

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Local Briefs

Boosters plan Old-Timers double-header

Mark your calendar! Spring is just around the corner and the excitement of baseball is almost here. The Old Timers Baseball Game, an annual event put on by the Perquimans County Athletic Boosters Club, is scheduled for Saturday, May 13 at 7:15 p.m. at Perquimans High School. Tentative plans are underway to double your entertainment. If all goes as planned, a double-header will be played. The two games will each last five innings. In the first game, former stars of the Perquimans High Baseball Team will play the current team members. In the second game, ball players from the 1960s will go up against ball players from the 1970s. Any person interested in participating should contact either Phil Woodell or Tommy Dale. Ticket prices for the games are:

Under six years of age - Free
Ages 6-12 - \$1.00
Ages 12 and Over - \$2.00
Kicking off the afternoon and evening of fun will be a chicken fry from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Remember!! Reserve Saturday, May 13, 1989, for the Annual Old Timers Baseball Game.

Jaycees to sponsor annual bass tourney

The Perquimans County Jaycees are busy making plans for their semi-annual Perquimans River Bass Tournament. Boats will launch from the Hertford Municipal Boat Ramp at 7:00 a.m. and return at 4:00 p.m. to Missing Mill Park.

The tournament offers \$1,050 in guaranteed prizes. First prize is \$500, second prize is \$200, third prize is \$150, fourth prize is \$100, fifth prize is \$50 and theunker will receive \$50.

Teams for the tournament will feature two persons per boat. No one can fish alone, and there is no restriction on boat horsepower.

Size limit of fish is 14 inches in length or over. A two-ounce penalty will be given for fish under 14 inches brought to weigh-in. All entries must make an effort to keep fish alive, and no bass on ice will be allowed. Only artificial lures may be used, no live bait will be allowed. There will be a two-ounce dead fish penalty.

Registration fees for the tournament are \$25 per person. Starting times will depend upon the time the entry fees are received. Each boat will leave the ramp in approximately 15-second intervals.

Entries for the tournament will be taken up until tournament starting time on April 15. For more information or to obtain entry forms, contact Nancy Perry, Route 4, Box 193, Hertford, NC 27944 or call (919) 264-3640.

Eure honored with award

A Hertford woman was honored recently for outstanding performance in handling her job duties and responsibilities. Paige Eure was presented with a cash award and certificate of Merit for attending to her duties in a manner well above average requirements.

Eure is an Adiricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service program assistant. She is in charge of price support, conservation programs and forestry incentive programs.

She is married to Burt Eure of White Hat, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Elliott. She and her husband have two children, Neal and Amber.

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Police Chief Marshall Merritt resigns

H.P.D. has two vacancies

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox officially announced the resignation of Police Chief Marshall Merritt at Monday night's town council meeting.

Merritt tendered his resignation Friday. He has been out on sick leave for several weeks. Cox told the councilmen that Merritt's doctor anticipates releasing him on April 19. Because of accumulated sick leave and vacation time due him, Merritt's last day of employment will be May 19.

The resignation falls on the heels of Patrolman George Long's departure from the department. Long left this week to accept a position with the Department of Corrections. He will be employed at Maple Correctional Facility in Currituck.

To add to the town's dilemma, department secretary Diane Copeland also resigned effective March 24 to accept a position with the N.C. Marine Fisheries Department.

The resignations leave the department with only three active officers: Tim Spence, Steve Thomas and Robert Harvey. The council voted to begin advertising for the chief and patrolman positions immediately.

Unsafe buildings discussed
Building Inspector Aubrey Onley, Jr. and County Fire Marshall Charlie Skinner, Jr. reported to the board on their inspections of several unsafe buildings in Hertford. They told the council that there are a number of structures in the city limits that violate the town's minimum building codes.

"We looked at a few," Only said. "We didn't look at as many as need to be looked at."

Onley has spoken with the owners of some of the buildings. A few have indicated their desire to comply with the ordinance. Others are uncooperative and the town will be forced to initiate condemnation proceedings.

