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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 60, No. 41

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, October 10, 1991

30 Cents

Briefs

NAACP youth meet

The Perquimans County NAACP youth will have a Fire Safety Rap Session on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church. The member who brings in the most new paid members will be awarded a prize.

Candidates' forum set

The Hertford Business and Professional Women's Club is sponsoring "Meet the Candidates" on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Perquimans County Courthouse. Candidates for the following offices will attend: Mayor of Hertford, Hertford Town Council, Mayor of Winfall, and Winfall Town Council.

Chapter 1 to meet

Central Grammar School will hold their first PAC meeting on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 1:30 p.m. Marion Frierson will be the guest speaker. For more information contact Estelle Felton at 426-5741.

Friendship Seniors meet

The Friendship Senior Club will meet Tuesday, Oct. 14 at the Senior Center at 2 p.m. on Grubb St., and is open for new members, age 55 or older. There is a fee of \$6.25.

PTSA sets open house

Perquimans County Middle School PTSA will have an open house on Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Information about the special olympics will also be provided at this meeting.

College fair slated

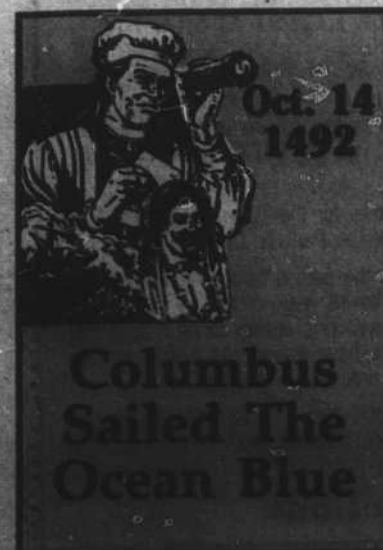
There will be a college fair at Northeastern High School on Monday, Oct. 21 from 6:39-8:30 p.m. Representatives from many colleges and universities in the southeast will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on their institutions. High school students and their parents are invited to attend.

Bass touney Saturday

The Perquimans County Jaycees will sponsor their semi-annual Perquimans River Bass Tournament Saturday, Oct. 12. Registration begins at 5 a.m. at the Hertford Municipal Boat Ramp. All boats must be inspected before the 7 a.m. start time. Entry fee is \$25 per man to fish in two-man teams. For more information, call Sara Winslow, chairman, at 426-7669 after 6 p.m.

Poll conducted

The Perquimans Weekly is conducting pre-election polls to gauge voter reaction to the races for the Hertford and Winfall town councils. If you would like to participate in this poll, you may come by the Perquimans Weekly office and fill out a poll ballot, or call and tell us your choices. You do not have to give your name. You should be 18 to participate in this poll.



Commissioners vote for pay raises

Deputies given step increases

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners voted after an executive session Monday to give county employees an across-the-board pay increase, and to move all sheriff's deputies to salary grade 60, step 7.

The combined salary increase will move all four county deputies' salaries to slightly above \$18,000 per year. All employees will see a 2.5 percent raise.

"I'm really tickled with the increases for the deputies," said Perquimans Sheriff Joe Lothian. The commissioners unanimously decided that we needed to make sure that we could keep quality people here. They've taken a giant step in the right direction to alleviate any problems we have with that."

Funds for the salary increases came from budget line items that will not be spent as originally set out in the fiscal budget, according to assistant county finance officer and clerk to the board Sharon Ward. Ward

said that the county was not accepted for a Community Development Block Grant for which it had applied and set aside \$10,000 in matching funds. There is also additional money in the hospitalization budget because the five-county self-insurance plan did not have to increase premiums in September as predicted and planned for in the budget.

Lothian had spoken with the commissioners earlier in the meeting in open session, and told them he feared losing deputies to other departments.

"We need to take a look at our salary situation," Lothian said. "We've got some of our people being courted by other departments and for the amount of money they're being offered, I can't blame them (for considering a move)."

Lothian also said that he would like to see the commissioners consider funding another deputy's position due in part to an increase in crime and the

amount of time spent transporting prisoners and running the court.

