

# The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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## Gregory's building catches on fire

Hertford answers four fire calls in three days

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Editor

Flames shooting out the back of Gregory's in downtown Hertford brought three fire departments out early Monday morning.

"Everybody came together and helped out," said Hertford Fire Chief Sid Eley. "We were fortunate to get a quick report and a quick knockdown."

Eley said postal workers reported flames coming out the back of the store. The chief said he immediately called in Bethel and Winfall for assistance. The Hertford department got the call at 7:19 and arrived on the scene at 7:24.

"We were extremely lucky to have the fire reported at that time of day," Eley said, noting that most of the downtown businesses do not open that early.

The burn was confined to the mezzanine level of the structure, Eley said. He estimated structural damage at under \$10,000, but said that the clean-up will be an arduous process due to smoke damage and smut.

The preliminary cause of the fire, Eley said, is electrical. Adjoining businesses Hertford Savings Bank and White's Dress Shoppe suffered smoke damage.

The fire blocked several streets during the rush hour.

Monday's calls ended three days of calls for Hertford. During Saturday's Indian Summer Festival, firefighters left the grills at their fundraising food booth to fight an apartment blaze on Stokes Drive. Eley said the fire resulted from an air conditioning unit in an upstairs room. Firefighters were able to contain the blaze just before it went through the ceiling, Eley said.

Smoke and water damage were heavy. Eley said the whole apartment will require renovation.

Sunday, firefighters responded to a call at Swindell Funeral Home. Eley said Larry Swindell and his family smelled smoke in the chapel area and called for assistance. Firefighters arrived in time to find a bad ballast in a fixture and avoid a blaze.

In the afternoon, firefighters responded to a bathroom fire at the home of Ron Jacobs. Eley said the fire may have been caused by an electrical problem. Damage was mild.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

There was a scare in downtown Hertford Monday morning when Gregory's caught on fire. Firefighters from the Hertford, Bethel and Winfall fire departments responded to the blaze. Hertford Fire Chief Sid Eley said structural damage to the building was under \$10,000.

## Indian Summer Festival is success Grant to fund learning center

ISF follows Hearth & Harvest Day at Newbold-White

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Intermittent showers kept some folks away, but a good crowd visited the 17th annual Indian Summer Festival in downtown Hertford Saturday.

Franky Eason, president of the Hertford Downtown Merchants Association, festival sponsors, said festival '98 was a big success.

"Overall, it was a great day, even with the rain. It didn't seem to bother the people too much," Eason said. "We lost a few folks when the showers started, but most of them crowded under the awnings and in the shops and waited it out."

As a matter of fact, the rain may have helped downtown merchants. Eason said all merchants he's spoken with had a banner day.

New to this year's festival was the Chinese pie-in-the-face auction. Volunteering to help raise funds for the festival by taking a pie were economic development director Robert Baker, Franky Eason of Franky's Hertford Cafe, county building inspector Zeke Jackson, Chamber director Sandra Smith, schools superintendent Gregory Todd, Winfall Mayor Fred Yates and Winfall police chief David Shaffer.

Eason said the rain caused some snafus in the auction, but HDMA still made over \$500.

Winners of the window display contest were Marta's (first), Gregory's (second), and Smith's (third).

One of the festival's most popular activities was the dunking booth operated by the United Pentecostal Holiness Church. Rain or shine, the young and young at heart

