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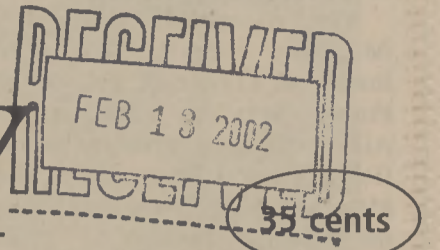
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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Schools earn state safety award

Three PQ schools noted for safety, caring environment

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Three Perquimans County Schools were among 30 statewide named 2001-02 Super Safe Schools. The sites were noted for providing a safe learning environment for children and educators. The schools received awards this week during the fourth annual Safe, Orderly and Caring Schools Conference in Greensboro.

The Triple "S" School Award was established by the Department of Public Instruction's School Improvement Division to recognize public schools that go above and

beyond in their efforts to ensure the safety of students and staff.

"High student achievement goes hand-in-hand with a safe learning environment," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Ward. "We applaud the efforts of these schools for going beyond the minimum to ensure that their students and teachers have the optimum atmosphere to learn and work."

Perquimans County High, Perquimans Central and Perquimans County Middle schools earned the honor. The Perquimans district was the only one in this region to have schools earn the honor.

To receive recognition as a Super Safe School, schools voluntarily submit a portfolio document-

ing the safety processes they have in place. On-site visits also are conducted prior to final recommendations.

"It is a competitive application process and it is voluntary," said Marguerite Peebles, Section Chief, Alternative and Safe Schools Instructional Support, Department of Public Instruction. "Some school system didn't participate. It doesn't mean that some of the other sites are not safe as well."

The application and submission process is rigorous. Each school must submit a notebook filled with information on safety and instructional issues, including numbers of violent incidents reported, how those incidents were handled, policies and procedures in place to deal with possible threats to student

welfare, academic and social opportunities available to those students who need additional support beyond the classroom, parent and community involvement and formal School Improvement Plans.

"We allow each one of the applications to be read by a team of people who have been accustomed to going out and looking at schools, performing safety audits," Peebles said. "The books are graded based on content, thoroughness, trends, school improvement plans, and ability to communicate and collaborate with communities."

At that point, some sites are selected for a visit. After the visits, the sites are discussed and ranked to see if they are deemed worthy of the Triple "S" Award.

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Council considers 90-minute parking downtown

County employees, business owners taking spaces on Church Street

ANNA GOODWIN MCCARTHY

They drive around once looking, they drive around twice searching and after three times they might just give up.

People miss or are late for scheduled appointments, and the loss of potential shoppers downtown is evident.

Hertford Town Council member JoAnn Morris said that something needs to be done about the parking situation on Church Street during Council's regular monthly meeting Monday night.

Residents have complained that they are not able to find parking spaces on Church Street, said Morris. Morris said it is even more difficult to find a parking space when court is in session.

Council discussed ways to alleviate the congestion.

Town Council members said Perquimans County personnel and people who work in the stores downtown are using the parking spaces on Church Street.

The Council considered imposing 90 minute parking to help the situation.

There was 90 minute parking on Church Street years ago until downtown business owners persuaded the Town Council to lift the parking time limit, said Morris.

Morris said before any action is taken, the Town Council should meet with the Historic Hertford Business Association to exchange views on other ways to remedy the problem.

Councilman Carlton Davenport also suggested writing a letter to the county, discouraging its personnel from parking on Church Street while they are at work.

Jet crash still fresh for Morgan

Bus mechanic still wears scars of burns

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Preston Morgan will never forget where he was the day the Navy plane crashed into the bus garage at Perquimans County High School. For the rest of his life, scars on his body will remind him that he was burned over 60 percent of his body when the plane hit.

Morgan, then 26, was a mechanic's helper with Perquimans County Schools, a job he'd had for a couple of years, on Feb. 21, 1957. He and his wife, Lina Ruth, lived in the Two-Mile Dessert with their toddler son, Glenn.

While Morgan's memories of that day remain sketchy, he does recall seeing the plane hit the tree tops as it headed for the bus garage.

"I saw it coming, but you don't get out of the way of anything coming at you like a bullet," Morgan said.

Navy personnel told him that the plane was coming at him at about 700 miles per hour.

