

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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The only newspaper for and about Perquimans County people

Hertford, North Carolina 27944

County school anti-drug official arrested for DWI

By ANGELA FOREST
The Daily Advance

The main grant writer for the Perquimans County Schools' alcohol and drug prevention program was herself arrested last month by the state Highway Patrol for driving while impaired by alcohol.

According to court records, Jeanie C. Umphlett, 50, of 602 Gaston Drive, Hertford, was charged with DWI on May 10.

Those same records show that Umphlett was stopped by a state Highway Patrolman on U.S. Highway 17 and given an alcohol sobriety test. That test indicated Umphlett had a blood alcohol content of .21 — nearly three times the state's legal limit of .08.

Attempts to reach Umphlett, the Perquimans County Schools' director of student services, and Jake Boyce, the schools' interim superintendent, for this story were unsuccessful.

Court records indicate Umphlett's license was immediately revoked at the time of her arrest. However, a court official said Umphlett paid the Perquimans County Clerk of Superior Court's office a \$50 fee on May 14 to get her license back.

Umphlett's first court appearance is scheduled for July 8 in the Perquimans County Courthouse.

Perquimans County Clerk of Court Gail Godwin said those found guilty of DWI usually have their licenses revoked by the Department of Motor Vehicles for a minimum of one year.

If the DWI charge is a first offense, a judge will sometimes give those convicted limited driving privileges to allow them to get to and from work, she said.

Town still mulling zoning request

Ward's desire to develop farm acreage on hold

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

A request by Perquimans County Commissioner Charles Ward for rezoning of property he owns at the intersection of Sunshine Lane and Grubb Street Extended in Hertford

was not acted on by the Hertford Town Council this month.

Ward asked the town to change the zoning of the property from C-2 to R-8 to allow him to build 16 850 square foot single family homes on the property. His request was made this winter; however, the zoning board and council have not given a final ruling on the request yet.

Zoning Board of Adjustments Chairman Steve

Dail told council at the council's June meeting that zoning board members had carefully considered Ward's request, and most members felt rezoning would be inconsistent with the surrounding areas. He said the board has held three meetings on the matter and discussed it in detail.

"It's across the road from a trash dump. To be sure it's better than that," Ward responded to Dail's comment.

Councilman Billy Winslow

said he had studied the maps and believed that the property should be rezoned R-10, not R-8 because the adjacent property with a single family home on it is zoned R-10.

"I don't want R-10," Ward said. He said he would lose lots because of the lot size requirements in R-10 zones.

C-2, the property's present zone, allows single family and two-family dwellings by conditional use with 100-foot frontage on lots. R-8 allows

permitted use for single family and two-family dwellings, but conditional use for multi-family dwellings. R-8 also allowed for 8,000 square foot lots with 75-foot frontage. R-10 allows permitted single family dwellings with 10,000 square foot lots and 80-foot frontage.

A motion by Carlton Davenport to deny the request was not approved by a 3-2 vote. The request will go back to the Zoning Board of Adjustments for further review.

Stallings enjoying new career in retail

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Lee Stallings is working long hours, but the New Hope native doesn't mind a bit. He's enjoying his new career as owner of New Hope Grocery so much, going to work is a pleasure.

"I'm having a ball," Stallings said about working in the store he bought June 1. "It's hard work, but I'm really enjoying seeing my friends



One of Lee Stallings' favorite things about owning New Hope Grocery is the look on children's faces when he takes them behind the counter for a treat. Matt Chappell was happy with the sucker Stallings presented him.



Lee and Debbie Stallings and daughter Stephanie Loftis welcome customers to New Hope Grocery. The Stallings purchased the store and began operating it on June 1.

and neighbors. Meeting people has been something."

Stallings enjoys meeting the many people who have moved into the community over the past few years. Because he formerly worked in the Hampton Roads area, leaving early in the morning and returning late in the evening, he hasn't had the opportunity to meet all those who now call New Hope home.