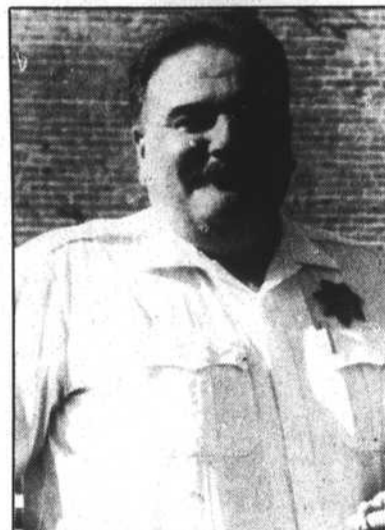
"The small-town crime rates are up," Lothian said, adding that the court dockets have doubled and in some cases tripled over the past few years.

The sheriff added that back-up is needed in many instances due to the increasingly violent nature of crimes and criminals. He indicated that threats of violence against law enforcement officials are also on the rise.

"We've got a new crowd (of criminals) that's in here now," Lothian said.

County Manager Paul Gregory presented the board with a \$35,620 medical bill from the Central Prison Hospital Unit for care for Christopher Dance, the Perquimans County man convicted of burning the Hertford Police Department last Halloween.

Gregory said records indicate that Dance was ordered by a judge on Nov. 6, 1990 to enter

**Joe Lothian**

... pleased with increases

District Jail to await his hearing.

Gregory was informed that Dance had caused problems at Albemarle District Jail and a safekeeping order was issued which moved Dance to Central Prison, where he was hospitalized.

Dance was not released from the hospital, where he was placed in the psychiatric unit, until April 8, 1991, when he returned to Hertford to stand trial.

Gregory said that in past cases where Dance had been taken off of his medication, it took 7-10 days to regulate his condition again. He said he has made numerous calls, but cannot determine why Dance was kept in the hospital unit so long and ran up such a high medical bill for the county to pay.

The commissioners voted not to pay the bill until it can be determined why Dance was hospitalized for such a long period of time and why the county was not notified during his hospitalization period of the situation. Gregory will continue to research the matter.

Dorothea Dix Hospital for evaluation before determining his ability to stand trial for arson. Doctors there found him competent to stand trial, but took him off of his medication before sending him back to Albemarle



Firefighters with the Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department participate in one of many training sessions offered at departments all around the county each year. They will join other county departments and those from across the 10-county region in the Albemarle Firefighter's Association's Firemen's Day activities Saturday in Hertford.

Fireman's Day activities slated

The Hertford Volunteer Fire Department will host the annual Albemarle Firefighter's Association Fireman's Day parade and competition on Saturday, Oct. 12 beginning at 1 p.m., according to publicity chairman Edward Leicester.

The events will begin with a parade of fire-fighting equipment through Hertford and will continue with competition at the fire station. A barrel-fill race, fire hose tug-o-war and hose stream through the tire are on tap for the competition.

The Albemarle Firefighter's Association is composed of about 38 individual fire departments located in 10 northeastern North Carolina counties. All six Perquimans County fire departments are members of the Association and will participate in Fireman's Day activities. Departments take turns hosting the parade and competition each October in observance of National Fire Prevention Week.

There will be no charge to those who wish to attend the competition.

Man dies in wreck

A Perquimans County man died of injuries sustained as a result of a head-on collision in the Bethel community last Thursday evening.

Darrell Lee Powell, 34, of Rt. 5, Box 376, Hertford, died instantly when he was struck head-on by a 1991 Ford truck operated by Ricky Ray Sawyer, 31, of 5L Hemlock Street, Hertford.

According to the report filed by N.C. Highway Patrol trooper Craig Garriss, Powell was riding a bicycle traveling west on Snug

Harbor Road when Sawyer spotted him in the center of the road. Powell told Garriss that he swerved left to avoid contact with Powell. Powell swerved right, and was struck head-on. Powell was transported to Chowan Hospital by the Perquimans County Rescue Squad, where he was pronounced dead.

Garriss said no charges were filed in the incident because Sawyer was unable to avoid the accident. There were no lights on the bicycle operated by Powell.

Jaycees set Christmas parade for Dec. 7

The Perquimans County Jaycees have set in motion plans for the annual Christmas parade, according to parade chairman Phil Harris. The traditional kick-off to the holiday season will step off at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The theme of this year's parade is *Traditions: Christmas in Perquimans*. Cash prizes will be awarded for first through third place finishes in two categories: church/civic and school. Marching groups will receive first place trophies in two categories: 60 and over and under 60.

"The Jaycees work hard to organize good Christmas pa-

rades each year," Harris said. "But without participation from people in the county, we cannot sponsor a quality parade. We need all groups to enter. It's a lot of hard work, but it's worth it to look at the smiles on the faces of those who come to watch."

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce co-sponsors the parade.

Harris said numerous invitations have been mailed to school, church and civic groups. Those who do not receive them by Oct. 15 should contact Harris at 426-5307.

Candidates for Hertford Council square off on issues

Voters from Hertford and Winfall will go to the polls on Nov. 7 to elect councilmen and mayors in both municipalities. Candidates are actively campaigning, sharing with voters their views on the issues facing the towns.

The Perquimans Weekly will give each candidate a chance to answer questions about issues in their respective towns before election day. This edition begins the series with interviews with the four candidates for the two 4-year seats on the Hertford Town Council - Carlyn Brown, Larry Chappell, Jesse Harris and Billy Winslow. Candidates' answers appear in alphabetical order.

1. What is the main reason you decided to run for office?

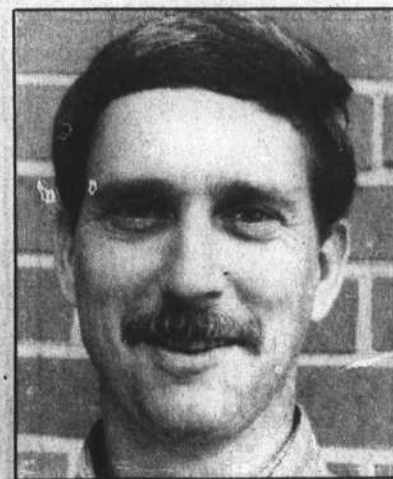
Brown: My reasons for running are not newly found. I ran for office four years ago and my motivations remain unchanged. There is simply no excuse for putting mobile homes in residential zones where they should be excluded. There is simply no excuse for derelict buildings remaining a blight on our community. There is simply no excuse for our little town having a drug problem.

Chappell: I would like to see Hertford prosper and grow. With

**Carlyn Brown**

new ideas, hopefully this will happen and no more businesses in Perquimans County and in town will have to close down. I believe in supporting your local businesses.

Harris: My main reason for filing for office is, as a councilman, to do all I can to stop the escalation of our property taxes and our electric rates. I believe these two items have hit the zenith. They have become too heavy a burden on our businesses and our residential cus-

**Larry Chappell**

tomers. Fixed income citizens are especially getting hurt. I would hope that my business experience, covering some 50 years, would be of benefit as a councilman. I have proven my interest and concern in Hertford by my heavy investments here in this community. I want to do whatever I can to help this town, especially in the economic sense. And those two items above become so important in our lives, I filed for office to work toward lessening this fi-

**Jesse Harris**

nancial burden on all of us.

Winslow: The reason I decided to run for office is due to the dedication and concern I have for our town and its citizens. I think the next four years will be difficult financially, with the economy and the limited resources available. With my experience in serving on the council for the past 20 years and projects that are in progress, I feel I can contribute, if the people choose to re-elect me.

2. What do you think is

**Billy Winslow**

the major problem the town now faces?

Brown: Like all small towns and rural communities, we are in a struggle for our very survival. The costs of supplying essential services is rapidly outpacing our sources of revenue. Hertford must manage its bud-

Please see CANDIDATES, Page 3