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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, July 30, 1992

35 Cents

Arrests reported

The Hertford Police reported the following arrests:

On July 4, Ella L. Harris, 45, of 1801 Orchestra Rd. Brooklyn, N.Y. was issued a citation for speeding.

On July 4, Kirt Harris, 44, of 14-P Parsons Avenue, Freeport N.Y. was issued a citation for speeding.

On July 17, Thomas Murrell Vaughn, 25, of Box 410 Wynne Fork, Hertford, was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon and resist, obstruct and delay. He was released on a written promise to appear.

On July 18, Billy Reid Patterson, 63, of 103 Kings Mill Court, Newbern, was issued a citation for speeding.

On July 19, Ferrante Downing, 24, of 221 Kings Street, Hertford was arrested and charged with simple assault and was served with a notice to revoke unsupervised probation. A secured bond was set for \$100.

On July 19, Matthew Russell Ries, 26, of 3653 Walnut Hill Road, Virginia Beach, Va. was issued a citation for speeding.

On July 19, Richard Berry Jackson, 38, of 301 Dobb Street, Hertford was arrested and charged with shoplifting. He was released on a written promise to appear.

On July 18, Allen Lee Wilkins, 26, of 308 Church Street, Hertford, was arrested and charged with two counts of failure to appear. A secured bond was set for \$400.

On July 21, Henry Louis Jones, 37, of 317 Dobbs Street, Hertford, was arrested and issued a notice to revoke unsupervised probation. A secured bond was set for \$300.

On July 21, Lionel Jones, 33, of 317 Dobbs Street, Hertford, was arrested and charged with assault on a female. She was released on a written promise to appear.

On July 27, Edna Rebecca Freeman, 39, of 309 Brace Street, Hertford, was arrested and charged with expired registration and no insurance. She was released on written promise to appear.

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests:

On July 16, Delores Yvonne Burden Taylor, 37, of 819 S. Curtis Street, Ahoskie was arrested and charged with larceny in general. She was released on a written promise to appear.

On July 20, Jeannie Satterfield, 16, of 142 Perkins Rd. Camden, was arrested on a Pasquotank County criminal summons for communicating threats. No bond was set.

On July 23, Jimmie Dale Ashley, 22, of Rt. 2122-J Dogwood Drive, Hertford, was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on a \$500 secured bond.



Photo by Susan Harris

Harvesting sweet corn for market has changed a lot over the years. In larger operations, a combine has replaced the large knives once used to cut corn ear by ear. Tommy and Sherry Harrell's Bear's Pick brand is now collected with a three-row combine, which cuts the corn from the stalk and drops it into a tractor-pulled trailer which rides beside the combine through the Bear Swamp fields.

Bear's Pick: Only the best corn Farming is a way of life for Harrells

It's a good bet that Tommy and Sherry Harrell don't eat too much corn in August. After spending most of their waking hours harvesting and marketing the vegetable during the heat of July, the couple said it takes a while before being ready to see another ear of the succulent seed.

Neither of the Harrells is a stranger to growing sweet corn. Tommy spent the summers of his youth side-by-side with his father, Bobby, and his brother, Bobby, planting, harvesting and marketing sweet corn by the truckload from their Bear Swamp farm. Sherry, like her mother, grew up on a farm where vegetables were raised for market.

Since 1981, Tommy and Sherry have run their own operation, raising corn, cabbage, cucumbers and pumpkins for distribution throughout the Eastern United States and Canada.

For the Harrells, however, that routine is a long time. From planting to harvest, it takes 150 acres of the Yeh, Yeh, Yeh variety of the Harrell's Bear's Pick sweet corn to the harvest. It's a long, hot, short period of time, but it's a good one. It's a time when you're putting your money down and getting your money back. And those months are filled with hard labor. The young Harrells are plowed and cultivated.

After the corn is planted, the Harrells spend the next few months spraying and weeding. The corn is maintained to keep it from getting warm-free. This year, the corn was sprayed 14 times.

