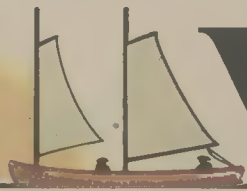


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

JANUARY 25, 2012 - JANUARY 31, 2012

50 cents



Pirate boys lose three straight games, Harvey nearing 1,000 career points — Page 4



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

A home on Woodville Road was destroyed by fire early Monday. Mary Frances James, 83, managed to get herself and her daughter, 51, out of the burning home at 3:30 a.m. No one was injured but the house was destroyed.

## Fire destroys Woodville home

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Members of the close-knit James family in Woodville were giving thanks Monday morning after their 83-year-old mother escaped from her burning home without injury.

Mary Frances James and her 51-year-old daughter were asleep

in their two-story frame/vinyl siding home when flames broke out around 3:30 a.m. Family members say James usually has difficulty getting up in the mornings, but, thankfully, not this time.

She woke up and got out of bed to go to the bathroom when she saw smoke and flames and heard popping sounds in her home. She woke her daughter, and together,

they made their way out of the burning house with only the pajamas they were wearing at the time.

"For her to get up and get out of that house, God was certainly with them," said her oldest daughter Joyce who lives behind the burning home. "By the time I heard about the fire, flames were coming out of the top."

Approximately 30 firefighters from three volunteer fire departments fought the blaze that burned the sprawling house and a car parked inside the garage.

"When we arrived on the scene, fire was coming out of the ceiling in the garage and living room areas," said Chief Bobby Swayne

See WOODVILLE, 5

## Banquet honors area's top crop growers

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Top crop producers in the county were recognized last week during the annual Perquimans Farm/City Banquet held at the Perquimans Community Center. Awards were presented to the top producers in wheat, corn, and soybeans.

Recognized for their growing efforts in wheat yields during the past season were Laurence Chappell (1st) with 126.42 bushels per acre and Ricky Stallings (2nd) with 114.42 bushels per acre. Stallings also took top honors in the corn yields with 239.28 bushels per acre followed by David Temple with D&S Farms producing 216.43 bushels per acre, and Scott Miller in third place with 207.33 bushels per acre. Leaders in soybeans were Matt Perry with 57.13 bushels per acre, Proctor Farms with 56.14 bushels per



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Top crop growers in the county were recognized last week during the annual Perquimans Farm City Banquet held at the Perquimans Community Center. Awards were presented to the top producers in wheat, corn and soybeans. The top growers include: (l-r) David Temple with D&S Farms, Allen Stallings, Pete Proctor with Proctor Farms, Matt Perry, Ricky Stallings and Laurence Chappell. Not pictured is Scott Miller.

acre, and Allen Stallings with 49.34 bushels per acre.

The yield awards were sponsored and presented by the Perquimans County Ruritan Clubs, Hertford Lions Club, Southern States Cooperative, Inc., and the Perquimans County Extension Service.

Those attending the

popular banquet heard Al Wood speak on his trip to Brazil last year where he learned about Brazilian agriculture. Wood is an Extension Agent in neighboring Pasquotank County.

He travelled to Brazil last January as part of the North Carolina Agricultural Leadership Development Program, a

2-year program through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NC State University. The program is designed to help develop leaders in the local agricultural community, Wood explained, helping them gain knowledge and experiences to help make informed decisions on public issues that may shape rural communities

in the future.

Brazil is a major producer now of soybeans and wheat, he said, adding that some areas of that country have over 80 million acres of land that may be degraded eventually to pasture or acreage for row crops.

"If you think Brazil is

See BANQUET, 7

## Schools' finance officer terminated

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The finance officer for Perquimans County Schools was terminated Friday after being on the job for two years.

Superintendent Dwayne Stallings said Pearlina Bunch was

terminated because he felt the school system needed to go in a different direction.

"The financial position of the school system is great," said Stallings. "She gave us two years of great service. I felt that we needed to go in a different direction."

The firing came just three days before the school system's annual

See OFFICER, 7

## Three facing drug charges

From staff reports

A Currituck County woman and two Perquimans County men face a host of drug charges following a traffic stop Saturday night.

According to the Hertford Police Department, Katrina Elaine Falvey of the 500-block NW Backwoods Road in Moyock, Aaron Michael Harrell of the 400-block Body Road, and Ian Thomas Armstrong of the 100-block Anglers Cove Road were arrested after police found a number of suspected illegal drugs in the vehicle in which they riding.

Falvey, 18, faces five felonies and four misdemeanor charges and was taken to Albemarle District Jail under \$11,500 secured bond. Both Harrell (22) and Armstrong (22) face four felonies and two mis-

demeanors and were jailed under \$9,000 secured bonds.

Police say various suspected drugs were found including 17 Ecstasy pills, 15 Xanax pills without a prescription, and marijuana. In addition, an array of drug use/manufacturing equipment was found inside the vehicle including rolling paper, marijuana grinder, and a marijuana bong and bowl. Also seized were \$269 in cash, cell phones, and fireworks.

Police reports state that Hertford officers first saw a 2004 red Mazda RX parked at the basketball courts on King Street before traveling through town. A check of the license plate on the vehicle came back to a Honda Civic rather than a Mazda.

Police stopped the vehicle near Larry's

See CHARGES, 5

## Petition seeks action on DA

The Daily Advance

A Dare County law enforcement officer has filed a petition in Pasquotank Superior Court asking the court to determine whether District Attorney Frank Parrish should be removed from office or suspended because of his handling of two matters in Dare County.

Parrish is the district attorney for District 1 which includes Perquimans, Pasquotank, Chowan, Dare, Gates, Camden, and Currituck counties.

Andy Ennis, who identified himself in court documents as a police officer with the Kill Devil Hills Police Department, alleges in a petition filed last week that he presented to Parrish evidence of criminal violations by Kill Devil Hills Police Chief Gary Britt and "Mr. Parrish refused, neglected or failed to act" on them.

Ennis states in the petition that he had requested a copy of his personnel file and learned there were several copies of the file in

See PETITION, 7

## Nixon will not run in 2012

Jones throws his hat into political ring

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Veteran county commissioner Mack Nixon will not seek reelection in 2012.

In a separate development, New Hope resident Thomas "Kyle" Jones announced Tuesday

morning he will run for county commissioner.

Nixon, who has served for 20 years, says he is honored to serve the county residents but notes he seeks to spend more time with family.

"It's time for new blood to come in," he added. "Plus, I really want to spend more time with my grandchildren."

Nixon served for several years as board chairman and is known for his strong sense of history in county matters as well as common sense leadership. He served as commissioner from 1990-98 and again from 2000 until now. He

See NIXON, 7



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