

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Ride ATVs responsibly

Page 4

Sports

Page 7

Students explore language barriers

Page 8

January 12, 2005

Vol. 73, No. 2 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

County to join nation in remembering King

ERIN RICKERT

Estelle Felton, 73, remembers a time when the color of her skin kept her from entering through the front door of Hertford restaurants or drinking from the same fountain as those of fairer complexion at the courthouse.

A time when black children had to walk to school while their white peers rode the bus and the entire nation was divided in a battle against race.

"People should not forget the struggle we have gone through," Felton said. "A lot has gone on. It was kind of hard but we got through it. It should make you better not bitter."

In the middle of this struggle was a man who

would go down in history as an instrumental part of the civil rights movement.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would lead thousands in what many consider to be a decade of some of the most influential moments during the civil rights movement.

In the 50s King would lead the black community in a 382-day boycott of city bus lines and speak during the historic March on Washington in 1963 where he would deliver his famous "I have a dream" speech.

It is because of his influence on the movement that he is remembered each year on the third Monday in January.

Monday, offices not only in Perquimans County, but also across the nation, will

close in his honor and towns will hold celebrations in remembrance.

"His life has meant so much to our nation," Felton said. "Not just black people. He had a vision and he opened the doors for some of us to get through."

Felton, a longtime resident of Perquimans County, had the honor of meeting King in the early 60s as he passed by Hertford on a trip to Edenton.

"People were so excited to know he was as close as Edenton," Felton said. "So many came out to see him."

Now, decades later, Felton makes sure not to miss the annual remembrance celebration held in the county each year.

Monday, she and others will take part in a several of



Estelle Felton

the events put on in King's honor.

Starting at 7 a.m. community leaders will meet at Captain Bob's in Hertford for a speech by County Commissioner Shirley Wiggins and breakfast sponsored by Perquimans County 20/20, Perquimans County Communities In

Schools and the Perquimans County branch of the NAACP.

At 9:30 a.m. the Student Life Department at Elizabeth City State University will put on a commemorative march in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The march will begin on the ECSU campus at G.R. Little Library and end at City Hall where a ceremony officiated by Keith Richardson, Pasquotank High School instructor and adviser for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, will take place.

Later, at 3:30 p.m., residents are welcome to gather in Hertford's Missing Mill Park to participate in a motorcade escorted by the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office.

The motorcade will travel through both Hertford and Winfall before arriving at Galatia Missionary Baptist Church in New Hope where a religious service will follow at 4 p.m.

"Normally we have in the neighborhood of 100 people [at the service]," said Fred Yates, Winfall mayor and event organizer.

While the ceremony has taken place for years, Yates said he hopes this year's turnout will be the highest yet.

"People should go [to the ceremony] to be appreciative to a man that gave his life to try to make it a better place for all people," Felton said. "We need to honor his memory because we have so much to be thankful for. We should pack the place [church]."



Jeff Copeland (holding plaque) recently earned the 2004 Distinguished Service Award for his service to farmers and addressing their educational needs. Copeland is an extension agent specializing in livestock for Perquimans, Chowan and Gates counties.

Copeland earns state service award

ERIN RICKERT

Farming is a lifestyle Chowan County native Jeff Copeland has known since early childhood.

As a youth, Copeland helped his family on their farm before leaving to study the business at North Carolina State University.

Copeland later used his education to serve as the area livestock agent, assisting on local farms and at livestock shows.

For the last 25 years he has assisted farmers in Perquimans, 19 years of which he traveled out of the county to serve as agent in Chowan and Gates counties also.

It is this dedication that recently earned Copeland the 2004 Distinguished Service Award.

The award, given yearly to five North Carolina agricultural agents, was presented to Copeland not only for his service, but also for addressing the educational needs of area farmers.

"Awards aren't my thing," Copeland said. "The fact that I got one is really a reflection of the people I

work with. It's nice to be recognized, but there are a lot of other agents that deserve it."

While Copeland does have to put some time in behind his desk, he said getting out to the farms is what he enjoys most.

There he takes his knowledge to the farmers and helps solve current problems and prevent future ones by educating them on things like nutrition and management.

"I wanted to farm, but this is the closest I could get to it," Copeland said.

Even with a long line of farmers as his background, which include his grandparents, parents and siblings, Copeland said he would not have been able to depend on farming for money due to the amount of acreage needed to do the job justice.

"I am the first [in my family] to not rely on farming as my main income," Copeland said.

Though Copeland is unable to have his own farm fulltime he does raise a few hogs in his free time.

The fact that I got one (a DSA award) is really a reflection on the people I work with.

Jeff Copeland
State DSA winner

HISTORIC WINFALL



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

The town of Winfall recently installed a historic district sign across from the post office on space made available by the Parkville Ruritans. The sign, purchased with grant money, highlights the town history, the location of the historic district and offers a glimpse into history with old pictures. The town of Hertford also has a sign at RBC Centura Bank.

Restaurant owners sell local cafe

ERIN RICKERT

After spending nearly 10 years serving Hertford three squares a day, Frankie Eason, owner of Frankie's Hertford Café and Jerry Peer, restaurant manager, will say goodbye to their patrons.

"It's time to have a life," Eason said. "I've worked 80 hours a week for the last 14 years and its time to slow down."

Eason, who moved to Hertford from Nags Head to open Frankies Hertford Café in November 1995, has had the restaurant on the market since January 2004.

It was not until recently that two business partners, Les Basch and Mark Varney from Currituck, made Eason's dream of a slower-paced lifestyle a reality.

On Jan. 23 Eason and Peer will enjoy their last day at the restaurant before moving into their new home at Brice Ski Resort in Winchester, Va.



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Jerry Peer and Frankie Eason will soon bid farewell to the restaurant they've called home for almost 10 years.

"I will miss the regular faces," Eason said. "Without the regulars I would not have made it."

Basch declined comment about the sale, but Eason assures customers that many of the things they love about Frankie's Hertford Café will stay the same.

Eason said the menu

items should remain the same, but there is talk of additional dinner entrees.

He said while Frankie's currently runs on an abbreviated schedule, hours should go back to normal after the sale, operating 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

Police search for leads in string of crimes

ERIN RICKERT

Officers with the Hertford Police Department are currently investigating a string of two attempted break ins and two actual robberies at the Perquimans County Library that occurred in the months of November and December.

While no one has been apprehended in either the break ins or the robberies of the West Academy Street building, officers say the crimes may be connected.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said the instances are similar because they occurred at relatively the same time and each time the library was broken into it was trashed and money was taken.

Vanscoy said based on evidence found at the scenes they also believe the burglaries to be the work of more than one individual. Continued on page 10

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 77
LOW: 53
FEW SHOWERS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 59
LOW: 30
RAIN

SATURDAY
HIGH: 43
LOW: 25
PARTLY CLOUDY