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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Pinewood derby winners

Page 2

ECUS Black History events

Page 5

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Page 6

February 19, 2003

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## Library group honors Eley

# U.S. 17/Wynn Fork: another wreck

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Just a week after Hertford Town Council met with DOT officials about making the intersection at Wynn Fork Road and U.S. Highway 17 safer, a three-car accident brought Hertford Police to the familiar site of wrecks.

Don Conner, P.E., District I Engineer, and Jerry Jennings, P.E. Division Operations Engineer, met with council at the board's regular session last Monday night.

Conner told council that the state is "trying to deal with short-term issues working toward a more long-term solution" at the intersection.

Studies of traffic accidents occurring at the intersection over the past three years show that they primarily occur with northbound and eastbound traffic, Conner said. From reviewing accident reports,



A van, an SUV and a car were involved in an accident at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and Wynn Fork Road Monday morning. The number of accidents — and how to stop them — has been the topic of much discussion by Hertford and DOT officials.

the state has concluded that many of the accidents occur when traffic traveling east on Wynn Fork Road attempts to cross U.S. 17. He said it appeared that most of the vehicles seemed to have attempted to completely cross U.S. 17 without stopping at the median.

A 16-hour traffic count

suggests that 160 vehicles per day travel east on Wynn Fork Road and attempt to cross U.S. 17.

Conner said DOT had several possible solutions to the problem.

The first he outlined was installing a restricted movement-type intersection like the one in place on U.S. 17 at the turn to



Perquimans Centre near McDonald's.

"It's probably the safest of the things that we could make a recommendation to you to do," Conner said.

That type of intersection would probably cause motorists to make a U-turn later down the road, he added.

If the intersection were changed to restricted movement, Conner said the state may upgrade nearby intersections with acceleration

lanes.

One of the problems with the restricted movement intersection is that it would hamper the movement of trucks, farm equipment and emergency vehicles across the intersection.

Taking out the intersection completely was another alternative Conner brought up.

"The most safe ... may be to take the crossover out," he said.

Continued on page 8

The Friends of Perquimans County Library named Sid Eley as a "Special Friend of the County" for 2003.

Eley, mayor of Hertford and executive director of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, is a lifelong county resident.

A reception will be held in Eley's honor on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. at the library.

In his dual roles as mayor and chamber director, Eley greets visitors, promotes the county and works for economic improvement.

According to the Friends, Eley is tireless in his efforts to promote Perquimans County, and is known for donning period dress for community festivals and for modeling the values he holds dear.

A retired educator, Eley taught science in the Perquimans County Schools for 31 years. He holds a masters of science education degree and a certificate of advanced study from East Carolina University. He served as a football, basketball and softball coach during his education career.

Hertford's Main Street program has benefited from Eley's experience — he served as the first Main Street Board president, 2000-2002, and continues to serve on the Board of Directors. In 2002 Governor Mike Easley appointed him to the North Carolina Community Development Council.

A volunteer firefighter for 32 years, Eley was chief of the Hertford Fire Department from 1994-1999. He retired from the volunteer rescue squad after contributing 20 years of service. He has been a member of the Hertford Town Council for eight years.

Eley and his wife Candy have two sons, Ted and Clint. They are active members of Hertford Baptist Church, where Sid has taught adult Sunday School classes, served as a deacon, and worked with young people in the Emmaus program. He is a member of Hertford Rotary and serves on the Board of Directors of both the Perquimans County Restoration Association and the Museum of the Albemarle. He serves on the Perquimans County Recreation Advisory Board.

The Friends of Perquimans County Library is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the library's programs and services. As part of their outreach to the community, the Friends voted to accept nominations for "Special Friend of the County" from local citizens each December. In December 2002, 11 nominations were received.

## Schools prepare for No Child Left Behind

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Across North Carolina, local schools districts are composing plans to implement requirements of No Child Left Behind, federal legislation which will change many aspects of education.

In January, the state asked each school district to put together a five-member No Child Left Behind Committee. Committee members attended an information session on the legislation. The state then charged the committees with devising plans to share information about the legislation and its impact on local school districts throughout its respective school system and community.

It was suggested that local committees be composed of the superintendent, schools public information officer, a principal, a school board representa-



Schools Superintendent Ken Wells discusses provision of No Child Left Behind, the federal legislation that will change education across the country.

and a business/community representative. Members of the Perquimans County Committee are Ken Wells, Brenda Lassiter, Billy Stallings, William Byrum and Susan Harris.

The committee met soon after the January information session to begin to compose its local plan. A

proposed timeline for presenting information to school faculty and staff, parents and the public was put in place, as well as ideas on how best to reach all segments of the community.

Wells began presenting information when he met with teacher assistants earlier this month.

The overarching goal of both North Carolina's ABCs of Public Education and the federal No Child Left Behind law is improving student achievement. As with ABCs, the federal plan also has an accountability component. Both also give priority to providing quality teachers and more involvement and choices for parents.

However, the methods of measurement of success for ABCs and No Child Left Behind are markedly different. A school designated as high performing under the ABCs could actually receive a low mark for average yearly progress, the measure of student achievement established by the federal law.

Administrators and educators all agreed during discussion at the January information session that implementing No Child Left Behind will be challenging. And some of the

greatest challenges will include understanding and interpreting exactly what each component of the federal legislation means for local students.

Even now, when parts of the legislation have not been fully explained to state and local administrators, the federal law is in force, meaning school systems will be accountable for complying with factors not yet completely understood.

Information on No Child Left Behind and its impact on the local school system, its employees and its students will be presented first to school employees, then to elected officials, parents and the community. Written information, open meetings, presentations to church and civic groups and other means of communication will be used as early as this summer to begin getting information to the public.

## Viking Silver makes its home in Winfall

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Don and Barbara Gustafson didn't know when they took a silver jewelry making class through the local Extension Service that it would turn into a part-time enterprise for them.

"We just got kind of wrapped up in it," said Don Gustafson recently. "We just kept it going. I think it took us over rather than us taking it over."

For about five years, the Gustafsons have been making jewelry — watches, rings, bracelets, necklaces — both from silverplated tableware and raw sheets of sterling silver. Recently, they have made Victorian bracelets and spoon and nickel rings. They also make bud vases.

"We try to keep it original," Don Gustafson said.

"We try to come up with something new all the time."

Earlier this month, the Chamber of Commerce sponsored a ribbon cutting for the Gustafsons to mark the opening of their shop in their newly-renovated home in Winfall. Those interested in seeing what the Gustafsons, whose business is known as Viking Silver, have in stock may make an appointment by calling 426-9698.

The couple started out displaying and selling their jewelry at festivals and craft shows. The quality and unique designs made their offerings popular.

"All our stuff is local and it's all guaranteed," Don Gustafson said. "It holds up well."

In addition to selling out of their home and at shows, the Gustafsons have items on consignment in an



Don and Barbara Gustafson were surrounded by family and well-wishers at the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting for their business, Viking Silver, recently.

antique shop in Murfreesboro. They will also do shows for churches and charities as fund raisers.

The Gustafsons hope to teach classes on silver jewelry making in the future, to share their love of the craft with others.

Please note:  
Our email addresses  
have changed. See  
page 4 for our new  
addresses.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 49  
Low: 40  
MOSTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
High: 59  
Low: 53  
CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
High: 63  
Low: 39  
RAIN