After seeing the plane, Morgan remembers being in the ball park, where he was thrown by the explosion. He remembers seeing people, but details of the day are fuzzy. He knows that his hair, skin and clothes were burned off.

"I was hurting so bad," he said.

He was told that someone put a sheet around him and carried him to a gym. From there an ambulance picked him up. He thinks Pete Thompson drove the ambulance, but he's not sure. He's been told that Van Roach, the chief mechanic who would die about 9 hours after the crash from injuries sustained, rode in the back while he was propped in the front seat with Thompson.

He does remember being moved from the examining table at Chowan Hospital. He said it was as black as smut.

Chowan Hospital would become his home for the next 13 weeks. For the first eight weeks, he had to lie

flat on his stomach and could not wear any clothing.

After the first 13 weeks, he went to Chapel Hill, where they attached his hand to his stomach for about three weeks to graft skin. He stayed in UNC Hospitals for about five weeks.

When it was finally time to go home, he remembers telling his wife not to drive so fast.

Healing physically was just a part of the process of getting on with life for Morgan.

"When I first came home I'd run outside when I heard an airplane," he said. "It was just nerve-racking. My experience with jets is not good. I do not want to fly, I've never flown. I was flown by one (an airplane), I guess you might say (when I was thrown into the ball park. It's bad to go through an experience like that."

Morgan didn't go back to bus shop. In fact, to this day he still has a problem with the site of the crash.

"I think I've been in there (bus garage) twice since they've built the new one," he said. "The first time (I went in there) after they built the new one, I walked one in there and said 'I can't stay in here' and I walked right on back out."

It took Morgan two or three years to heal physically and begin to put his life back to normal. He started farming some, and had to wear long sleeved shirts during his entire career.

"I still can't stand much sun, but I have got so I'll wear short-sleeved shirts. I don't stay out in the sun much. My skin is just like tissue paper. When I skin my hand, it takes a long time to heal."

While in today's litigious "I didn't get nothing out of it, good as nothing," he said. "They paid the hospital bill and they sent corpsman from the base in Edenton to help me when I was in the hospital. I went climate, Morgan would probably have received a multi-million dollar settlement from the Navy, times were much different then. Continued on page 8

COMPUTING FOR FREE



Charlie Skinner is one of the many citizens of Perquimans County taking advantage of the new technology center. The Perquimans County High School Community Technology Learning Center is helping to eliminate the digital divide for students and adults. The technology-rich center is open daily where both digital and human resources are available for all citizens of Perquimans County. The center serves students and adults who lack computer and Internet access at home, using staff and high school students to coordinate online curriculum and resources, software tools, hands-on experiences and one-on-one tutoring. The center is open Monday — Thursday 3:30 — 8 p.m. and on Friday 3:30 — 5 p.m. To find out more about learning opportunities, call Antje Yacono at 426-5778 or Brenda Lassiter at 426-5741.

Miller to be a Spartan

SUSAN R. HARRIS

High school football players come and go, but Bevon Miller wants to be different. He doesn't want his academic or athletic career to end when he graduates from Perquimans County High School this spring.

That's why the player head PCHS football coach Harrell Thach refers to as the ultimate Pirate thought long and hard about where he would spend the next four years. And he drew on the resources that he's always been able to count on — his parents and his coach — to help guide his decision.

"The decision came down to Norfolk State and (North Carolina) A&T," Miller said. "Norfolk State was closer to home and they offered a better finan-



PCHS senior football and track stand-out Bevon Miller signs his letter of intent with Norfolk State University as his parents, Shelma and Diane Miller, principal Dwayne Stallings, assistant principal Elonza Joyner, head football coach Harrell Thach and athletic director Bob Turner look on.

cial deal." Miller said being closer to home will allow his family and friends to continue to support his gridiron endeavors.

An All-Conference and All-Albemarle linebacker at Perquimans, Miller will make the transition to

defensive back as a Spartan. He said he'll count on the senior All-Conference defensive back presently at Norfolk State to teach him the ropes. The next year, he hopes to get his starting spot.

He knows he'll have to Continued on page 8

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 55
Low: 37
RAIN

FRIDAY
High: 55
Low: 37
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 61
Low: 40
MOSTLY SUNNY