When asked about his stock, Stallings laughed and said,

"I've got about anything you want. I call it the 'I don't want to have to drive to town, so I'll get to the New Hope Grocery Store and pick it up' store."

Indeed, New Hope Grocery carries a wide variety of items from nuts and bolts to bread to gas. In addition, the store is headquarters of what may be the smallest post office in the state, the Durants Neck Post Office. The post office is manned by Hilda "Sue" Harrell, who has been behind

the counter for 13 years.

Stallings' career goal was not to own a country store. He worked for 11 years in a civil service job in Hampton Roads. The ship yard were the customers for the public works department in which Stallings was employed. When federal funds were cut back, the work force was cut. Stallings was among those faced with a lay-off.

Meanwhile, C.D. Barclift, who had owned New Hope

Grocery for 14 years, was ready to sell his store. Stallings decided that because he enjoyed people, wanted to serve the community he grew up in and would like to work close to home, he would get into the retail business.

Stalling said his transition into owning the store was made a lot easier by Barclift and his son, Greg. He also credits his wife, Debbie, and daughter, Stephanie Loftis, with doing a lot of the work required during the conversion.

So far, business is brisk. Stallings' favorite thing about owning the store may be the children who visit. A box of suckers is tucked behind the counter to share with his young visitors.

"The look on a child's face when you give him a sucker is worth twenty dollars," Stallings said during the grand opening celebration Friday. The Chamber of Commerce sponsored a ribbon cutting to mark the occasion. Jim "Catfish" Hunter was on hand in the afternoon for to sign baseballs and photographs.

New Hope Grocery is open 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1-6 p.m. on Sunday.

Whether customers need an item quickly or want to stop and visit in one of the chairs by the coffee machine, Stallings will be waiting behind the counter.

Popeyes celebrates grand opening

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

You don't have to eat spinach at Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits. Instead, customers get a taste of what Popeyes' advertising and public relations agency, HCD, calls "chicken with flavor."

Popeyes was founded 26 years ago, and features foods with a distinctively Louisiana influence. Signature side items such as red beans and rice, cajun rice, mashed potatoes with cajun gravy and cajun fries are all on the Popeyes menu.

Popeyes purchased 88 Hardee's Restaurants in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia from a franchisee at the beginning of the year. Sixty-six of those restaurants have been converted to Popeyes. The expansion was part of Popeyes' desire to take its restaurants into new markets.

In addition to its main menu item, chicken, Popeyes offers catfish and shrimp fried Louisiana style.

Popeyes celebrated its grand opening Saturday with a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, a live remote by Dixie 105.7 radio, special prices on menu



Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits Restaurant employees were on hand along with Town of Hertford and Chamber of Commerce representatives Saturday for the restaurant's grand opening.

items, and give-aways, including free food, a mountain bike, two tickets to an Atlanta Braves game and Summer Fun Packs. In addition the Hertford Fire Department and Perquimans County Rescue Squad were on hand.

An HCD spokesperson said Popeyes is very dedicated to supporting the communities in

which its restaurants are located. The company's official charity is Habitat for Humanity. Several homes have been built in communities served by Popeyes through company efforts.

The Popeyes in Hertford is open Monday-Thursday, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 6 a.m.-10 p.m. (drive-

through until 11 p.m.); and Sunday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.

Ethel White is the general manager of the Hertford store. Brenda Jackson and Evette Leigh serve as assistant managers. Robert White is a supervisor. Popeyes employs 19 people.

The store is located on U.S. Highway 17 Bypass.

Inside

1998 Perquimans Weekly Progress Section

Holiday deadlines set

The Perquimans Weekly office will close on Monday, July 6 in observance of Independence Day.

All advertising for the July 9 edition of the newspaper will be due on Friday, July 3 at noon.

News items for the July 9 edition will be due on Thursday, July 2 at 5 p.m.

For more information, call 426-5728.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 90s Low: 70s SUNNY	High: 90s Low: 70s SUNNY	High: 90s Low: 70s SUNNY