

Propagation workshop

Page 2

My favorite things

Page 4

Open houses, pep rally

Page 6

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Godfrey survives snake bite

AMANDA ALEXANDER
and
SUSAN R. HARRIS

Terry Godfrey got bit, but the snake got the ax in Whiteston Saturday evening.

Godfrey was bitten on the thumb by a copperhead in the shop next to his home around 7 p.m. Saturday. After being bitten, he went into the house, where his wife, Linda, helped him clean the bite, then he had an announcement to make.

"I've got to go kill the snake," he told her. "Get me something to kill it with."

Linda got an ax, and Terry killed the culprit, which Linda said was about 18 inches long and about two inches around.

Terry thought the snake was poisonous, but called neighbor Stan Winslow to come confirm his suspicion. Winslow agreed that the snake was probably poisonous, and the Godfreys prepared to go to Albemarle Hospital, and took the dead snake along to show what had inflicted the bite. By the time they left for Elizabeth City, Linda said Terry's finger was swelling and beginning to hurt.

"I prayed on the way to the hospital, I'll tell you," Linda said. "Me and the Lord had quite a talk."

Upon learning of his injury, hospital staff immediately ushered Terry into the treatment area, Linda said. They also called poison control as soon as Terry arrived and doctors at Albemarle Hospital conferred with them throughout Terry's treatment. He was given the anti-venom, Cofax, which lowered his blood pressure. He was kept overnight for observation before being released around noon on Sunday.

His finger was still swollen and he experienced an ache around his shoulder and at the back of his neck, but Terry went back to work on Tuesday.

Terry, a mechanic, and his son, Brandon, had spent Saturday working on the 1950s-era Chevrolet truck Brandon is restoring. Terry was picking up a wooden box of automotive parts when he realized one had fallen out of the box onto the floor. When he picked up the part, he saw the snake strike.

The bite felt like an ice pick sticking in him, Linda said Terry told her.

Terry said he was already cautious of his surroundings, but after this incident, he will keep an even more vigilant eye out for snakes.

Linda said they had seen a few snakes on their property this summer, but no more than usual. She said that perhaps last week's rain which filled ditches sent the critter looking for new digs.

BACK TO CLASS



The parking lot at Central School was filled with vehicles, as moms and dads ushered their little ones to the first day of class last Thursday.

School off to good start

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The relative calm of summer in a school building was broken last Thursday when almost 1,600 Perquimans County students headed back to class.

According to Public Relations Officer Brenda Lassiter, there were no major snafus during the day, and faculty, staff and students were quickly settling down into a new

school year.

All teaching positions were filled by the time students returned to class.

Last Monday, all schools personnel gathered along with government officials and community residents for the annual convocation that officially kicks off the beginning of each school year. Dr. Kenneth Wells was guest speaker for the event.

Sports teams at the high school began their scrimmages this week in preparation for the coming sea-

sons.

Open houses have already been hosted at several schools, and the middle school will host its open house Thursday from 5:30-7 p.m.

The high school will hold another open house and pre-season pep rally Sunday. The open house will be held 3-5 p.m. At 4, a pre-season pep rally will be held in the gym featuring the band, cheerleaders and football and volleyball teams.

Periauger to arrive in one month

A decade of planning, years of design and construction, and a three-week historic waterway voyage culminate on Saturday, Sept. 11 with the grand arrival of the periauger in Hertford.

The 18th century replica workboat will sail into Hertford Harbor at 9:45 a.m. with the ceremony set to begin at 10 a.m. The grand arrival is a highlight of the annual Indian Summer and Hearth & Harvest festivals.

The arrival will feature the crew, in 18th century period dress, sailing the periauger into Hertford Harbor where local dignitaries will welcome them. The Perquimans County High School brass band will provide the musical

backdrop.

The periauger will lead 30 kayakers who will paddle into Hertford for the occasion.

The grand arrival will cap off a three-week voyage that includes 30 individuals who volunteered for the six-to-eight-person crew. Joining the crew over the 21-day voyage were 40 boats and more than 80 additional volunteers who assisted with provisioning and transportation.

