

# The Perquimans Weekly

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

## 'Wolfman's' daughter killed in 2-car crash

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

The daughter of the late legendary disc jockey Robert "Wolfman Jack" Smith was killed in a two-car accident in Perquimans County Tuesday night.

Joy Rene Smith, 37, of Route 1, Belvidere, died from injuries sustained during an accident at the intersection of Swamp and Sandy Cross roads, N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper K.L. Morgan said.

According to Morgan, Smith was traveling east on Rural Road 1213, also known as Swamp Road in the Belvidere community when she failed to stop for a stop sign.

The 1986 Nissan she was driving was hit on the passenger side by a 1986 Pontiac traveling north on Sandy Cross Road and driven by William Eugene White, 35, of Route 1, Belvidere.

Smith's vehicle was spun clockwise and rolled onto the driver's side into a ditch. According to rescue squad officials, Smith died at the scene.

It was not known at press time today whether White was injured in the accident.

Two Perquimans County rescue squads, the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, the Hertford and Belvidere fire departments responded to the accident.

Smith's father, legendary disc jockey Wolfman Jack, died of a heart attack at his home in Belvidere in July 1995.

## Spruill will be on sheriff's ballot

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

There will be two names on the sheriff's ballot in November.

Board of Elections Supervisor Eula Forbes confirmed Monday that Billy Spruill received sufficient signatures on petitions to have his name appear on the general election ballot as an unaffiliated candidate.

Spruill, presently a sheriff's deputy, announced in mid-May that he had launched a write-in campaign for sheriff.

In order to have his name appear on the ballot, Spruill was required to gather the signatures of 289 registered voters by June 26 to support his bid. The number equals 4 percent of the total registered voters in the county.

Forbes said Spruill submitted 339 signatures that could be confirmed as registered voters. She said each name on each petition sheet had to be verified against county registration records in order to be certified.

Spruill will face former deputy Ralph Robinson in November. Robinson, a Democrat, served as D.A.R.E. officer before being relieved of his duties by Sheriff David Lane on June 1. Robinson defeated Lane in the primary.

## Has-It Store robbed

### 3 Virginia men charged with Saturday incident

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Three Virginia men were arrested Saturday by Perquimans County sheriff's deputies and charged with the armed robbery of a New Hope store.

Tramayne Jamar Hinton, 16, of 916 Helmsdale Court, Chesapeake; Jason Rendell Hobbs, 17, of 1600 Wilson Road, Norfolk; and Kavaron C. Clar, 20, of 912 Helmsdale Court, Chesapeake were arrested Saturday night and charged with robbery with a dangerous

weapon. All three were placed under a \$30,000 secured bond and taken to Albemarle District Jail. All three remained in custody Tuesday morning according to jail officials.

According to sheriff's deputy Billy Spruill, Hobbs and Clark allegedly entered the Has It Store in New Hope after 7 p.m. Saturday evening brandishing at least one weapon and demanded money. Both were wearing ski masks. One of the two reportedly yanked the telephone wire out of the wall near the cash register.

Before leaving the store, one of the assailants allegedly hit store co-owner Ruth Fritts across the forehead and face with a weapon. Spruill said

Fritts was bruised and swollen, but did not require medical attention.

Fritts was in the store with her husband, Charles, at the time of the robbery.

The pair allegedly left the scene in a 1997 white Isuzu Rodeo driven by Hinton.

The Frittses called the sheriff's department from a phone in the rear of the store.

With information that the vehicle left the scene headed down Woodville Road, Deputy Kevin Byrd drove in that direction. Spruill said byrd met the Rodeo on Woodville Road and turned around to follow the vehicle. The Isuzu stopped at Bateman's Service Station in Woodville, where Byrd placed the three suspects under arrest.

In a search of the vehicle, three ski masks, a .32 caliber 5-shot revolver and a black BB gun resembling a 9 mm handgun were discovered.