Skinner said that he fears for the safety of pedestrians as they pass some of the structures. He cited loose brick and window panes as his main concern. Roping off the areas might help until further measures can be taken, Skinner said.

"Something needs to be done quick," Onley stated. "One brick falling could kill somebody."

Onley also noted that the campaign to make the town safer will also offer cosmetic advantages which will be a plus in courting new businesses to the area.

Cosmetic work to the structures is not enough to alleviate the problems, Onley told the councilmen. Everything must be brought to

code when remodeling is undertaken.

In the case of some of the buildings, the cost of the extensive repairs might not be economically feasible, Onley stated.

According to Onley and town legal advisor Walter Edwards, the condemnation process is involved. It could take up to 12 months to get some of the problems resolved.

The council asked Onley to update them at their monthly meetings on progress and stumbling blocks encountered in the process.

Junk car ordinance passed
After months of study and discussion, the council adopted an abandoned and derelict motor vehicle ordinance. This ordinance was passed in conjunction with the board's effort to clean up Hertford.

Under the ordinance, the town could also require discarded items, farm equipment, household and kitchen furniture, clothing, paper, wood or paper boxes, chinaware, building material, machinery, fixtures and equipment as well as

junk automobiles be removed from public or private property.

Councilman Jesse Harris voted against the ordinance because it contains a provision that would allow the town to label a vehicle on which there is no valid license plate and/or no current North Carolina inspection sticker derelict regardless of the condition of the car. He said that the town may have a problem defining "junk."

Mayor Cox and the other councilmen said that their concern is the removal of unsightly, and in most cases inoperable, automobiles which sit for extended periods.

Councilman Erie Haste told Harris, "If the town council and his neighbors think it's junk, then it doesn't make any difference what he thinks, it's got to go."

The council discussed the old Texaco Station on the corner of Hyde Park and Dobbs Street. According to Hertford's zoning ordinances, the location is not zoned for a junk yard. After some discussion, the council decided to ask the owner to remove the bodies of the vehicles after stripping the usable parts from them.

Commercial fishing law
Eldon Winslow asked the board for an update on the no-wake law between the Perquimans River bridges that was at one time discussed. "They get out there and run wild," Winslow said of some of the boaters on the river. Mayor Cox told Winslow that the matter had been turned over to the county.

Winslow also asked the town to consider action restricting the use of the river between the bridges. The causeway is practically lined with nets at the present time, he said.

"They've got from the other side of that (U.S. 17 Bypass) bridge the whole way to the ocean to set nets," Winslow told the councilmen. He added that the nets pose a safety threat.

The board asked Walter Edwards to draft legislation eliminating net fishing between the bridges. The proposed law must be in Raleigh for introduction prior to March 16.

When asked about the time factor, Mayor Cox said, "We can certainly give it a shot."

"Night on Broadway" dazzles ball-goers

For one night, the bright lights of New York City came to Edenton as the 27th Annual Chowan Hospital Ball, featured the theme: "A Night on Broadway."

For the 290 people who attended the festive occasion February 25 at the Edenton National Guard Armory, it was a night out of dining and dancing. However, the highlight came later when the Chowan Hospital Auxiliary who sponsors the event-presented Chowan Hospital with the proceeds that help purchase medical equipment.

"That's the purpose of the Ball; to raise monies to help the hospital purchase equipment," said Auxiliary President Mary Rawls.

The formal evening began at the four patron parties hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Jones, Dr. and Mrs. Bernie Baker; Dr. and Mrs. A. F. Downum, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Bean.

The National Guard Armory was decorated by Barbara Nixon of Hertford and her committee that included Bert Stagaard, who made the signs in front of the patron homes, Bob Beaumont, Walt Garman, Jim Hart, Sid Stickle, Ed Nixon, and Chris Godfrey.

The talented art and drama students at John A. Holmes High School, under the direction of teacher, Lynn Whitehurst, created the billboards depicting Broadway

shows such as 42nd Street, Les Miserables, and Song and Dance.

