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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

## King honored at events

Susan R. Harris

Not even a surprise guest speaker change could dampen the mood of celebration and worship at the annual NAACP-sponsored Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration Monday.

Hampered by throat problems, U.S. Congressman Frank Ballance, the originally-scheduled guest speaker, asked N.C. Senator Robert Holloman to pinch-hit for him.

Not only did Holloman speak to those gathered at First Baptist Church, his impassioned message brought many in the audience to their feet and smatterings of applause throughout his comments.

"We serve a God that's able to take nobodies and make 'em somebodies," Holloman said as she opened his comments, drawing from the scriptural text Phil. 4:13, "I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me."

Holloman said he was one of eight children raised by a father who was "appointed and anointed," and a praying man.

"God raised me up," Holloman said.

King was one of Holloman's mentors, he said.

As Holloman grew, he said God was in his life. No one believed that he would grow up to become a state senator, he said.

He also has enjoyed success as a minister, serving at a church over the past 15 years. When he assumed pastoral duties, the church had 100 members and today has over 560 active members. The sanctuary has been renovated from a 200-seat auditorium to one that seats 750, in addition to adding a fellowship hall that seats 300 and a family life center that seats 1,000.

The church offers teen pregnancy and drug prevention and tutoring programs.

Next he hopes to build a



Photo by SAM WOLFE, The Daily Advance

N.C. Senator Robert Holloman spoke during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at First Baptist Church on Monday. The senator, who is also a minister, agreed to deliver the sermon for his friend, Congressman Frank Ballance, the originally-scheduled guest speaker. Ballance said he was having throat problems. The program was sponsored by the Perquimans Chapter NAACP.

Schools Superintendent Ken Wells was the guest speaker at a Martin Luther King Jr. Day breakfast at Captain Bob's Restaurant.]



retirement center.

He said King persevered, endured and never took no for an answer. Holloman said he has adopted the same "We can" attitude.

As he continues to live and grow, Holloman said he learns more about people and is convinced that they are living beneath their power and possibilities to achieve.

People use only 10 percent of their brainpower, and it is time to use that untapped resource to achieve, he said.

He said the purpose of the King Day program was to help people raise themselves up from where they are.

"We have come a long ways, but God is ready to

take us farther," he said.

"The only thing holding you back is yourself," he said.

"Our problem is as a race of people ... saying 'I can't' when we ought to be saying 'I can,'" he added.

Overcoming negativity and trusting each other are imperative to change, Holloman said.

"It's time to realize if we don't hang together we become separated," he said.

Christians should come together to make a difference, he said, to act on drug use and other social problems and make a difference.

"It's drugs that's killing us," he said.

He added, "Martin Luther King is rolling over in his grave: because professed leaders are not tak-

ing more action.

"It's not about your talk, it's about your walk," he said.

He said people should not talk about each other, but instead should refuse to gossip and pray for those who may need help or be in trouble.

"If you don't have the facts, you need to keep your mouth closed," he said. "Don't talk about them, pray for them."

"You can face every challenge," Holloman said. "Learn how to live above what people say about you. God is in our site."

Holloman ended his talk by asking for support when he next runs for office, as Perquimans has been moved into his state senatorial district.

## Razors found at PCMS

### Two students suspended for 10 days; face 365-day suspension

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Two Perquimans County Middle School students have been suspended from school after having been found to be in possession of a weapon last week.

According to a news release issued by the school system, the two incidents were unrelated. No serious injuries were documented in either case. School principal Melvin Hawkins has recommended long-term suspension for both students.

One incident occurred on a school bus. A student carrying a disposable razor blade on the bus did cause what the school system called "minor physical harm to another student." The injury did not require stitches, but a tetanus shot was given for precautionary reasons.

"As principal, I am charged with the responsibility to take whatever reasonable and legal action is necessary to establish and maintain appropriate student behavior in accordance with board policy," said Hawkins. "Both students possessing the razor blades were suspended for 10 days and have been recommended for long-term suspension."

School board policy states that students found to be in possession of weapons may be suspended for up to 365 days.

The names of the students involved were not released as both were minors.

Superintendent Ken Wells said the school system has a zero tolerance policy for weapons or drugs of any kind among its students.

"There must exist a climate of discipline conducive to learning and respect for oneself and other people for a school to meet the needs of our students," Wells said. "Each principal has the authority to take whatever reasonable action is necessary to establish and maintain appropriate student behavior. As superintendent, I shall uphold and support the maximum punishment of students for possession of weapons and drugs."

In order to dispel rumors and keep parents fully informed, Hawkins sent a letter home to parents on Friday. The letter was sent to inform parents of the incidents, request their assistance, and assure them that school is safe.

Hawkins also recommended in the letter a few steps parents can take to help maintain school safety.

Among the recommendations were:

- Support your local school and community groups, such as the PTA. These organizations can help create a connected community to support school safety.

- Familiarize yourself with school policies that outline zero tolerance regarding weapons, bullying, and any act of violence. Speak with your child on a regular basis about the repercussions of acts of violence.

- If you have weapons in your home, secure them so that your child does not have access to them.

- Work to ensure that the lines of communication are open both in your home and at school. Even if your child is not currently having a problem, it's important that he/she knows who to talk to and that he/she can feel secure in talking about personal problems as well as concerns about classmates.

The news release stated that Perquimans and systems around the nation have taken measures over the past few years to ensure that weapons are not carried on campuses.

Some local measures have included random locker and bag checks and establishing only one entry and exit point to each school that is supervised by a teacher. In addition, metal detectors are often used in schools and are readily available for athletic events.

Perquimans County Schools has added curricula to educate children about their feelings and how to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence. Being involved in both peer counseling and active peer programs can help students become more attuned to the signs that a fellow student (or themselves) may be becoming more troubled or violent. They also may be more comfortable reporting those signs to someone who can help that student, such as a guidance counselor or teacher.

A copy of the schools policy manual is available for review in the office at each school and at the central administrative office.

## HOLIDAY WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 55  
Low: 27  
SUNNY

FRIDAY  
High: 39  
Low: 26  
SUNNY

SATURDAY  
High: 53  
Low: 33  
MOSTLY SUNNY



## Winslow to sign copies of her book

Hannah Winslow will sign her book, "Once Upon a Time I Was Me: Reflections on Living as a Teenager," on Jan. 27, 4-6:30 p.m. at the Perquimans County Library.

Hannah is the daughter of Richard and LaRue Winslow of Hertford and a sophomore English education major and Teaching Fellow at East Carolina University.

Hannah Winslow signs a copy of her book, "Once Upon a Time I Was Me: Reflections on Living as a Teenager," on Jan. 27 at the county library. Hannah is from Hertford and an ECU student.

According to The East Carolinian, the ECU student newspaper, Hannah is the first student in school history to publish while obtaining her undergraduate degree.

The poetry in the book was written during Hannah's earlier years, and discusses her feelings on many issues all teens face such as family, relationships and religion.

The book was published by Trafford Publishing in Canada and is illustrated by Nathan Saunders, a graduate of Perquimans County High School and a student at N.C. State University. It retails for \$15.95, and 10 percent of all sales are donated to the American Cancer Society.