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The Perquimans Weekly

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

BORROWED LABOR



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Town of Hertford has taken advantage of labor provided by inmates at the Gates County Correctional Facility. The work crew has spent several days in Hertford, cleaning up in the causeway area, along some of the town's streets and at the sewer plant.

Men slashed in fight

Fight at Hertford night club sends four to hospital; suspect arrested

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

A disagreement in a Hertford night spot sent one man into surgery and three others to the emergency room early Monday morning.

Geoffrey Lee received a deep cut across his abdomen which required surgery, according to Hertford Police investigator Dale Vanscoy. The officer said Lee was cut so deeply during the fight that internal organs were exposed. He was transported by ambulance to Chowan Hospital, where Vanscoy said he was rushed into surgery.

Lee was the most seriously injured in the fight which took place outside Snook's Casino on Market Street shortly before 1 a.m. Monday.

Vanscoy said an altercation apparently began inside the night club between a male and a female. The two left the club and continued the argument on the street. The female was allegedly arguing outside the club with Geoffrey Lee and Horatio Lee. One of the males allegedly slapped the female. At that time, the girl's boyfriend, Coley Ray Farmer, 30, of Route 4, Box 266, Hertford, took a knife the girl had and started slashing and fighting, Vanscoy said.

Horatio Lee received a cut from cheek bone to cheek bone under his nose. Vanscoy said Roy Powell, who came to aid Geoffrey Lee, was cut on his hand and later received 33 stitches. Both were treated and

released from Chowan Hospital.

Farmer and the girl fled the scene, and were stopped by two Perquimans County deputies on U.S. Highway 17. Farmer was transported to Albemarle Hospital for injuries he suffered from being beaten with a pole on the back and neck during the fight.

Chowan Hospital Public Relations spokesperson Pete Rogers said Tuesday that Geoffrey Lee has been released from the hospital.

Farmer has been arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury with intent to kill. His bond was set at \$6,000 secured.

Farmer is the only person who has been arrested in connection with the incident at this time; however, Vanscoy said the investigation is continuing.

Economic developer hired

Robert Baker comes from Norfolk, Va.; has development plan

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

To keep the county from becoming economically stagnant along the shores of the Perquimans River, the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners has hired its first economic development director.

Robert Baker, 39, of Norfolk, Va., started work Monday, one week after the commissioners unanimously voted to hire him for the \$30,000-a-year position.

"This is a chance to put together all the experience and vision I have for putting together an intelligent, rural economic development program," Baker said. "I don't think folks are interested in wild, reckless growth, but no growth also has problems."

"We feel like the person we hire will have to draw on the Hampton Roads area and have a familiarity with the area," commission Chairman Mack Nixon said in an interview last week.

Baker is a graduate of Old Dominion University with a marketing management degree. He has numerous courses in civil engineering, technical engineering and served an internship with Forward Hampton Roads. He came to Perquimans County from Shoreline Industry, an architectural and engineering firm, where he was the business development director.

Baker is the county's first economic development director and will oversee the 350-acre



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Robert Baker likes the Perquimans Commerce Centre sign at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and Harvey Point Road. Baker said his goal is to bring jobs to the area without changing the quality of life and the slower pace in rural Perquimans County.

Perquimans County Commerce Centre, a tract of land the county bought to promote commercial and industrial development.

Baker's first duties will be to develop a marketing plan for the property, along with supervising an environmental assessment of the land, Nixon said.

"He'll help lead the (county) commission in the planning and direction we need to focus on," Nixon said.

"In between last week and this week I've met with dozens of county officials, city officials and citizens who want to work and are interested in working toward that intelligent growth strategy," Baker said.

The Perquimans County Commerce Centre is unique

because it has three-fourths of a mile of waterfront property.

"We feel it's a asset where we're going to need some planning to really utilize it," Nixon said. "We don't just want to go out there and throw up something that's not attractive, not useful to the property as a whole."

