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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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County flocks to polls

ERIN RICKERT

Although North Carolina experienced an increase in those making trips to the polls this election, overall voter turnout in Perquimans County registered significantly higher than the last Presidential Election in 2000.

Nearly two hours after polls closed and results were tallied Nov. 2, Perquimans County voter turnout in the 2004 election registered 63 percent. This is a whopping eight percentage points higher than the 55 percent turnout recorded in 2000.

This means that of the 8,091 registered voters, 5,093 residents exercised their right to vote in the election.

"I think it was a fantastic turnout," said Eula Forbes, director of the Perquimans County Board of Elections. "I'm glad people took advantage. I just wish everyone would get involved."

Forbes said residents who cast their votes on Election Day experienced little wait. At worst, lines only reached a wait time of about 30-minutes with the majority of traffic concentrated in the 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. time frame.

Residents voting on Election Day used touch-screen-polling machines to cast their vote.

These machines ran on batteries rather than electricity, which Forbes said allowed the county to provide more accurate results in case a power outage were to occur.

And though overall voter turnout for the county was high, an increased number of residents chose to beat Election Day lines and vote early.

Forbes said although only 800 people were expected during the early voting period Oct. 14-30, an astonishing 1,574 residents came into the Board of Elections Office to vote early.

"I anticipated it could reach 1,000, but never 1,500," Forbes said.

Forbes said due to the high volume of early voting she is planning for close to 2,000 early voters during the next Presidential Election in 2008.

Much like the national turnout of the Presidential Election, those residents in Perquimans County that visited the polls voted George W. Bush into office for a second term — taking 2,964 residents votes to Kerry's 1,971.

Local election results: Register of Deeds: Deborah S. Reed 3,633 votes (unopposed)

Board of County Commissioners: Mack E. Nixon 1,591 votes, M. Shirley Wiggins 1,350 votes, Sue Weimar 1,669 votes (three elected to at-large seats)

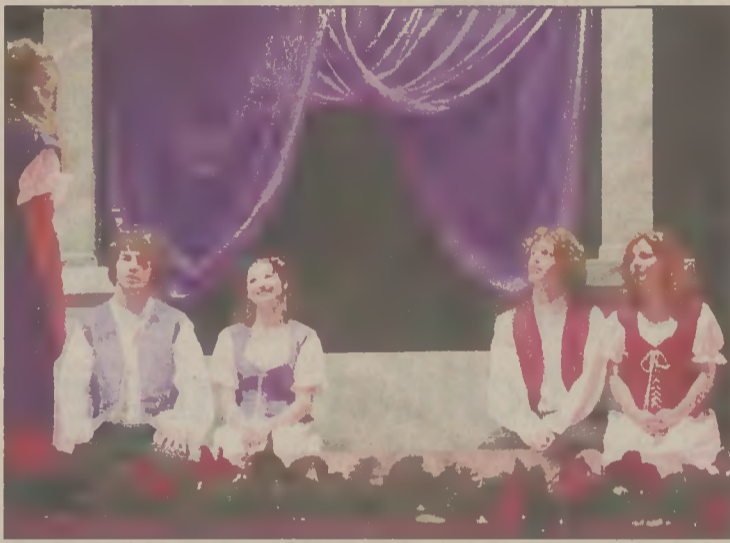
Soil and Water Conservation Board: Ginger H. O'Neal 1,482, H. Wayne Hurdle 2,678

Vote totals unofficial

16TH CENTURY SOAP OPERA



The high school Fine Arts Department staged "A Midsummer Night's Dream" Thursday and Friday. The tale of love and woe features human frailty, the merriment of fairies in the wood, the mischief of a jokester named Puck, some spells gone wrong and local yokels producing a play for the Duke's wedding. It was quite a success.



Parton checks out area

ERIN RICKERT

Perquimans is one of several area counties being considered by Randy Parton, brother of award winning country music star Dolly Parton, for a theatre district.

Parton, who finished his weeklong trip to the area with wife Deb last week, hopes to develop the theatre district on more than 100 acres in the northeast region of the state.

Among the sites under consideration for a theatre district backed by Parton are Currituck, Perquimans, Beaufort, Chowan, Martin and Pasquotank counties.

"I'm very impressed with all the areas," Parton said. "The one thing missing is the entertainment."

Rick Watson, president and CEO of North Carolina's Northeast

Partnership, helped bring Parton to the area.

Watson, who not too long ago attended one of Parton's shows, said after the performance he spoke with one of the entertainers that performed alongside Parton and gave them his business card.

Parton's fellow entertainer passed the card onto Parton that night and he called Watson the next day.

Parton said he could not explain why he called Watson, because he said scenarios similar to this one happen to him often.

"It happens everyday, 100 times a day," Parton said. "This had to be fate."

Watson said the theatre development is definite because Parton has signed a letter of intent and sister Dolly has written him a letter expressing her eagerness for the project.

