been offered as the main enticement for this year's fund-raiser. Biggs Pontiac sold the car to the ball organizers at dealer cost.

The drawing for the car, the sold-out dance and a silent auction raised approximately \$25,000 for the school.

A final figure on the amount raised was not available, said Ball Committee Chairman Holly Wright.

Last year the ball raised \$13,000. The event was held at the K.E. White Center on the campus of Elizabeth City State University.

The evening began with a



Daily Advance photo

Scott and Jeanie Truesdale of Hertford receive the keys to their new '96 Pontiac Firebird from Headmaster J.E.B. Stuart at Albemarle School. The Truesdales won the car at the 8th annual Cinderella Ball held Saturday night to raise money for the school.

silent auction from 7 to 9 p.m. conducted by auctioneer Guy Williams. The dance itself lasted from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. with music provided by Virginia Beach, top 40-band Liberation.

In addition to the drawing for the car, money was raised through the sale of 13 benefac-

tor's packages. The \$1,500 packages included eight tickets to the ball. Single tickets to the ball were \$100 each.

Albemarle School is a 194 student private school for students from pre-school through high school.

## Crackdown nets support for kids

In just one year, Governor Jim Hunt's *Crackdown for Children* has brought in \$21.6 million more in child support than expected. In December alone, an extra \$5 million was collected thanks to a new law allowing judges to suspend or revoke driver's licenses of deadbeat parents.

"We've been saying that North Carolina means business when it comes to paying child support - this proves it," said Gov. Jim Hunt. "But we aren't going to rest on our laurels. We're going to continue doing everything we can to collect child support for these children. My goal is to increase collections by 50 percent in the next four years."

Hunt launched the award-winning *Governor's Crackdown for Children* in January 1996, giving North Carolina one of the toughest child support laws in the country. The Crackdown's "get tough" penalties include suspending or revoking driver's licenses and professional or business licenses, seizing insurance settlements over \$3,000, posting the names and faces of deadbeat parents on "10 most wanted" posters and tracking them across state lines.

So far, more than 500 parents have been notified their professional or business licenses were being revoked; 401 parents have paid more than \$100,000 to keep their licenses, while 115 others who refused to pay have lost their licenses. In numerous cases parents have stepped forward to pay after their licenses were taken.

Two months ago judges gained the right to suspend or revoke driver's licenses of deadbeat parents. Since then:

- In Dare County, one man paid off his \$13,000 child support debt to keep his driver's license.

### Albemarle area totals

Child support collections are up 16 percent across the state, according to information from the office of Gov. Jim Hunt.

Collections across the state for 1996 totalled \$296.4 million. Deadbeat parents found through the Crackdown for Children totaled 169,725.

In the regional child support enforcement office in Elizabeth City, collections were up 20 percent in 1996. Over \$4 million was collected through the office, while 875 deadbeats were found in the office's five-county service area. Camden, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties are served by the office.

- In Orange County, 17 driver's licenses were revoked and more than \$63,000 collected in one day.

- In Nash County, nine driver's licenses were revoked and \$5,500 collected in one court session.

- In Mecklenburg County, about 100 parents had their licenses restricted or revoked in four court sessions resulting in \$50,000 in child support collections.

In addition, since Jan. 1, 1996, more than 2,200 people have called the Governor's *Crackdown for Children* hotline with tips or leads on the whereabouts of deadbeat parents and more than 4,000 people have visited the Crackdown's internet site ([www.cse.state.nc.us/cse](http://www.cse.state.nc.us/cse)).

## Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 60 Low: 40s CHANCE OF RAIN	High: 60s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 60s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY