

Letter-writing workshop

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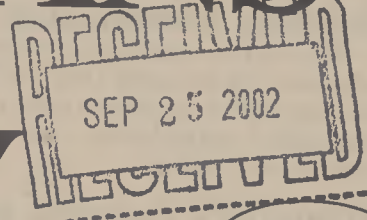
Sports updates

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



35 cents



Internationally renowned speaker Pam Stenzel addressed integrity with students at Perquimans County High School last week. Stenzel promotes teen abstinence and character training in her quest to lower teen pregnancy and STD rates among teens.

Stenzel promotes abstinence, integrity at PCHS

"Let's face it! Today's teenagers are in a whole new arena when it comes to sexually transmitted diseases," Pam Stenzel told students at Perquimans County High School recently.

On an average, teens have 2.3 sexually transmitted diseases. In 1967, one out of 32 high school students had a sexually transmitted disease. By 1983 that number had jumped to one out of 18. According to 1998 statistics, one of four high school students had a sexually transmitted disease. Today that number is one in two. Unbelievable statistics, but true, according to Stenzel.

Teens are facing consequences that previous generations couldn't even imagine. That is why it is so important to make sure that today's teens hear straight talk about sex, about the consequences, about the life and death choices that they meet every single day, she said.

Stenzel is an internationally renowned speaker who promotes teen abstinence and character training. Her experiences taught her that before teen pregnancy and STD rates could decline, attitudes of teens toward sex first had

to change.

Desiring to bring about that change, Stenzel started speaking nationally full-time and is in great demand both in the U.S.A. and in other countries such as Mexico, Australia, Ireland, and Canada.

In preparation for Stenzel's appearance at PCHS, a community workshop was held last year at the high school. Parents, students and the community were invited to view her video "A Time to Wait for Sex." The workshop was sponsored by Parents Encouraging Responsible Choices, Grant and Abstinence Education. Realizing that teens today are faced with numerous sex-related problems, the program was organized in an effort to promote abstinence among our teens.

"I can't make your decisions for you, and I can't go on dates with you because I don't have time," Stenzel said. "My goal here today is for no one to be able to leave Perquimans High School and say, 'But nobody told me...I didn't know.' Remember, a good choice is one before you have sex!"

Stenzel took her message to several high schools in the Albemarle area during her visit here.

WORKING OUT



Student athletes demonstrated the new equipment in the renovated PCHS weight room Friday night.

Parents appeal to board

Millers say PCHS unfairly disciplined their son

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Parents of a Perquimans County High School student believe their child was unfairly disciplined after his involvement in a fight at school.

Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Miller took their case to the school board Monday night, challenging the board to review the situation and take action.

The board did discuss the incident in closed session later in the meeting. Upon returning to open session, the board passed a

motion supporting the decision of school personnel and the superintendent in resolving the matter. High school principal Dwayne Stallings and assistant principal Elonza Joyner were in the closed session.

"The board listened to his concerns as presented," Superintendent Ken Wells said Tuesday morning. "They wanted to provide some kind of response as quickly as possible."

"I am confident that the right decision was made by the principal and I am confident that the right decision was made by the board," he continued.

Wells said that when Jarvis Miller visited his office after his son's suspension, Wells told him that he would investigate the situation, and that if he felt Miller's son was sus-

pending in error or that the incident had not been handled appropriately at the school level, he would overturn the actions taken at the school.

But Wells said his investigation found that the disciplinary actions taken were appropriate and in accordance with school policy.

The Millers contend that their son received harsher punishment than the other two students involved because the other two students were athletes.

According to the Millers, some football players were directed to carry footballs around with them on Sept. 11. The exercise was an attempt to overcome fumbles on the football field. They contended that players were told not to drop the football, and that they

would face action at practice for each time they did drop the ball.

"The ball should never have been in the classroom," Mrs. Miller said. "As soon as they told me that (football players were carrying balls around school), a red flag went up."

The parents said that while he was in history class, their son was seated between two football players. One was carrying a football, the other was not. The Millers said the player not carrying a football knocked the ball out of the hands of the player carrying the football. The ball hit the Millers' son in the temple. He told them he saw a bright light after being hit.

The Miller's son told his parents he got up to hit the

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Gas company joins Chamber

Eastern North Carolina Natural Gas Company, LLC recently joined the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.

EasternNC is a new local natural gas distribution company formed jointly by the Albemarle-Pamlico Economic Development Corporation (APEC) and Progress Energy to bring service to 14 counties in northeastern and eastern North Carolina. Primarily designed to serve as an amenity for economic development efforts in the region, including Perquimans County, EasternNC will also operate local distribution sys-

tems for residential, institutional, and industrial customers in Hertford and Winfall. EasternNC will operate as a public utility regulated by the N.C. Utilities Commission.

The 14-county natural gas project is being constructed using \$188.3 million in state bonds and a \$22 million investment by Progress Energy. The transmission and distribution systems in Perquimans County are a part of the project's first construction phase, with the entire project slated to be finished by late 2004.

EasternNC Natural Gas's web site is www.enrng.com.



Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sid Eley (right) welcomes Eastern North Carolina Natural Gas Company, LLC as new members of the chamber. Representing Eastern NC Natural Gas is Community Relations Director Peter Rascoe.

Carolinas ALS group to use Hunter name

The ALS Association Carolinas Chapter has been renamed the ALS Association Jim "Catfish" Hunter Chapter to honor the Major League Baseball Hall of Famer. The Carolinas Chapter and the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation have joined forces in a new partnership that will better serve the needs of those affected by Lou Gehrig's disease in the Carolinas. This marks the latest step in a long-standing friendship between the two organizations.

The ALS Association North Carolina Chapter

was founded in 1988 to serve the needs of ALS patients and caregivers. In 2000, the Chapter expanded its services to include South Carolina and became known as The Carolinas Chapter. Currently, the Chapter's services include raising money for ALS research, providing support programs for persons with ALS, and raising awareness about ALS through local and national advocacy.

The Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation was established after Hunter was diagnosed with

amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in September 1998. Friends in Hertford, with Hunter's support, created the Foundation to focus attention on this deadly disease, to help promote research that will lead to a cure, and to provide patient support. On Sept. 9, 1999, Hunter succumbed to complications of ALS and the effects of a head injury. He was 53 years old.

The Chapter and the Foundation have worked closely over the past several years on many programs and events. The new partnership that has been

established will bring more recognition to ALS and help the Chapter meet the growing needs of the ALS community. The Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation will continue as a separate charitable organization with an umbrella of administrative support and financial reporting provided by the newly named Chapter.

Winfall seeks new board member

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The Town of Winfall is looking for candidates to fill a vacant seat on the town's governing board.

Board member Alice Rowland, elected last November and seated in December, died on Sept. 8, leaving a spot on the Winfall Town Council.

Winfall residents interested in serving on the board should submit a resume and state why they would like to serve on the

board and their qualifications for service.

Per the town's charter, applications will be reviewed by the town council and a replacement will be chosen by the board.

Applications for the position are being accepted through Oct. 4. They may be submitted at the town office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The town is also seeking a full-time police officer.

According to town clerk Gloria Mason, the position

was created by the receipt of a grant from the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. The officer will serve under present chief and sole Winfall police officer David Shaffer.

Applications are being accepted from certified officers at least 21 years of age until the position is filled.

For information on either position, call the town office at 426-5015 during the town's regular business hours.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 77
Low: 66
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
High: 85
Low: 68
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 80
Low: 60
SCATTERED T'STORMS