

The Perquimans V

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Robinson tapped as interim sheriff

Commissioners appoint Democratic candidate to top law post

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Perquimans County Commissioners appointed former sheriff's deputy Ralph Robinson as interim sheriff in special session Monday night.

Robinson won May's Democratic primary election for sheriff, defeating incumbent David Lane 1,012 votes to 832 votes.

Lane resigned last week, effective July 31, to pursue other job opportunities outside the area. The sheriff declined to say where he will be going or what his new position will be. The commissioners accepted his resignation Monday night, and voted to send him a letter of appreciation for his service to the county.

Sheriff's department secretary Bonita Williamson also resigned effective July 31. Her resignation was accepted by the commissioners.

Williamson said Tuesday that she has spoken with Robinson and has agreed to train a new secretary. She said she would do all she could to ensure a smooth transition.

Williamson said she is not leaving to accept another job, but plans to take some time to stay at home with and enjoy her year-old daughter.

Robinson said Tuesday morning that he had no comment on his appointment. Sheriff's department employees also had no comment.

PCHS earns NCHSAA sportsmanship honor

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Perquimans County High School was named runner-up in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's sportsmanship award for the 1997-98 school year.

The school's eligibility came about in part because there were no ejections during sports contests last year. A comprehensive sportsmanship plan was also submitted to the NCHSAA.

"We're proud that we're able to continue with this (honor) for the second year in a row," said PCHS athletic director Harrell Thach. "We were runners-up in the state for the sportsmanship award last year."

"I want to stress sportsmanship even more this year at all the games, not only with players, but parents and fans, with everybody," Thach continued.

The school will receive a certificate recognizing the achievement at the Fall Regional Meeting as well as a check for \$50 to help further efforts to provide sportsmanship-building activities.

WOLFMAN LEGACY LIVES ON

1st Wolf Fest draws hundreds

By EMILIO SAHURIE
The Daily Advance

Across the country, Robert "Wolfman Jack" Smith's influence can still be heard by listening to radio disc jockeys like Howard Stern and Don Imus.

On Saturday afternoon, his spirit was also evident as hundreds of motorcyclists, some from as far away as California, rumbled into the tiny community of Belvidere to honor the late DJ and raise money for some of his favorite people disabled veterans.

The motorcyclists were among the large crowd on hand for the first-ever WolfFest at the late DJ's Belvidere estate.

The festival, which included food vendors and live bands, was organized to raise money to assist disabled war veterans.

Throughout his radio and television career, Wolfman Jack was very active in causes that supported disabled veterans, prisoners of war and soldiers that were missing in action, said his widow, Lou Smith.

In fact, during the Vietnam War, the DJ's voice was broadcast to more than 3,200 stations worldwide via the Armed Forces Radio network.

"When these veterans were in the war, he got all this mail (from them) and it really got to him," said Smith. "That's how he knew they were really hearing him."

Besides veterans' causes, Wolfman Jack also had a passion for motorcycles, said his widow. That's why motorcycle



PHOTO BY NORRIS GARDNER, THE DAILY ADVANCE

Lou Smith, widow of Robert "Wolfman Jack" Smith, is greeted by several real wolves after her hour-and-a-half ride from Greenville to Belvidere for the first-ever Wolf Festival Saturday. Hundreds of motorcyclists turned out to honor the late DJ and raise money for disabled veterans.

clubs across the country were invited to Saturday's fund-raising event.

"I grew up with him on the radio," said Dennis Simmons, a 55-year-old biker from New Hope. "It was like a right of passage for anyone of my generation."

Wolfman Jack, who died of heart failure in 1995, is buried in front of the estate, next to his daughter, Joy Rene Smith. Joy Smith was scheduled to sing at the festival, but was tragically killed in a car accident earlier this month. The festival was dedicated to her memory.

Throughout the afternoon, festival-goers paid respects before Wolfman Jack's gravestone, which is surrounded by two 3-foot-tall statues of angels. Nearby, the Perquimans River flows, a reminder of the quiet times Smith enjoyed while fishing

from a small pontoon boat.