Spruill said the robbery was caught on a video tape installed in the store after an earlier robbery. The clothing worn by the two suspects thought to have committed the robbery was identical to that of the two men caught in the store on tape, Spruill said.

The three were scheduled for their first appearance in court on July 1.

The N.C. Highway Patrol, Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department and Elizabeth City Police Department heard the call on their radios, responded and offered assistance at the arrest scene.

## Hertford man dies in 1-car accident

By TOM LANGHORNE  
The Daily Advance

A Hertford man died early Tuesday morning when the vehicle he was driving veered off U.S. Highway 17 and struck a cement culvert.

North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper K.L. Morgan said Tuesday that the man, identified as 30-year-old Edwin Raymond Perva Jr., apparently had fallen asleep at the wheel.

The accident occurred at approximately 1:05 a.m. on Tuesday, about one mile north of Winfall. Perva, who was alone, was driving south toward Hertford in a 1991 Ford Escort.

"He was in the outer lane closest to the shoulder of the road," Morgan told The Daily Advance. "He went down a ditch embankment, struck a private driveway, hit a cement culvert and flipped over, landing upside down facing south in a ditch alongside 17."

Morgan said Perva's vehicle struck the culvert head-on at an estimated speed of 50 mph. Asked if the accident occurred in a curve, the trooper said no.

Perva was assistant manager of Subway sandwich shop's University Plaza unit in Elizabeth city.

Toxicology test results are forthcoming, but Morgan said he found no evidence that Perva had consumed alcohol prior to the accident.

He said he formed the opinion that Perva had simply fallen asleep at the wheel.

"It's a tragedy," the trooper said.

## More rabies cases confirmed

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Several confirmed cases of rabies in animals in Perquimans County have PPCC District Health Department officials and the county animal control officer on alert.

Animal Control Officer Ron Priddy said last week that the last known case of a rabid animal attacked humans sent three people to medical facilities to undergo rabies inoculations.

"It's getting kind of bad," Priddy said.

Priddy was called on June 1 after a cat attacked Gail Holley and Marquita Simpson, 14, in the Woodville area. Holley's husband reportedly had to beat the cat to get it off her, Priddy said, noting that aggression is a sign of rabies. The cat was destroyed and tested in accordance with state guidelines and found to be rabid.

One June 5, Priddy was told the cat had also bitten 85-year-old David Colson.

Holley, Simpson and Colson were all treated for rabies. Priddy said treatment is the only way to prevent death if the virus is transmitted.

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## WEEKEND EVENTS



PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Town of Winfall celebrated the completion of a new fire department building Sunday with a ribbon cutting and open house. The new building (above) is located across from the county softball fields. The structure was built with a combination of town, county and grant funds. Fire department members gave their time to complete most of the inside work on the building. The Department of Transportation also helped on the site. The department constructed the building that served as the fire headquarters and town hall before the construction of the new building. The old building will be renovated when funds become available into a municipal complex, according to Winfall Mayor Fred Yates.



The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce kicked off its fund raising events for the year with Picnic on the Perquimans on the lawn of the waterfront home of Danny and Rhonda Gregory. Chamber Executive Director Sandra Smith said almost \$2,000 was raised to support the continued development of tourism in the county. Through the efforts of the Chamber with support from the Restoration Association and other groups, the Old Neck Historic District has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and both Hertford and Belvidere anticipate nominations.

Colorful sails criss-crossed the Perquimans River Sunday afternoon for the inaugural Perquimans River Regatta. The races took place between the shore on Front Street and the U.S. Highway 17 Bypass bridge. According to organizer Dan Daneker, the regatta was an attempt to draw people to Hertford to enjoy the beauty of the river. Twenty-four boaters, only one from Hertford, participated. Event sponsors were Centura Bank, Woodard's Pharmacy, Smith's Jewelry and One Stop. Support was also provided by Buck Bunch, Nancy Hagan, The Chamber of Commerce and Tarheel Distributing Company. Daneker anticipates a second race next year.