

Fall All-Conference picks

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Central provides resources

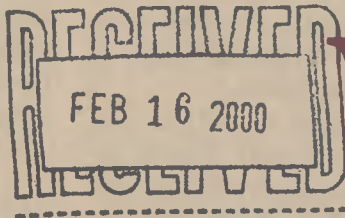
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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

## Gas tanker overturns on Ballahack Road

No leakage reported, but road closed for 7 hours

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Editor and

JEREMY DESPOSITO

The Daily Advance

A tractor-trailer carrying 9,700 gallons of liquid petroleum rolled over on its side last Wednesday, after the shoulder of the road gave way under the rear tires.

No leakage occurred, according to Hertford Fire Chief Bob Reed. However, the accident caused the closure of Ballahack Road for seven hours, and kept emergency personnel on the scene because of the constant danger the truck posed.

State Trooper W.D. Shepherd said the truck was unoccupied when the shoulder gave way around 11:40 a.m. The load wasn't scooped back on its wheels until around 7 p.m., he said.

"The truck was parked partly in the road and partly in the driveway," Shepherd said. "The driver was having problems backing the truck into the driveway. When the shoulder gave way, he was standing outside the vehicle. We closed down the road because of the material it was carrying."

Amerigas employees tried to transfer the load to another truck to make it easier to pull the trailer up, but only about 10 percent of the 9,700 gallons were able to be transferred



Daily Advance photo

An Amerigas propane truck lies on its side on Ballahack Road last Wednesday after flipping over while trying to back into a propane station. The driver wasn't hurt and no propane leaked from the truck, a N.C. Highway Patrol trooper said.

while the trailer was in the ditch, Shepherd said.

"They used air bags and wreckers to set it up right, to keep it from tearing," he continued. "(The air bags) set the truck up nice, slow and easy."

Reed said the emergency personnel and Amerigas storage facility were in constant danger from the time the truck

overturned until it was upright and the area cleared.

"It was a pretty volatile situation," he said. "The biggest danger was a possible fire."

Upon arrival, Reed and other emergency personnel assessed the situation, established a command post and called county Emergency Management Coordinator

Walter Meads. Reed said the most immediate danger was that of a possible fire if there was a leak or a spark from any source. Not only was there gas in the overturned truck, but at the storage facility there were two 30,000-gallon LP storage tanks. He said had the tank exploded it would have been "like a bomb drop."

Reed said after assessment, the first steps taken included notifying North Carolina Power to cut its electrical power to the area to do away with that source of ignition, closing the area to traffic, and evacuating Southern States and three homes considered in the danger zone.

Personnel determined that

there was no gas leak; however, Reed said the truck was carefully monitored. The chief, who is also an employee of Reed Oil Company and therefore works with gas equipment every day, said gas trucks have relief valves to release tension, especially in warm weather when the gas begins to expand. Gas escaping through those release valves was also a danger. To help defuse that situation, Reed said firefighters put water on the overturned gas tanker to try to cool the surface and keep the gas from heating up.

Firefighters continued to monitor the situation as they waited for the air bags to help upright the truck to arrive from Plymouth.

Uprighting the truck was especially dangerous, Reed said. A spark from the metal of the overturned truck hitting metal on the rescue equipment could have sent a huge cloud of fire into the air. Reed said firefighters set up automatic equipment to spray the water when the truck was actually moved. The equipment allowed the firefighters to move further away from the scene while still providing a quick source of water in case of fire.

Joining Hertford firefighters and the highway patrol on the scene was the Perquimans Sheriff's Department, the Winfall and Bethel fire departments, Perquimans EMS and Rescue Squad, NCDMV and state emergency management personnel. Reed said several local businesses donated food and drinks to the responders.

## Pritchard is local Principal of Year

PCHS leader will represent Perquimans in regional finals

PCHS principal Elaine Pritchard will represent Perquimans County Schools in the regional round of the Wachovia Principal of the Year competition this week.

Pritchard was named Perquimans County Schools' Principal of the Year by the school board.

The principal at the high school since 1994, Pritchard has served in several capacities in education since beginning her career as a seventh grade language arts teacher at Hertford Grammar School in 1970. She has served as assistant principal, guidance counselor, vocational counselor, librarian, and teacher of sociology and language arts.