"I think we are on our way now, but I just don't

know where we are going to land," Watson said.

Though plans for the future theatre district are still in the works, the two said they envision a handful of theatres, but "The Randy Parton Theatre" would be the anchor where Parton would frequently headline.

The district is what Parton referred to as an expansion of the Pines Theatre in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. where he performs six months out of the year in his sister's theme park, Dollywood.

After final plans are set near spring 2005, Watson said it is feasible for the theatre district to be in place six-eight months later.

Watson said he has already had developers say they would build the theatre if Watson made sure Parton came.

Edenton man killed in hit, run

RYAN BURR
The Daily Advance

An Edenton man was killed early Friday when a vehicle struck him from behind while he was walking south on U.S. Highway 17, about five miles south of Hertford, a state Highway Patrol sergeant said.

William Edward Bond Jr., 33, of East Peterson Street, was killed instantly from injuries sustained by the collision and was thrown onto the median, said Sgt. Tom Griffin. Based on vehicle debris left at the scene, authorities believe it was a light color Toyota Camry made between 1994 and 1997 which struck Bond and left the scene. Authorities believe the car was also driving south on the highway.

Griffin said Bond had left a newly reopened nightclub, formerly called Hillcrest, a few miles south of Hertford just before 2 a.m., according to witnesses there. Bond was reportedly heading back to Edenton, as were several other patrons that night, but he did not have a driver's license or a car.

The accident occurred about a mile and a half south of the club at around 3 a.m., Griffin said. Bond's body lay in the road for hours until a passing motorist reported the situation to the patrol just before 7 a.m. Also responding to the scene were the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department and Perquimans Emergency Medical Service.

Griffin said authorities suspect Bond had been drinking, but they had not seen the blood alcohol results of an autopsy which was performed Friday afternoon.

Authorities could not say for certain that the driver

did not stop after the accident to check on Bond, Griffin said. There are no tire marks on the road where the impact occurred, so Griffin said it is likely the car did not slow before hitting Bond. Although Bond's body was not found on the road, it has not been confirmed whether the car struck Bond on the road or just off the road. There are no tire marks in the grass from the Toyota, however, Griffin said.

A crime scene reconstructionist with the Highway Patrol will conduct a detailed investigation of the events before, during and after the fatal accident, Griffin said.

The owner of the club and security staff knew Bond by name, Griffin said, but they didn't know for certain if Bond came by himself or with others Thursday night.

There is no indication that Bond was involved in any altercation with people at the club, Griffin said, adding, that the owner "can't figure out why (Bond) would have been walking" to Edenton.

"We're still trying to get up with some of the folks" who may have seen Bond on Thursday, Griffin said. "We are scratching the surface to see what we can come up with."

"Maybe their conscience will lead them coming back to talk to us," he said of the driver.

Authorities expect to have a better idea of what color the Toyota was once the State Bureau of Investigation finishes its paint transfer analysis.

The Highway Patrol asks that anyone who has spoken to Bond recently or who may have any information about the incident call the Elizabeth City patrol office at 331-4749.

Award-winning author, producer coming to town

ERIN RICKERT

Perquimans residents may want to get into the holiday spirit a little earlier this year with a Christmas story written by Gates County native Beth Polson.

This author and producer is traveling from California to sign her newest book, "Secret Santa" at 1 p.m. Saturday at M. James Booksellers on Market Street.

Polson said she agreed to the signing when Melanie James, owner of the bookstore, contacted her a few months ago and asked her to come.

"I try to do anything that supports the home team," Polson said.

James said she was genuinely excited and even a little surprised when

Polson agreed to visit the store.
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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 70
Low: 56
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
High: 63
Low: 37
SHOWERS

SATURDAY
High: 53
Low: 35
MOSTLY SUNNY

New shop opens in Hertford

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Faye Correia has been an air brush artist for years, traveling to such places as shopping centers, fairs and craft events to set up a temporary shop and turn out car tags and T-shirts.

Recently, Correia decided she'd rather have a shop to call home and stop the roaming, so she's opened This 'N That on Edenton Road Street. The Chamber of Commerce welcomed her with a ribbon cutting Saturday.

Correia is open Tuesday — Saturday, 8 a.m.—5 p.m. She officially opened her doors on Oct. 1, and said she is pleased with the traffic her store has generated so far.



This 'N That held a grand opening Saturday. The shop, which sits on Edenton Road Street, carries a variety of items ranging from furniture to air brushed items.

Correia specializes in air brushing and refurbished furniture, creates flower arrangements, and offers specialty painting and gift and home decor items.

The furniture has been her biggest success so far. She finds gently used furni-

ture and refurbishes it. She said she can hardly keep it in stock.

There are also tools and refurbished kerosene heaters available.

She also rents space to vendors offering dolls and swords.