Nixon said he sees the commerce center attracting a mix of commercial and light industrial businesses — perhaps a restaurant/marina and other water-oriented businesses.

"I prefer to not see what is missing in a community but what we have. Perquimans County has a strong work force, strong labor and management relationships and services available through the county and cities," Baker said.

Hertford to study future water, electric needs

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Hertford is using one grant to apply for another.

The town received a \$10,000 regional rural center which it will use in part to apply for a grant of over \$23,000 to study its water/sewer and electrical systems.

Infrastructure needs have been on the town's agenda often over the past couple of years, and the grant should help the town determine its future needs, including how the town can serve the planned Perquimans Commerce Centre with both water/sewer and electrical service.

Engineering studies on both systems will be performed which will examine the present systems, study growth projections, determine what type of growth Hertford can anticipate over the next 10-20 years and pinpoint where that growth is likely to occur, recommend system upgrades and put some dollar estimates on its recommendations, Town Manager John Christensen told Council Monday night.

Councilman Erie Haste said the study should include possible funding sources to allow the town to move quickly once the study is complete.

Accident claims life of county man

A Hertford man died following a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of N.C. Highway 37 and U.S. Highway 17 Bypass south of Hertford last Wednesday.

Iredell Hoffer, 82, of Route 5, Hertford, died while being transported from Chowan Hospital to Pitt County Memorial Hospital for treatment of injuries he suffered during the accident. The driver of the second vehicle, Donald Helms, 36, of 2801 Seahorse Court, Kitty Hawk, was taken to Chowan Hospital where he was treated in the intensive care unit.

The accident occurred shortly before 2 p.m. Highway Patrol Trooper

D.R. Oglesby said the roads were slick and a light mist was falling. No charges had been filed last week.

Helms was traveling north on U.S. 17 when he entered a curb at the intersection. His car, a 1993 Ford Taurus, hydroplaned into the opposite lane, where he hit Hoffer's 1974 Ford pickup truck nearly head-on. Hoffer was traveling south.

Damage to both vehicles was extensive and both men were pinned in the wreckage," Oglesby said.

Perquimans County rescue units and the Hertford Fire Department First Response Team worked at the scene. Both victims were pinned in.

Holiday parade planning in works

The Christmas holiday season will officially kick off on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. when the annual Perquimans County Christmas parade marches through the streets of Hertford.

The Chamber of Commerce will sponsor this year's event, themed "Share the Joys of Christmas."

New to this year's parade will be a business float entry. Businesses are encouraged to share the joy of the holidays by entering the parade.

Parade invitations are being mailed to last year's partici-

pants this week. Invitations and entry forms are available at the Chamber office, NationsBank and The Perquimans Weekly. To have an entry form mailed to your organization, business or church, call Sandra Smith at 426-5657. Completed forms should be submitted to NationsBank or The Perquimans Weekly by Nov. 30.

For further information, call Diane Stallings at 426-5723 (days) or 426-7250 (nights), or Susan Harris at 426-5728 (days) or 426-5307 (nights).

County-wide fire drill planned for today

Fire marshal, fire fighters stress preparedness

Sirens will sound throughout the county this evening (Thursday) at 7 o'clock as all six Perquimans fire departments participate in a county-wide fire drill.

The drill is held in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 8-14, themed "Watch What You Heat." County Fire Marshal John M. Long said the drill stresses the importance of being prepared for an actual fire. Families are encouraged to plan escape routes and practice leaving the home. A place away from the home should be

designated for family members to meet after escaping.

Over 3,700 people die in home fires each year in the United States. The leading causes of home fires are cooking equipment and heating equipment. Many of the deaths could have been prevented with proper safety precautions.

All firefighters in

Perquimans County are volunteers. Each department must adhere to state guidelines for training and performance. Departments in the county are Belvidere-Chappell Hill, Bethel, Durants Neck, Hertford, Intercounty and Winfall.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 80s Low: 50s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 80s Low: 50s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 80s Low: 50s PARTLY CLOUDY