Several innovative programs have been implemented at Perquimans High School during her tenure. These programs include the Responsible Classroom Management Discipline Program; Safe Schools procedures implementation including hiring a security guard/resource officer, obtaining walkie-talkies to allow staff to communicate across campus, obtaining a walk-through metal detector, and installing TV cameras;

Back to Business for teachers which puts teachers at job sites to see what skills and knowledge employers expect from employees; adopting Individual Growth Plans for all staff to support professional development; and implementing the ABLE Learners Program, programs for at-risk students, Alternative Teacher Evaluation Program/Peer Coaching Project, senior projects, and the accelerated reader program.

Pritchard said her leadership style is a relationship and everyone has a job to do.

"By assessing human and material resources effectively and by empowering others, I work to generate ownership of school issues, foster success and stimulate motivation to match our school's vision," she wrote in her Wachovia Principal of the Year portfolio. "By setting high expectations for myself first and then for my staff and students, I set the foundation for continuous growth and improvement."

Pritchard wrote that high expectations and the team concept are critical in the effective operation of a school.

"In addition to high expectations, the team concept is also a critical component of this job, for a successful school is built on everyone's working together to fulfill the shared vision of the school. The principal, as leader, is critical in not only keeping everyone's



Elaine Pritchard

focus on the school's vision, but also in establishing an atmosphere and working relationship where the staff and the community cooperatively join together to fulfill the school's vision of meeting the needs of all our students."

The principal also said that celebrating staff and student successes help encourage everyone to do their best, and is an important component of a successful school.

Pritchard and her staff have worked diligently over the last two years to strengthen curriculum and raise expectations in order to improve student achievement. During the 1997-98 school year, the state end-of-course test scores indicated that student achievement was not at expected level. State ABC data released at the end of last school year revealed that the school had made exemplary growth. Pritchard attributes the improvement to hard work by staff and students, along with parental support.

## Officials: Accurate census count critical to county

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Editor

County manager Paul Gregory has stated repeatedly since the 1990 census that he does not believe the county's population was accurately measured then, and that the low count has probably cost the county some money.

Gregory said there are federal and state grant and other programs funded based on population. If everyone in a county is not counted in the census, the county's share of these funds is affected.

County commissioner Evelyn Stubbins is hard at work getting the word to every corner of Perquimans about participating in the census. She organized an initial informational meeting last Tuesday at the Albemarle Commission building. To the meeting, she invited representatives from all communities in the county to help spread the word about the importance of the census.

Although other counties are ahead of Perquimans in the census process, Gregory said starting too early may cause residents to lose interest. Forms will be sent out sometime in March, he said.

Stubbins said information she has received indicates that people who live in the city limits of Hertford and Winfall will receive forms in the mail, while those in rural areas may not. Enumerators will be going

door-to-door in late March and early April to make sure everyone has been counted.

There are two types of forms, a short form and a long form. The short form, Stubbins said, takes about 10 minutes to complete; the long form, about 45 minutes. Both ask name, address, number in household and ages. The long form, which will be received by an estimated one in six households, also asks questions about each individual in the household, including marital status, level of education, military background, employment information, housing information and property values.

Employment information requested on the long form includes job duties, in what type of business or industry the individual is employed, work history and income.

Housing information requested includes whether the individual owns or rents a home and the amount paid for housing.

Stubbins said information provided to enumerators and on census forms is confidential. She said enumerators are sworn not to reveal any information and if convicted of sharing information, face a fine of up to \$5,000 and up to five years in prison.

In addition, enumerators cannot report anything they witness in the course of their interviews to anyone, not even the police. As an example, she

said if an enumerator enters a dwelling and sees drugs spread out on a table, the enumerator cannot report what he or she sees to law enforcement officers.

Also, no other government agency can get individual information from the Census Bureau. Only composite data is available.

Stubbins said it is hoped that in addition to mail and door-to-door enumerators, the county can set up sites where people can go to get help filling out census forms.

Those interested in becoming enumerators should call 1-888-325-7733. A test is required.

### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 High: 50s  
 Low: 40s  
 PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
 High: 60s  
 Low: 40s  
 PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
 High: 60s  
 Low: 40s  
 CHANCE OF RAIN