



Merry Christmas

December 25, 1997

013965 12/25/1997 *C30
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The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

Vol. 65, No. 51

The only newspaper for and about Perquimans County people

Hertford, North Carolina 27944



PHOTOS BY SUSAN R. HARRIS

Bethlehem Church of Christ held a live nativity scene Thursday-Saturday on the church grounds. The youngest to participate was 4-year-old Josh Sylva, the oldest Emily Harrell, 88, who portrayed Mary. Shepherds kept watch over live sheep (right), as Mary and Joseph welcomed the birth of Jesus (above). The live nativity has become a church tradition.

Children share true meaning of Christmas

The third grade students at Perquimans Central School are in the Christmas spirit. They are informing everyone at school about the true meaning of Christmas. Some of their thoughts on the season follow:

To me Christmas is a time for love, giving, being thankful, and Jesus' birthday. To love others you can give presents and tell them how much the person or the people really mean to you.
Jacob Riddick

Christmas is not the getting, not the giving, it's the loving. Loving is that feeling inside that fades when you

do something wrong.
Judith Dasilva

Christmas means love, care, happiness, and giving. I like Christmas because your family comes over to your house for a visit. You get a lot of toys and other things.
Amanda Copeland

When I think of Christmas, I think of Jesus' birthday. It is my favorite holiday. Jesus was born on December 25th. His mother came on a donkey to Bethlehem. He was born in a stable.
Chris Eure



Christmas means when Jesus Christ was born. Christmas is not all about giving gifts and putting up decorations. It means that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. There was a star that led the three kings to the manger. The three kings brought some presents. So whenever you think of Christmas, think of Jesus being born.
Keith Vaughn

The true meaning of Christmas is not decorating your house and giving presents, but it is all about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus was sent on this earth to save us from our sins. He has done a lot for us. So I want you to remember that the true meaning of Christmas is to celebrate Jesus birth.
Rachel Strother

State receives award for efforts to curb drunk driving

North Carolina received a national award today from the National Commission Against Drunk Driving (NCADD) for its ongoing work to prevent drunk driving.

"North Carolina is receiving this award today because of its great strides in saving lives and reducing injuries through a combination of strong enforcement activity, creative public awareness programs and legislative action," said Terrance Schiavone president of NCADD. "The state's successes are due in large part to the leadership of Gov. Jim Hunt and Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker, extensive enforcement and education efforts, and mandatory assessment and treatment of DWI offenders."

"This award is a testament to the dedication and commitment of North Carolinians who have worked so hard to fight drunk driving throughout the years," said Hunt, who was hit by a drunk driver as a young man and saved by his seat belt. "Our greatest achievements are what we are accomplishing for North Carolinians and their families - saving lives, preventing injuries and reducing health care costs. While we've made great progress, we must keep up our efforts and take a stand against impaired driving."

During Hunt's tenure, the state has toughened driving while impaired (DWI) laws, stepped up educational efforts, established a task force on impaired driving improved treatment programs and established a highly successful crackdown on drunk drivers called "Booze It & Lose It."

Joe Parker, director of the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program, accepted the award on behalf of the state in Washington, D.C., today at NCADD's 13th Annual Awards Ceremony. The state's work was one of 10 community efforts honored from across the nation.

"North Carolina will continue to lead the way when it comes to reducing the deaths and injuries resulting from alcohol-related crashes," Parker said. "The new laws that took effect Dec. 1 give law enforcement officers additional tools for taking impaired drivers off our highways. We will continue our 'Booze It & Lose It' efforts and work on new strategies to keep our roads safe from drunk dri-

vers."
"Booze It & Lose It" is the most extensive DWI law enforcement and education effort in state history. Since the Governor's Highway Safety Initiative began in 1993, more than 35,000 drivers have been arrested for DWI at 22,000 checkpoints and roving patrols.

Prior to the 1994 "Booze It & Lose It" campaign, about two percent of all nighttime drivers passing through research checkpoints were found to have a blood alcohol concentration above North Carolina's legal limit of .08 percent. Three months later, the number of legally intoxicated drivers seen at checkpoints had been cut in half - to slightly less than one percent (0.9 percent) - the lowest such number ever recorded in the nation.

In 1993, North Carolina became one of the few states to lower its legal alcohol limit to 0.08 percent. The Governor's Task Force on Driving While Impaired recommended that the state also enact a zero-tolerance law for drivers under the age of 21 which was passed by the Legislature. On Dec. 1, 1997, even tougher DWI laws took effect. Law enforcement officers can now impound the vehicle of drivers arrested for DWI and driving with a revoked license - on the spot.

Hunt issued a reminder to motorists this holiday season: "North Carolina will not rest on its laurels. If you drink and drive, you will be caught - and you will pay the consequences."

In 1995 Hunt received NCADD's award for government leadership in fighting drunk driving. In 1996, NCADD presented Wicker with the legislative leadership award. In addition to North Carolina receiving the state award in 1997, North Carolina native Elizabeth Dole, head of the American Red Cross, received the "Humanitarian of the Year Award" from NCADD for her long-time effort to the war against drunk driving.

The National Commission Against Drunk Driving is the successor organization to the Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving appointed in 1982 to develop the first national report on the issue. NCADD's work continues to focus on the goal of making impaired driving socially unacceptable.

Perquimans County
an
All of Us
Community

December's theme:

**Celebrate
community,
family and
friends**

Chambers gets tourism grant

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce will receive \$7,000 from North Carolina's Northeast Partnership.

The funds are made available through the Partnership's Regional Tourism Development Promotional Reimbursement Fund.

The Perquimans County Commissioners approved the chamber's request to the county to designate the chamber as

the non-profit organization within the county to receive this funding.

The chamber will use the bulk of the funds to match the \$4,500 already paid to Dru Haley York for architectural research for the Belvidere Township. The funds will allow research to continue to support a nomination for the community to the National Register of Historic Places. The inclusion of Belvidere into

the National Register will make Perquimans the first county in the state to have two rural districts on the register. The Old Neck Rural Historic District is already on the national register. Work is also underway on an historic district in the town of Hertford.

Funds will also be used for the chamber's computer upgrade and to install signage in Hertford's historic downtown area.

Outside

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
High: 50s Low: 40s CHANCE OF RAIN	High: 50s Low: 30s PARTLY SUNNY	High: 40s Low: 30s CLEAR