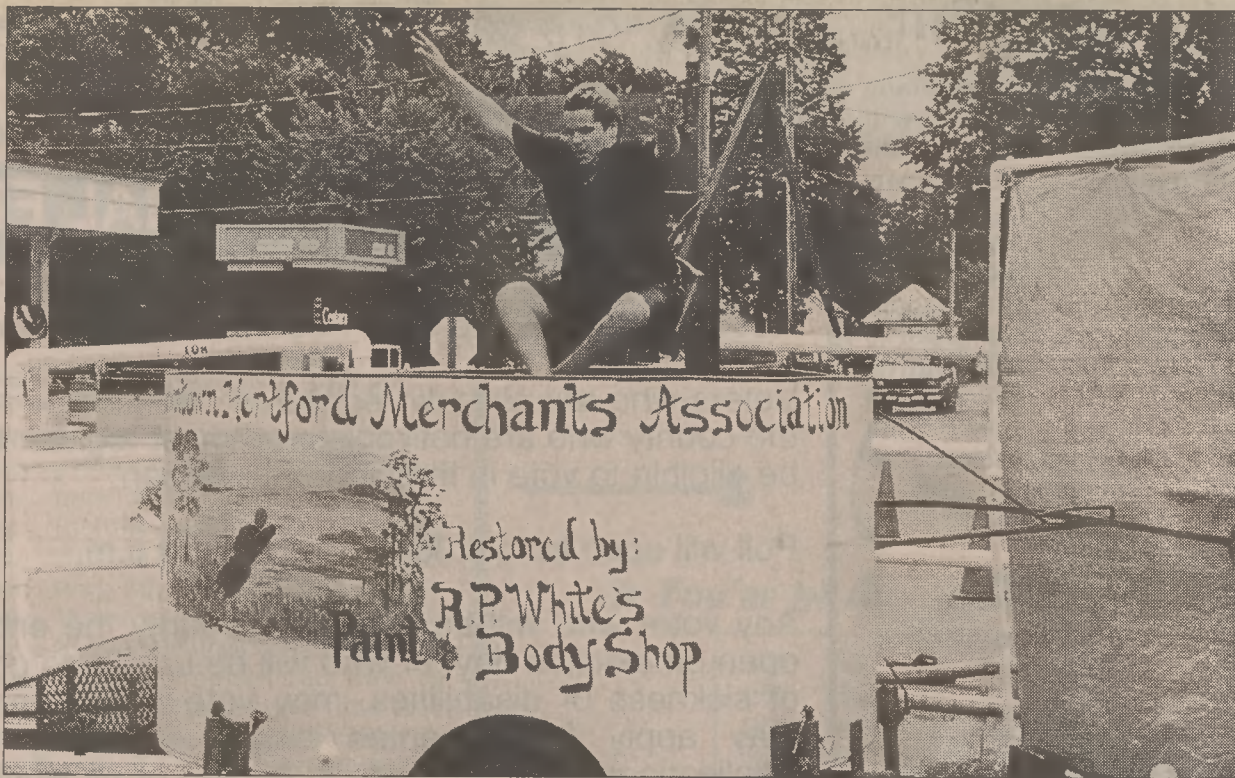


PHOTO ABOVE BY SUSAN HARRIS; PHOTO BELOW COURTESY LUANEE PENDERGRAFT

The dunking booth (above) was one of the most popular attractions at the 17th annual Indian Summer Festival. During periods of rain or shine, there was always a line.

The weekend before, the Perquimans Restoration Association sponsored the Hearth & Harvest Festival. One of the highlights of the day was the music of old-time performers.

See page 8 for more festival photographs.



lined up to take a shot at catapulting volunteers into a tank of water.

Those attracted to the festival by crafts had a variety of quality hand-crafted items from which to choose. Food was also abundant.

In addition to the downtown businesses, festival sponsors included Sprint, U.S. Cellular, Chowan Hospital, Pepsi and Albemarle Hospital.

The day ended with a street dance featuring New A.J.E. Productions. A draw for all ages, the event seemed espe-

cially fun for the teens.

Although it was a lot of work, Eason said HDMA will definitely sponsor Festival '99.

"We've already started working on it," Eason said Tuesday. The first organizational meeting is scheduled for Oct. 1.

The Saturday before, the Perquimans County Restoration Association sponsored the second annual Hearth & Harvest Festival at Newbold-White House.

Visitors were offered the opportunity to step back in

time with such activities as cornshuck doll-making, churning butter, spinning, playing 18th century games and joining in a performance of traditional music by the Perquimans Pipers, a local recorder group.

Artisans demonstrated fine crafts included furniture, pottery, tating and lacemaking and dulcimer-making.

Organizers of both festivals plan to meet soon to discuss the possibility of holding the two events on the same date in 1999.

Camden, Chowan, Gates, Perquimans, and Washington school systems and the Albemarle Recreation Center (ARC) have recently been awarded a \$500,000 grant to develop a regional learning center.

The Albemarle Learning Center (ALC) will be an initiative in which students and teachers focus on the concept of communities as classrooms. Walter Annenberg, philanthropist, established the Rural Challenge for the purpose of supporting comprehensive school reform. The vision of the Rural Challenge is to see rural education connected to the place people live - its history, culture and environment.

The ALC will be located on a farm and leased millpond area in Chowan County. The ARC already operates a therapeutic riding program and other activities on this site.

The Annenberg Grant will fund the first phase of the ALC and will focus on curriculum development and professional development for teachers. This first phase of the plan will begin with middle school curriculum being developed by middle school teachers, students, and community members from the five partner LEAs. Participating teachers

will collaborate to build the curriculum but will then implement it in the middle schools located within these five school systems.

The second phase of the plan will involve students in various experiential learning situations incorporated into the curriculum being developed. They will be able to set up environmental research projects that are aimed at clean water, maintaining ecosystems and restructuring wetlands. They can explore their culture through folkarts and the history of the region.

The goals of the ALC are to empower teachers to interact with students in new environments, specifically beyond the four walls of the classroom and to connect students to their communities in situations where student contributions can be appreciated.

Instructional staff, middle school principals, and public information personnel are meeting to outline procedures for the learning center. It is anticipated that the first group of teacher participants will be identified in October.

The ALC Program Coordinator is Bob Harrell of Edenton and the Professional Development Consultant is Jeanne Meiggs of Currituck County.

**Outside**

**Weekend Weather**

Thursday: High: 90 Low: 70 Partly cloudy

Friday: High: 80 Low: 60 Mostly cloudy

Saturday: High: 80 Low: 60 Mostly cloudy