"It's fitting that he is buried in this property," said B.J. Williamson, who has the word "Wolfman" tattooed on his back. "His thing was the wolf spirit and it is only right his animal is free."

Williamson, who said he was inspired by Smith to be wild, attended the festival with six wolves he keeps as pets in tow.

But far from the wildman image he portrayed for the outside world, Smith was described Saturday as someone who had a great sense of humor, loved children and was generous with the people he met.

It wasn't unusual for Smith to go to Las Vegas, win a bundle and then give half of it away, said his widow. Or for him to play father figure for kids in the Beverly Hills neighborhood the Smith fami-

ly called home for about 20 years.

Lou Smith recalled how her late husband once bought his son and daughter and their friends musical instruments so they could form a band. One of those kids, Joseph Williams, grew up to become one of the lead singers for the 1970s band Toto.

"It didn't matter what it was, Wolf would encourage all kids to do something they were interested in," Lou Smith said. "He said all it required was passion — you had to have that passion for what you were doing."

Smith, who these days oversees her husband's estate and licenses his still-in-demand image, said she still receives letters and calls from people who were touched by Wolfman Jack. She lives at Belvidere, the historic home the Smiths renovated.

Keel building prepared for demolition

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Inmates from the Gates County Correctional Facility worked all last week preparing

the Keel building on the corner of Edenton Road and Grubb streets for demolition.

The building's contents were emptied and the area around the building cleared by

the work crews.

The town enlisted the help of inmate labor in an effort to lower the bid of \$21,291.50 submitted by Whitehurst Sand and Gravel to demolish the

building. The original bid was for cleaning out and tearing down the building, and included hauling the contents and tipping fees at the landfill. The Hertford Town Council voted to tear down the condemned building, in June, but instructed town manager John Christensen to use inmate labor to prepare the building, then negotiate with Whitehurst for an updated bid.

Christensen said he does not know exactly how much the inmate labor will save the town; however, it should be several thousand dollars. The inmates cleared 808 tons of debris from the site.



Inmates from the Gates County Correctional Facility begin cleaning out the Keel building on the corner of Edenton Road and Grubb streets. The work crews emptied the building's contents last week and cleared the area around the building in preparation for demolition.

Indian Summer Festival taking shape

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

September 19 will find the streets of downtown Hertford filled with the sights and sounds of the annual Indian Summer Festival.

A variety of entertainers have agreed to perform for the annual gala. Included among this year's confirmed performers are August, Rockin' Willie, Jeanie Truesdale, Inspirational Voices, Step of Faith, Denim and Diamonds Dancers, and the Harbor Lights Square Dancers.

Other festival activities will include a pie-in-the-face Chinese auction, games, blue ribbon produce contest, and more.

Crafters offering a variety of items will line Church Street. Festival foods will also be available during the day.

Downtown businesses will be offering festival specials. The event will be topped off with a street dance downtown.

A fish fry to raise funds for the festival is scheduled for Aug. 28 at Missing Mill Park. Tickets are \$5 each and are available from downtown businesses.

On July 17, the Hertford Downtown Merchants Association, first-year sponsors of the festival, held a fund-raising golf tournament at Sound Golf Links, Albemarle Plantation. Tournament coordinator Jennifer Layden of Hertford Savings Banks said the event proved to be a fun fund raiser.

Winners were Jeff Mickelson, Greg Albus, Dave Gamet and Dan Ollivant, first place; Bruce Biggs, Tom Meyers, Ollin B. Sykes and Charles Evans, second place; and Lynn Dupree, John White, David Forbes and Paul Washleshy, third place.

The HDMA opted to sponsor the annual festival after the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, organizers and promoters of the festival for 16 years, decided not to go ahead with the event in 1998. Chamber officials said they had composed a plan of work that includes emphasis on economic development through travel and historic tourism development, and had put financial and manpower resources into those projects.

Not wanting to see the festival die, HDMA members mobilized to continue the Indian Summer Festival tradition in Perquimans County.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 80s Low: 70s CLOUDY	High: 90s Low: 70s CLOUDY	High: 90s Low: 70s CLOUDY