Then comes the four-week hulla-balloo of the harvest. Tommy rises between 4:40 and 5 each morning to prepare for the day ahead. In addition to his two full-time employees, about 50 people rise from their beds and prepare to work the corn harvest on the Harrell farm. The new three-row harvester heads for the fields around 6:30 a.m. Grading and crating begin around 7:30. The seasonal farm laborers work between nine and 10 hours each day, grading, crating, pooling and packing the corn for distribution.

Once the corn is harvested with the combine, it is brought up from the fields in wagons. The wagons are backed under a huge shelter, where workers begin grading and crating it. Full crates are placed on conveyors, which move the corn to the pre-cooling area. The crates take about 20 minutes to go through the cooling machine. Then the corn is loaded onto trucks for distribution.

The Harrells pride themselves on allowing only the best corn to carry the Bear's Pick label. Inferior quality ears end up as fodder for livestock.

All corn which is Canada-bound must be inspected. A USDA inspector is on the grounds while the corn is crated, choosing random crates for inspection. One bad ear can endanger the whole shipment.

Next year, Tommy and Sherry will oversee this huge operation alone. Their children, Jason and Leah, will no longer be around to help out. Jason is in graduate school at North Carolina State University and is employed in Raleigh. Leah



Photo by Susan Harris

Only the best corn grown by Tommy and Sherry Harrell is allowed to carry the Bear's Pick label.

plans a May wedding and will probably also be in the Raleigh area next summer. But Tommy and Sherry will be right back at it, rising before the sun and falling asleep late.

Because of Tommy, who has a bachelor's degree in horticulture from North Carolina State University, explains, "Farming is not a living. It's a way of life. That's the simplest way to put it."

Belvidere man charged with raping juvenile

Bond set at \$50,000

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

A Belvidere man was arrested last week on sexual assault charges.

Hertford Police Chief Aubrey Sample said Tuesday that James Hill III, 31, of Route 1, Box 153, Belvidere was arrested on July 23 and charged with first degree rape.

The charges stemmed from a July 22 incident. Sample said his department was notified by Chowan Hospital at approximately 10:55 p.m. on July 22 that they were treating a possible rape victim from Hertford, a juvenile. Officer Robert Harvey was dispatched to the hospital to investigate.

Harvey's investigation revealed that a 9-year-old black female had been raped and sexually assaulted, Sample said. Further investigation led to the identity of Hill. Sample was called in when Harvey returned from Chowan Hospital. After obtaining an arrest warrant from the magistrate, Harvey and Sample arrested Hill at 2:30 a.m. After his arrest, law enforcement officers executed a search warrant to obtain possible evidence. Sample declined to comment on any evidence obtained as a result of the warrant.

Hill was transported to Albemarle District Jail where he is being held under a \$50,000 secured bond.

The magistrate set a tentative date of Aug. 12 for a probable cause hearing at the time Hill's bond was set.

The incident is still under investigation, Sample said.

Achievement tests scores are good

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Perquimans County Schools students in grades 3-8 averaged at or above grade level on all sections of the California Achievement Tests administered early last spring.

According to figures released by testing coordinator Paul Ward at the last board of education meeting, the total battery score, which takes into consideration scores in reading, language arts and math, was above grade level for all six grades who took the test. Students scored an average of one year above grade level.

The strongest showing in the third grade scores was in language arts. The average score was fifth grade sixth month. Scores in reading and math categories both averaged a full grade higher than where the students were in their studies at the time the test was administered, fourth grade fifth month and fourth grade seventh month, respectively.

Fourth graders averaged on the fifth grade level in all areas.

In grade five, students averaged seventh grade fifth month in language arts, seventh grade first month in math and fifth grade ninth month in reading, for a total battery average of sixth grade fifth month.

Sixth grade students were on grade level in reading, and scored on the eighth grade level in both language arts and math.

In the seventh grade, students were slightly above grade level in reading, and averaged eighth grade fifth month in language arts and ninth grade second month in math.

Eighth graders averaged on grade level in reading, tenth grade second month in language arts and tenth grade in math. Overall, scores have remained strong over the past three fiscal years of test administration, with the sixth grade showing improvement each year in total battery averages.

Ward said he was very pleased with the scores, and credited the school system's teachers with working hard to improve scores.

Statistics on each county in North Carolina, the state as a whole and the nation are not available for comparison, Ward said. He added that last year those figures were not available until October.

Hertford Savings rated high by industry magazine

A local institution received top marks from a national financial industry publication last month.

According to Hertford Savings & Loan Association Secretary-Treasurer Gene Boyce, the savings and loan earned "strong and profitable" ratings from *National Mortgage News* in its June 22 edition.

The rating, based on Office of Thrift Supervision data of all institutions which had regulatory capital meeting or exceeding regulations and posted a profit, included 104 of North Carolina's savings institutions, all members of the North Carolina Alliance of Community Financial Institutions.

"While the problems of a segment of the thrift industry and its regulators have created an enormous burden for the industry and the American taxpayer," the article stated, "the vast majority of savings institutions have continued the tradition of fostering thrift and home ownership."

Boyce said the Hertford Savings & Loan Board of Directors has maintained a traditional, conservative approach to operating the locally-owned business, which has helped the institution to weather successfully storms that have swallowed other financial institutions.

While some savings and loans ex-

panded their services to offer checking accounts, consumer loans and other account types traditionally offered by banks, Hertford Savings has opted to stay with passbook savings, certificates of deposits and mortgage loans.

With assets of approximately \$8.7 million, Hertford Savings' depositors are predominately from Perquimans County, with some customers from neighboring Pasquotank and Chowan counties.

Another plus for Hertford Savings, Boyce said, is personal attention, hometown employees offering good old-fashioned smiles and attention to detail.

In addition to Boyce, who has managed the Hertford Savings & Loan Association on a daily basis for 18 years, employees are Bettye Winslow, assistant secretary, who has been on board for eight and a half years; and Jennifer Layden, teller, who has been with the institution for four months.

On the board of directors is Clifford Towe, president and chairman of the board; C.D. White, vice president; John Christensen; Benjamin Hobbes; Broughton Dail; Wayne Winslow; Walter Edwards; Fenton Eure and Boyce.

The association is sporting a totally new front and a remodeled interior in keeping with the move to renovate Hertford's downtown.

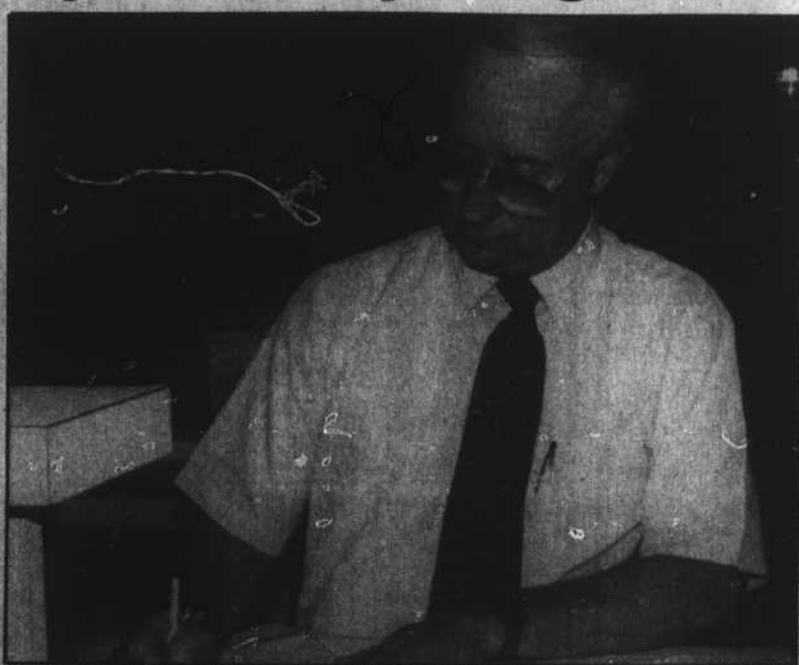


Photo by Susan Harris

Gene Boyce, secretary-treasurer of Hertford Savings & Loan Association, has helped to lead the institution through financial storms which have swallowed other financial institutions.

LOOK
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FOR
COMMUNITY
HAPPENINGS