

National 4-H Week observed

Page 3

Schools celebrate after-hours

Page 7

Lady Pirates take down Camden

Page 8

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

October 4, 2006

Vol. 74, No. 44 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Man dies in wreck Saturday

MARGARET FISHER

Alcohol is believed to have contributed to a man's death and the injury of two others in a one-vehicle wreck on Saturday, states a report from the N.C. Highway Patrol.

At about 3 a.m., 21-year-old Rigoberto Toledo of 212 Meads Circle was killed after he lost control of his 1996 Mercury Toledo was traveling east on Harvey Point Road when he crossed over the center line, then swerved off to the right after he tried to pull the car back into the lane. The car ran into a ditch, went airborne and struck a utility pole. It landed upside-down in the front yard at 1860 Harvey Point Road.

Trooper E.D. Goodwin responded to the accident. Two passengers, Julio Hernandez, 24, and Victor Montejo, 23, were seriously injured and taken to Chowan Hospital. Hernandez lives at the same address as Toledo. Montejo resides at 213 Meads Circle.

A Chowan Hospital spokesperson said Tuesday that Hernandez was treated and released and there was no record of Montejo having been brought in.

Man fakes hit and run

MARGARET FISHER

A man who called 9-1-1 on his cell phone claiming he was hit by a van, now faces charges after police discovered he made the story up.

On Sept. 26 at about 4:30 p.m., Travis Reeves, 24, of 204 King St. was standing in the roadway of the 200 block when a van with two females in it drove by. Police later found out that Reeves pushed on the van as it passed him.

But that's not the story Reeves told authorities after calling Central Communications. Reeves told police he had been hit by a red van with two females that he only knew by their nicknames. Neither the van nor witnesses were at the scene when Emer-

Continued on page 4

Walk on



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

About 250 people raised more than \$37,000 for the 7th annual Walk to D'Feet ALS on Saturday. The event benefits the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation. Hunter, a baseball Hall of Famer, died on Sept. 9, 1999, from the disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The ALS Foundation is still accepting donations sent to Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation, P.O. Box 47, Hertford, N.C. 27944.

Sharpe honored as unsung hero

MARGARET FISHER

It was a black pearl affair last Saturday when nine women, including one Perquimans resident, were honored as unsung heroes at the K.E. White Center in Elizabeth City.

The first of what's hoped to be an annual event, The Black Pearls awards banquet was sponsored by the Northeastern North Carolina section of the National Council of Negro Women. About 400 people attended the banquet, including former Congresswoman Eva M. Clayton who spoke at the event.

Hattie Sharpe, president of the local Rhema Ministry Institute, a nonprofit agency located on Don Juan Road, is the first Perquimans resident to be honored.

"Some people do a lot of things for their community that never are awarded or recognized," said event chairwoman Glenda Griffin, an English professor at Elizabeth City State University. "So the idea is to recognize unsung or unrecognized heroes."

Nominations were accepted for a variety of categories and a com-

mittee selected the final recipients. Each of the honored women received a black pearl necklace for their contribution to their communities.

Another resident of Perquimans, Delores Battle, nominated Sharpe as an unsung hero in the category of religion for her community work at Rhema. Battle said she met Sharpe sometime after moving to the area in 1994. As an involved community member herself, Battle found out that Sharpe had founded the Christian-based organization Rhema, which helps both at-risk youth and adults in education, ministry, health education and community service.

"(Sharpe is) just one of the unsung heroes," Battle said. "She doesn't brag about what she does. She doesn't just say 'let's do it,' she gets out there and does it."

Sharpe said that she doesn't think she's done any more than anyone else has.

"I'm just trying to do what everyone else did for me - (provide) an extra chance and an opportunity," she said.

She offers that chance through a number of services provided by Rhema. In 1997, she founded a prayer bible study group. Later, she formed a similar group for teenage girls. In 1999, she formed a homework-career assistance program after an encounter with a teenage boy who was failing math and English because he couldn't understand how to do his homework and had no one to help him.

Sharpe also offers a summer student tutor program. Also, she helps young people assist residents of nursing homes, Albemarle Food Bank deliveries and adults with chronic health problems.

This, Sharpe has accomplished on a shoestring, said Battle in her speech at the banquet.

"...She doesn't just say, 'let's do it,' she gets out there and does it."

Delores Battle
Friend and
nominator

Human bones found in church basement

Skull, leg bones taken to medical examiner's office

MARGARET FISHER

What happened in a local church may have looked like a familiar scene of a mystery movie. But when Charles Eason, pastor of First Baptist Church, discovered human bones in the church basement, he opened up a real mystery case.

Eason said that he was returning a ladder he had removed from under the stairs of the basement on Saturday. He was involved in renovations that have been going on at the church, located at King and Hyde Park streets. At about 1 p.m., he found that some items had fallen over after he had removed the ladder. As he began putting the items back, he noticed a bucket covered with a deteriorating piece of cloth on top. Under the cloth was what looked like an old human skull. Two old femur bones were found near the bucket.

When he first arrived, Hertford Police Officer Eric Priebe thought that it was a Halloween prank, said Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

"After an examination, it was determined that it was actually real," Vanscoy said of the bones.

The State Bureau of Investigation is involved in the case. The three bones were placed in plastic bags and will be taken to the medical examiner's office in Greenville to determine information such as age, gender and race, Vanscoy said. He wasn't sure how long it will take to obtain any information about the bones. The bones do appear to be those of an adult, he said.

In addition, the basement was checked for signs of a possible shallow grave, but the three bones were all that was found.

Eason said that he wasn't aware of anyone having entered the basement during the approximately six months he has been pastor of the church.

Lansing Building Products opens here

MARGARET FISHER

Lansing Building Products opened its doors to contractors in April and celebrated its grand opening on Sept. 26.

The company, founded in 1955 in Richmond, Va., sells wholesale products, such as siding, windows, doors and guttering.

"Exterior building products are our main focus," said operations manager Travis Phelps. They do not sell lumber, but they do carry items such as composite decking boards and vinyl handrail systems for porches.

The decking, which comes in various colors, doesn't rot or splinter and is maintenance-free. It doesn't expand and crack from moisture and is cool on the feet in the summer, Phelps said.

Windows and doors come with a lifetime warranty. Windows

have grids and low Ergon gas. There are also windows that can withstand high winds.

They also carry vinyl siding or Hardi plank siding, which comes primed or in colors. It looks like wood-grain, but is made of concrete.

Lansing provides catalogs of styles and carries tools of the trade for contractors.

The company brought in three employees, Chuck Apperson, branch manager; Chris Smith, outside sales representative; and Phelps. It also hired four local employees. They hope to expand their personnel by up to two more employees by the end of the year, Phelps said.

Business has been successful since they opened - even outdoing other branches in places such as Minneapolis, Minn., and Chicago, Ill.



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Lansing Building Products celebrated its grand opening last week with a ribbon cutting. The company houses more than 20,000 square feet of wholesale exterior building products, such as siding, windows, doors and guttering.

"For the past five or six months, we've been at least 20 percent past our quota," Phelps said.

WEATHER

THURSDAY

HIGH: 83, Low: 60
ISOLATED T'STORMS

FRIDAY

HIGH: 71, Low: 55
SHOWERS

SATURDAY

HIGH: 68, Low: 57
SHOWERS