



From the left, June Royster Tucker, director of Retirement Activities for People with Developmental Disabilities (RAPIDD); participant Mark Perry and Charles Jefferson, Senior Tar Heel delegate and assistant in the RAPIDD program.

Jefferson attends Tar Heel Legislature

Local resident Charles Jefferson attended the fall meeting of the N.C. Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL) in Raleigh October 2-3.

The STHL, established by the General Assembly in 1993, provides information and education to older adults on matters being considered by the General Assembly and makes recommendations to state legislators on the legislative needs of older North Carolinians. Jefferson is Warren County's delegate to the STHL.

During the conference, delegates heard a report from Sen.

Walter Dalton of Rutherford County on the state budget and actions of the General Assembly this past legislative session. Also speaking were Stephanie Bias from the state SMP program, which provides assistance with Medicare/Medicaid billing errors, fraud and abuse; Dennis Streets, director, and Mary Edwards, staff, of the Division of Aging and Adult Services.

The following priorities were selected for the short legislative session: increase funding for home and community based services for older adults by increasing the home and com-

munity care block grant by \$5 million; increase funding for senior centers for a total of \$2 million per year; appropriate an additional \$15,000 in recurring funds for the operation of the STHL; provide dental care for older adults with special needs and in rural areas; provide funding to sustain Project CARE (Caregiver Alternative to Running on Empty).

To find out more about the STHL or to discuss issues of concern about senior adults, call Jefferson at the Warren County Senior Center, (252) 257-3111 or (252) 257-1508.