

Happy Thanksgiving

November 22, 1995

12 013165 08/17/1996 20
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
110 W ACADEMY ST
HERTFORD NC 27944

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

Vol. 63, No. 46

The only newspaper for and about Perquimans County people

Hertford, North Carolina 27944

THANKSGIVING/BOUNTIFUL HARVEST



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The cornucopia, or horn of plenty, is one of the traditional symbols of Thanksgiving and the blessing of a bountiful harvest. This one was set on the altar table at Hertford United

Methodist Church during the community Thanksgiving service held Sunday evening. Throughout the county, churches are holding special services and communal dinners.

Wolfman park plans on hold

By JOHN JACKSON
The Daily Advance

Just five days after announcing their intention to build a blues park and museum in honor of Wolfman Jack, Tod Smith, Wolfman Jack's son, and Steven Baldwin have temporarily put the project on hold.

"Basically, we're on hold till we develop all of our business plans," Smith said last Wednesday.

Smith and Baldwin had announced at a Nov. 10 press conference at Wolfman Jack's home in Belvidere that they were planning to open a blues park and hall of fame in honor of the world famous radio disc jockey Wolfman Jack - whose real name was Robert Weston Smith.

Smith died of a heart attack in July after returning from a promotion of his autobiography.

His son Tod, 32, a promoter and producer, said he came up with the idea for the park a few weeks after the funeral.

"It just came to me," he said. "It's mainly a way for artists and fans to pay tribute to Wolfman, my father."

Smith then brought in Hollywood promoter Steven Baldwin to assist with the park's development.

The blues park would contain a 7,500-person amphitheatre and stage.

The museum would contain memorabilia of Wolfman Jack's career. Smith said he had spoken with animators and engineers at Disney to construct a robotic Wolfman Jack that would guide visitors through the museum while broadcasting from his original radio booth.

Now, Smith said the plans have been put on hold.

"I think this is something that merits consideration," said Robert Baker Jr., the Perquimans County Planner and Economic Developer.

Baker said he met with Smith, Baldwin and Sandra Smith (no relation) with the Chamber of Commerce last week to discuss some concerns he and other county residents have with the project, including noise pollution and traffic control.

At the end of the meeting, Baker said Baldwin and Smith told him the project would be put on hold.

"They do have considerations, they do have concerns," Baker said. "I hope they can

FEEDBACK

Although only two people called in response to our FEEDBACK request concerning the Wolfman Jack Memorial Blues Park, both were solidly against the project.

Both feared traffic problems, excessive noise, litter, and crowd control.

Also, The Perquimans Weekly spoke with several residents of the Belvidere area, and found that although both Tod Smith and Steve Baldwin said they had spoken with community residents about the park and enlisted their support, several property owners in the immediate vicinity of the proposed park site said they found out about the park from reports in The Perquimans Weekly.

work through some of them. I still wish them well."

Although Smith said he had received the "thumbs up" from community officials, Perquimans County Commissioner Archie Miller said the project had not been brought before the commissioners.

"We haven't received any information on this yet," he said.

Despite knowing very little about the project, Miller expressed his interest in it. "I think it could be done," he said.

Mack Nixon, chairman of the commissioners, also said the board had not officially been approached by Smith or Baldwin on the project.

"They did not officially make us aware of what they were planning on doing," Nixon said.

Because Smith plans to build the park in what Nixon calls "downtown Belvidere," Nixon said he hopes Smith will get the support of the local residents.

"I think the first order of business would be the acceptance of the endeavor in the Belvidere community," Nixon said. "If the people were to embrace it, the board of commissioners would consider that."

County briefs

The Perquimans County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, Nov. 6. In addition to the stories published on Nov. 9 and 16, the board also discussed the following items:

- Choice Acres Inc. was awarded the contract to farm Granby Farms (Perquimans Commerce Centre site) for three years at a rental rate of \$19,860 per year. Other bidders were Willis Proctor and Son Farms, \$16,617 per year, and Ronnie Baker, \$15,360 per year.

- The resignation of animal control officer Phillip McPherson was accepted. Former animal control officer Ron Priddy was appointed to the position.

- Janet Roughton was approved as Income Maintenance Case Worker I at Department of Social Services.

- The board authorized the county manager and county attorney to draft letters to the Democratic Party and the N.A.A.C.P. requesting two nominees from each group to fill the seat of the late David Bines Jr. on the board of commissioners. The groups were asked to respond by Dec. 1. The choice of the board to fill the seat will serve for the remaining three years of Bines' term.

- The resignation of tax supervisor Tony Jordan was accepted. No further action was taken.

- An engineering contract was approved for Diehl and

Phillips, the Greenville firm composing plans for a new Bethel water plant.

- The board reviewed a proposed water rate increase necessary to generate funds to pay the county's indebtedness if the early 1996 \$4 million bond referendum passes. The base rate would rise from \$8.50 per month to \$12.50.

- A resolution was adopted supporting the introduction of state legislation providing property owners associations with authority to collect assessments and enforce community rules.

- Requests to have two streets at Holiday Island taken over by NCDOT and to pave Old Hickory Road were forwarded to the state.

- DSS director Chrystal Towe and deputy sheriff Darlene Jacobs were appointed to the Child Fatality Task Force Team.

- The board approved a request from the Perquimans County Rescue Squad for the squad to purchase a used N.C. Highway Patrol vehicle with squad funds to be housed at the EMS building.

The next regular session of the board will be on Monday, Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. in the commissioners room in the courthouse annex. All meetings are open to the public.

Residents who wish to address the board should call the county manager's office prior to Friday, Dec. 1 to be put on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce sponsored a ribbon cutting celebrating the grand opening of Old Hickory Antiques Friday. On hand for the ribbon cutting were (left to right) Hertford Mayor John Beers, Joan Cohoon Harrell, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandra Smith, Patsy Cohoon Berry, Nannette Cohoon, Horace Cohoon, Chamber President A.O. Roberts, Hertford Town Manager John Christensen, and Perquimans County Manager Paul Gregory. The shop is located on U.S. Highway 17 north of Hertford and is owned by Horace and Nannette Cohoon.

Holiday closing, deadlines

The Perquimans Weekly office will join businesses and government offices across the county in closing Thursday, Nov. 23 to observe the Thanksgiving holiday.

Office hours will resume on Friday at 8 a.m.

Deadlines for the Nov. 30 issue will be on schedule. Weddings, engagements, anniversaries, news releases, and briefs for the Happenings column should be submitted by Friday at noon. Obituaries,

church services and advertising deadline is Monday at 3 p.m.

All local government offices will be closed on Thursday, except the county dispatch department, sheriff's department and EMS service. Police departments in both Hertford and Winfall will be operating. All dumpsters will be closed.

For emergency assistance, call 911. For non-emergency assistance, call the dispatch office at 426-5751.

Outside

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
High: 50s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 50s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 50s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY