

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Filing period opens

Hertford Mayor John G. Beers was the first to file to retain his position in the municipal elections scheduled for Oct. 13. Beers filed Monday.

The mayor's seat and two council seats are up for grabs in both Hertford and Winfall.

In Hertford, seats held by Beers, Billy Winslow and Larry Chappell are up. In Winfall, it is those held by Mayor Fred Yates and councilmen Jake Chesson and Bert Hayes.

The filing period closes on Aug. 4.

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LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT SKY



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Fireworks punctuated the sky over Missing Mill Park last Tuesday during the community celebration of Independence Day. Entertainment, games, food and a street dance were also a part of the day's festivities, organized by a volunteer committee and supported by businesses, government groups and individuals. The park was filled with people who cheered at the conclusion of the 25-minute fireworks show. Even the weather cooperated, with the rain stopping for the show.

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Hertford to look at new ordinances

Council will hold work session to discuss congestion at boat ramps, improper parking

Hertford residents may get the relief from weekend congestion at the town's boat ramps they have sought for years.

Town manager John Christensen presented information to council Monday night outlining steps the town can take to free up convenient parking for Hertford residents near the town dock and stem improper parking by owners of boat trailers.

Residents have long sought relief from the town, complaining especially about the congestion caused by out-of-towners who sponsor fishing tournaments in the Perquimans River and use Hertford's boat ramps and parking facilities. While the town can place restrictions on parking, it cannot deny access to the boat ramps because they were built with state and federal public access grants.

Christensen said the town's options include requiring notification from groups sponsoring bass tournaments; requiring parking permits and/or fees; and initiating tough penalties for non-compliance. In addition to the problems at the boat dock behind the town offices, the town has experienced problems with boat trailer parking in other areas.

Christensen recommended that the town divide the municipal parking lot with part to be used by any boater and part to be used by town residents only. He said the move should be backed up with stiff fines and/or towing for violators.

The town would need to change its ordinances to institute the recommendations.

A work session to discuss the issue was agreed upon, but no date was set.

One last party for the Wolfman

Over 1,000 visit Belvidere Saturday to pay last respects to famous deejay

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor and

FRANCINE SAWYER
The Daily Advance

Wolfman Jack, whose howl was a symbol of good music on the radio for generations of rock and rollers, was buried Saturday at Belvidere. The 57-year-old disc jockey died of a heart attack on July 2.

While celebrity allowed Wolfman and his family to rub elbows with the rich and famous, it was Belvidere, the plantation home from which the Perquimans County community derived its name, that allowed him to step out of the spotlight. Associates say he truly felt Belvidere was his home, a place where he could relax and enjoy his family and friends.

"They (the people in the community) treated him like a friend," said Judy Hollowell, an employee of Wolfman Productions and a cousin of Wolfman's wife, Lucy.

"He was just like anybody else when he was home," Hollowell said. "He'd sit back and watch television, go out on his boat. He loved to read. And he'd write too. He kept a personal journal."

Doug Layden, operator of Layden's Supermarket in Belvidere, said Wolfman enjoyed his status as a "regular person" in Belvidere.

"He wasn't dressed in black but he liked to wear shorts and a T-shirt and just push his cart



PHOTO BY JEFF HUTCHENS, THE DAILY ADVANCE

Wolfman jack's hat sits on a memorial stone during a service Saturday at his home in Belvidere.

down the aisles (of Layden's Supermarket)," said Layden. "He loved our steaks. He said his favorite food was steak and eggs. No one bothered him at the store. No one asked for autographs. He was just a regular person."

Hollowell said over 1,000 people, including friends and business associates from across the country, visited Belvidere Saturday to pay their respects to Robert Weston Smith. The disc jockey entertained three generations of radio listeners with his deep, gravelly voice and wolf howl.

As the gathering waited for the services, delivered by televangelist Dr. Robert Schuller, pastor of Crystal Cathedral in California, and the Rev. Charles D. Stratton Jr. of Sawyer's Creek Baptist Church in Camden County, the gospel group Mighty Clouds of Faith entertained.

Schuller said that if Smith were there, he would say,

"We're going to have a party." "We reflect now on happy memories of Wolfman bubbling over in our minds and through the tears we hear the echo of laughter," Schuller said.

Schuller quoted from the Bible in Timothy 4:7: "I have fought a good fight, finished the race and kept the faith."

That could have been the summation of Smith's life, he said.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on Jan. 21, 1938, Smith began his radio career at Newport News, Va., radio station WYOU in 1960. He later used the air name Daddy Jules on his next gig at WTID in Norfolk, Va. He became known as Wolfman Jack in the late 1960s and early 1970s when his nightly show was broadcast nationwide.

In 1961 he met and married Perquimans County native Lucy Lamb. The couple bought the Belvidere plantation that had been in her family for more than 200 years in 1976. It

became their permanent home in 1988. Wolf, as his longtime friends refer to him, used his home as the base for Wolfman Productions. A recording studio sits on the property.

Wolfman experienced the normal ups and downs of show business. His career skyrocketed in 1973 when he was cast in the hit movie "American Graffiti." He hosted the popular weekly music show "The Midnight Special" in the 1970s.

Smith was busy promoting his just-released autobiography, "Have Mercy! Confessions of the Original Rock 'n' Roll Animal" at his death. The book reveals how he went through two decades doing serious drugs, throwing away hundreds of thousands of dollars on cocaine and jeopardizing his marriage with years of carousing.

But he knew the basics, said one friend - the quiet life with his wife of 34 years and his two children.

"Wolf knew what the real values were. He loved living on the edge, but he knew true love brought true joy. He is not really away, he continues to live on tape and in our hearts and soul," said Frank Cotolo, a comic writer hired to produce material for Wolfman in 1978.

In addition, he continued to fly to Hollywood and Washington, D.C. for his syndicated radio show, broadcast by 80 stations around the country.

Smith had just returned from a 20-day road trip on July 2 when he went upstairs to give his wife a kiss and suffered the heart attack.

The stone on the plantation yard where his cremated remains will be buried bears his name and a slogan he made famous: One more time.

Disposition of amphitheater grant request questioned

The disposition of a grant request submitted to the Northeast Regional Economic Development Commission by the town of Hertford in September 1994 was questioned Monday evening by a Hertford resident.

Tommy Harrell, who supports the construction of an amphitheater at Missing Mill Park, said he felt he had been misled by town officials on the disposition of the grant application. After council denied its support to an amphitheater project in August 1994, Harrell spearheaded a petition drive, collecting about 350 signatures of those who favored the project. The town reversed its position in September 1994, and requested the commission's consideration of a \$58,796 grant to construct and light the amphitheater and

renovate the Kemp building. In its request, the town asked that the Kemp renovation be considered the priority portion of the project. The request was sent to Charles H. Ward, a member of the commission.

Harrell said he was told by town officials that the funding was almost guaranteed. Harrell said he was told in May that the commission had changed its philosophy and funding was denied. He said he questioned Ward and was told that the application was never taken to the commission.

Town manager John Christensen said he was told the request was turned down.

Councilman Eric Haste asked Christensen to investigate and update the board within one week on the disposition of the application.

Outside

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
High: 90s	Low: 70s	High: 90s	Low: 70s	High: 90s	Low: 70s
PARTLY CLOUDY		PARTLY CLOUDY		PARTLY CLOUDY	