One of the highlights of the Ball, along with the live band, "Reign" from Virginia Beach, was the performance of the Ballet Academy of Edenton under the direction of Wanda Rossman.

Mrs. Rawls also thanked Muriel Hart, Hospital Ball Chairman; Thelma Smith, committee chairperson of the patron parties and food at the Ball, and Shirley Parker and Ann Parrish, who headed the seating and reservations committee.

Mrs. Rawls added, "The ticket sales went well, and we appreciate everyone who patronized the ball. It was a lot of hard work as the ball is the largest project of the Chowan Hospital Auxiliary."

Several businesses donated materials and time to provide the success of the Ball. Those special thanks go to Leslie Kirby of Kirby Electric, who donated supplies and service. Also, Gregory Poole donated fork lifts for the decorating committee.

Those attending from Perquimans County were Dr. and Mrs. Joe Haskett, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Earl Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Riddick and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodard.



You can't go this way!

Traveling from Hertford to Winfall is a little inconvenient due to the causeway closing. Signs announcing the detour are prominent on both sides

of the river. Commuters are in for a long six months of "driving around the long way."

Mayor Cox proclaims Employ the Older Worker Week

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox has joined with Governor James Martin in declaring March 13-18 Employ the Older Worker Week. The purpose of the declaration is to focus attention on the employment needs of middle age and older workers of the community and to recognize that mature employees bring both ability and experience to the labor market.

Under the auspices of the North Carolina Division of Aging, the Albemarle Commission has a Senior Employment Services department. Sharon Robinson of the department works closely with the Edenton Job Placement Office Manager Kathy Keefe in placing older workers.

Robinson speaks with potential employees to determine what, if any, marketable skills they have. Some are referred to a community college to obtain a GED or to hone skills, she said. Others are asked to file an application with the Job Placement Office.

The Albemarle Commission's senior employment division has adopted the slogan, "Hire the experienced - it pays!" Robinson cites the older worker's wealth of knowledge and dependability as their greatest assets.

Some of those seeking employment are looking for something to fill empty hours spent alone at home. Others find it financially necessary to enter the work force.

"Social Security checks just don't make ends meet," Robinson said. She added that some people receive only around \$200 per month. That amount of money will not pay their living expenses in many cases. When there is no family to help out financially, the seniors suffer.

Robinson said that although she has made numerous attempts to place seniors in jobs, she has not had much luck. She has been able to place about 40 people in her 10-county region, meeting her goal of 21 people per fiscal year.

Some businesses are very willing to hire the older worker and have even requested additional assistance from Senior Employment Services after a successful first placement. Others are uninterested in hiring seniors. General lack of jobs in the area is probably the most difficult problem to be overcome here, Robinson said.

Many of those interested in employment are housewives and retired farmers who feel that they do not have any marketable skills, Robinson stated. Those people usually fear interviews because they've never looked for a job before.

"Perquimans County needs to realize that we see all these senior adults here...and many of them do want to work," Robinson said. She

added that recently, many well-educated and trained people have moved into the area, broadening the employee base.

Robinson calls on businesses in an effort to enlist their support of her program. She also presents program to civic groups and organizations to let them know how the system works.

Age discrimination does surface in Robinson's field. Although she said no suits have been filed locally, there have been cases of age discrimination reported to her.

Robinson gives annual training sessions on topics of interest to potential senior employees. Last year, older workers were able to train to provide home health care. The workshop involved 30 hours of classwork spread over several weeks.

This year, a job readiness workshop will be held once per week for one month. The sessions are designed to prepare people to enter the work force. Covered will be personal assessment, resume writing, application completion, interview readiness and job-finding skills.

Robinson asks that all businesses who find themselves in need of full or part-time employees consider hiring a senior worker. She can be reached for further information about the program at 426-5753.



Hertford Mayor Bill Cox and Edenton Job Placement Office Manager Kathy Keefe review a proclamation Cox earlier signed declaring March 12 through 18 Employ the Older Worker Week in Hertford.