The periauger project is under the direction of John Ernst, periauger odyssey commander, and Monty Spindler, periauger project director.

Crew members and volunteers of the periauger will be on hand during the Indian Summer Festival.

Hours of the festival are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Additional periauger information will be available at the Hearth & Harvest Festival, an 18th century colonial festival, at the Newbold-White House: A Colonial Quaker Homestead, from noon-4 p.m.

The Town of Hertford will be the periauger's interim homeport until it is relocated to the historic 1730 Newbold-White House, where it will be a key component to the site's maritime heritage program.

For more information about the periauger project or programs at the Newbold-White complex, contact the Perquimans County Restoration Association at 426-7567 or nbwh@inteliport.com.

Superintendent earns doctorate

While Kenneth Wells has led efforts to improve and expand education for students in Perquimans County Schools over the past three years, he's also been a student himself.

Wells successfully defended his dissertation before a doctoral committee at East Carolina University this past spring, and earned his doctor of education degree.

"I am delighted," Wells said shortly after receiving word of the successful defense of his dissertation. "It has been a great deal of work and has taken a tremendous amount of time, but I'm glad I did it. It is so gratifying to me to be able to accomplish such an important goal in my personal life, and I think the research will benefit all school districts."

Wells, who is in his fourth year as the superintendent of Perquimans County Schools, completed his undergraduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1977, earned his master's degree from UNC-Charlotte in 1984 and was admitted to the Department of Educational Leadership Doctoral Program in 1998. He received his superintendent and supervision licensure in May 2000.

Wells, who served as assistant superintendent for Dare County Schools from 1996 - 2001, began his teaching career in Charlotte. After teaching at two Charlotte schools between 1978 and 1984, he took the position of assistant principal at the district's East Mecklenburg High School. He then served as principal of three different schools until appointed executive director of secondary education for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

According to Schools Public Relations Officer Brenda Lassiter, Wells stands out as a leader in public education. He is a tireless advocate, not just for education, but for children and everything that affects their lives both in and out of school, Lassiter said.

"The direction of Perquimans County Schools is clear," Lassiter said. "Students are the priority. Under the leadership of Dr. Kenneth W. Wells, Perquimans County Schools is gaining recognition throughout the region and the state of North Carolina."

During his tenure, the school system has experienced tremendous academic growth and has received numerous awards at the local, state and national levels, Lassiter said. A few accomplishments this past year include:

- Perquimans Central School, Hertford Grammar School and Perquimans High School earned the prestigious Triple "S" Safe School Award.

- Perquimans High School received two NCAACE Community Education Awards, recognizing the senior project program at PCHS as one of



Dr. Kenneth Wells

the best in the state.

- Three Perquimans Middle School business teachers were named NCMSA Team of the Year.

- Eight Perquimans County Schools teachers earned National Board Certification, ranking Perquimans County Schools 3rd in the state.

- Perquimans County Schools web page won the North Carolina School Public Relations Association's Blue Ribbon Award.

- Dr. Billy Nixon agreed to donate property for the high school athletic complex.

- Twenty teacher assistants earned North Carolina Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certification.

- QTL Center opened at Perquimans Middle School, the second site in our district.

- Perquimans High School's Tonya-Little Williams was named District I Outstanding Science Teacher of the Year

- Perquimans County Schools Foundation, Inc. received its largest donation to date and held the first annual golf tournament.

- Technology Department received donation of computers valued at \$346,000.

- Perquimans Central School successfully completed its first IMPACT year, and qualified for year two, with a grant value of \$1.35 million.

- Perquimans County Schools successfully completed its third year of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, totaling \$1.5 million.

- 2004 PCHS graduates received in excess of \$275,000 in scholarships.

- Perquimans named Super District for Quality Schools by the SACS Commission.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY

High: 84

Low: 71

SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY

High: 84

Low: 69

SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY

High: 84

Low: 69

ISOLATED T'STORMS