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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Hertford woman killed in accident

COLBY UNDERWOOD  
The Daily Advance

A Hertford woman was killed and her sister injured last Thursday afternoon when their car hit an unattended tractor-trailer on Two Mile Desert Road in Winfall, a state Highway Patrol spokesman said Friday.

Edna Baker Elliott, 85, of 548 Great Hope Church Road, Hertford, was killed and her sister, 88-year-old Edith Lane of Hertford, was transported to Albemarle Hospital, troopers said.

According to the patrol spokesman, Elliott was driving a 1992 Lincoln southbound on Two Mile Desert Road at 45 mph when it struck a ramp attached to a flat-bed trailer hooked to the 18-wheel truck. The ramp, which was resting on the pavement, is used to load equipment on and off the trailer.

The car flipped after hitting the ramp and landed upside down in a ditch, the patrol spokesman said.

The owner of the tractor-trailer is Jack Hurdle of Hertford, troopers said.

No charges have been filed in connection with the crash.

## Meeting set for flood maps

Residents of Perquimans County can review and ask questions about the preliminary copies of new flood insurance rate maps of Perquimans County at a public meeting on Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the county courthouse.

The event is sponsored by the Perquimans County Inspections Department.

The entire state is being remapped.

State, federal and local officials will be on hand for the meeting.

## Bethel fire department celebrates new building

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Bethel Fire Chief Jeff Proctor said several factors are responsible for the department's new home on Snug Harbor Road during an open house and ribbon cutting at the new facility Sunday afternoon.

Proctor told a full house that increased county funding, community support, grants from the State Volunteer Fire Department Grant Program and a dedicated group of firefighters allowed Bethel to build the much-needed facility.

"It's a dream come true," Proctor said.

The event was very well attended, with hundreds on hand, including founding department members and others who contributed greatly to its operation over its 28-year history.

Charles Skinner Jr., a former chief of the Hertford Fire Department and a former county fire marshal, gave a brief history of the department.

Skinner said that on July 27, 1953, Hertford firefighters responded to a house fire in Bethel. They could see the smoke when the trucks rolled onto Highway 17. But the response time was too long, and the house was lost.

The same things happened again in 1957.

In the 1960s, word of the development of Snug Harbor and later Holiday Island, hit the streets. Those communities would put even more houses in an area hard to protect from Hertford, Skinner said.

One morning in the store that sits at the corner of Snug Harbor and Pender roads, Skinner said he and some Bethel residents discussed organizing a fire department in Bethel.

It was decided that a meeting would be held at the community building on March 4, 1965 to discuss the matter. A couple of firefighters from Hertford came to the meeting also.

From that meeting, the first rural fire department in Perquimans County was born. It was chartered on Aug. 2, 1965 as the



A ribbon cutting was held to officially open the new Bethel Fire Department station Sunday afternoon. As department members looked on (above), County Commissioner Mack Nixon, Chief Jeff Proctor, President Donald Hobbs, and Commissioners Wallace Nelson, Ben Hobbs and Charles Ward cut the ribbon. Sparky the Fire Dog (right) also made an appearance at the open house.

Bethel Community Fire Protection Association, Inc. The first officers were Roy Chappell Jr., president; Maynard Fleetwood, vice president and chief; William Corpew, secretary; and Emmett Long, treasurer.

Skinner said the roster of the first department listed several family members, including fathers and sons, brothers, in-laws and cousins.

At the open house Sunday, there were several second and even third, generation firefighters wearing a Bethel uniform.

The first truck in Bethel came from a rural volunteer department in Forsyth County.

Firefighters have held many fund raising campaigns for a building and equipment over the years. A lot of hours have also been spent in training.



After Bethel chartered, other communities also realized the need for fire departments and four more were chartered: Intercounty in 1966, Winfall in 1967, Belvidere Chappell Hill in 1971 and Durants Neck in 1980.

During the program, Association President Donald Hobbs thanked many people and groups for their support of the fire department.

Also on hand was

Lauren Thompson, administrative officer with the N.C. Department of Insurance. Firefighters said Thompson's held has been critical in helping them to apply for and receive grants from the state.

After the ribbon cutting, the large crowd in attendance enjoyed refreshments prepared by the Ladies Auxilliary and touring the facility and equipment.

## NCHP cracks down over holiday

RALEIGH -- The Highway Patrol will be targeting aggressive drivers on North Carolina interstates beginning Wednesday and continuing through the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

The aggressive driver has been identified as those drivers who flagrantly violate the motor vehicle laws, including but not limited to: excessive speeding, following too closely, erratic lane changes, safe movement violations, and other forms of reckless endangerment. Aggressive drivers account for a significant number of the traffic collisions that occur on the state roadways.

"This high-volume holiday travel period is traditionally one of our busiest and deadliest," said Colonel Richard W. Holden, Commander of the State Highway Patrol. "Getting to your destination safely should be your number one goal; don't try to cut off a few minutes of your drive time by speeding or driving aggressively. It's just not worth it."

During the Thanksgiving holiday, the Patrol will also be participating in the state's "Booze It and Lose It" anti-drunk driving campaign and the national Combined Accident Reduction Effort, (C.A.R.E.). Sobriety checkpoints are being held throughout the state during the entire week.

The Thanksgiving holiday weekend officially begins at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26 and ends at midnight, Sunday, Nov. 30.

Last year, there were 2,094 crashes, 1,174 injuries and 17 fatalities statewide during the holiday period.

Citizens can report highway problems to the Patrol by dialing \*HP (\*47) on their cellular phones. The toll-free call goes directly to the nearest Highway Patrol communication center.

## Stallings named county Principal of the Year

Billy Stallings, principal of Perquimans County Central School, has been selected as the 2003-2004 Wachovia Principal of the Year for Perquimans County Schools.

The Principal of the Year program is co-sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and Wachovia Bank, N.A., North Carolina. This is the second consecutive year in which Stallings has received this top honor.

Stallings, a graduate of Perquimans County High

School, began his career in education here before going to Currituck County Schools where he spent 17 years as a coach, teacher and assistant principal.

Stallings earned his B.A. from Elizabeth City State University in May 1977 and his masters degree from East Carolina University in December 1981. He continued his education and earned his certification in Education Administration from East Carolina University in June 1983.

"Mr. Stallings merits the respect of students, par-

ents, teachers and co-workers," said Superintendent Ken Wells. "He is not only active in his schools, but also in his community and church where he has truly distinguished himself as a leader. The high level of parental involvement at his school, his ability to improve student achievement and his hands-on leadership make him a solid choice for Principal of the Year."

Under Stallings' leadership, Perquimans Central School has received grant funding for initiatives such

as More at Four, 21st Century,

EnTech Community Technology Center, and the IMPACT grant. These monies are used to improve the quality of education for students by offering before and after school daycare, extended day programs and family night activities.

The 21st Century grant, which is in its third year of funding, provides funding for before and after school daycare, running 7-8 a.m. and 3-6 p.m.

"This program has been one of the most beneficial

for our students as it provides a safe, nurturing environment for our students until parents get home from work," said Stallings.

As principal, he makes certain all teachers follow this one important rule: Treat each child in the classroom like you would want someone to treat your child. This is a philosophy teachers have taken to heart.

In the four years he has been principal at the PreK-2 school, student test scores

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 70  
LOW: 54  
PM SHOWERS

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 63  
LOW: 33  
AM SHOWERS/WIND

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 54  
LOW: 38  
SUNNY

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