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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Two more plead guilty in federal drug case

By JOHN JACKSON
The Daily Advance

Two more Hertford men suspected of taking part in a massive drug ring pleaded guilty to drug charges in U.S. District court in Elizabeth City last Thursday.

James Louis Riddick, 52, pleaded guilty to charges of distribution of crack cocaine. U.S. Prosecutor Jane Jolly said other charges against Riddick, conspiracy to sell and distribute crack cocaine and criminal forfeiture of property, were dismissed as a result of Riddick's agreement to a plea bargain.

Delaware Khan Hunter, 30, another member of the drug ring, also pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to sell and distribute crack cocaine and criminal forfeiture. Because of his plea agreement, two charges of distribution of crack cocaine were dismissed, Jolly said.

The drug ring the two men belonged to was led by Barry Ford and his brother, Willie. The Fords pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to sell and distribute crack cocaine in U.S. District Court in Raleigh last Monday. They could be sentenced to life in prison, according to prosecutors.

Riddick faces a maximum 20-year sentence in federal prison, a \$1 million fine and three years of supervised probation.

Hunter could receive 10 years to life in federal prison, a \$4 million fine and five years of supervised probation.

When apprehended, Hunter had 57.4 grams of crack cocaine in his possession. Because of the large quantity, Hunter will receive the 10-year to life sentence, Jolly said.

PARADE/SHARE THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans County officially welcomed the holidays Saturday, when the annual Christmas parade made its way through the streets of Hertford. Over 70 units entered the holiday event. Among the winning entries was the Snug Harbor 4-H float (above), which earned second place in the church/civic category.

Parade ushers in the holidays

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

The weekend following Thanksgiving may mark the start of the Christmas season in most communities, but in Hertford the holiday doesn't get underway until the annual Christmas parade winds its way through the streets.

The Christmas spirit hit Hertford like gang busters Saturday when over 70 floats, fire trucks, marching groups and bands participated in the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce parade.

"I was very pleased with the participation and with the folks who jumped in to make it a success. I think it was a real drawing card for downtown Hertford. Everyone, especially the volunteers, deserves a big thanks," said A.O. Roberts, Perquimans County Chamber

of Commerce president.

Christmas parades are important traditions for small communities, Roberts said.

"It's drawing people together to being sharing the holiday spirit and the enjoyment of Christmas," he said.

Parade organizers were unsure how many people lined Hertford's streets.

"I was riding in it but I feel it was as big a group as we ever had," Roberts said.

"The downtown was full and the streets were crowded even before the parade."

Don Slater, WAVY-TV channel 10 weatherman, was this year's grand marshal.

Parade-goers said it was one of the best events in Hertford.

"I like the bands and the cars," six-

year-old Keith Vaughan said.

His mother, Rita Vaughan, said they came to the parade to cheer on 4-Hers who had entered a float. "It's a lot of fun," she said.

Awards were given to bands and several floats. The winners were:

Band competition (Perquimans High School band does not compete) - first place, Creswell High School; second place, Perquimans Middle School Eighth Grade Band.

Church/civic float - first place, Perquimans Volunteer Rescue Squad; second place, Snug Harbor 4-H Clubs.

School float - first place, Beacon Academy; second place, Perquimans County Head Start.

Business float - first place, Hertford Downtown Merchants Association; second place, Hertford Hardware.

Stubbins tapped to replace Bines on board

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners can look forward to having all six of its seats filled again at the January meeting.

Evelyn Stubbins, a retired Perquimans County home economics teacher, was chosen by majority to fill the seat vacated by David Bines Jr. Bines passed away in October.

Stubbins was one of the two recommendations presented to the commissioners by the Perquimans Chapter of the NAACP. Rev. John London was also recommended.

The Democratic Party presented the names of London and Willie Ann Bines, wife of the late David Bines Jr. Mrs. Bines declined the nomination.

Stubbins was nominated by commissioner Charles Skinner; London by commissioner Shirley Yates. Board members Archie Miller, Mack Nixon, Charles Ward and Skinner voted for Stubbins; Yates for London.

Stubbins will be sworn in at the January meeting.

Other board appointments included naming Cheryl Phillips interim tax supervisor. Phillips will hold the title for 90 days, at which time official action will be taken. The appointment was retroactive, as Phillips has been fulfilling the duties of the position since tax supervisor Tony Jordan left to accept a position in Wilkes County in November. The job vacancy has not been advertised.

Commissioners Mack Nixon and Archie Miller were re-elected chairman and vice chairman of the board, respectively.

Santa will leave county employees no Christmas bonus

Yates' motion dies for lack of second

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

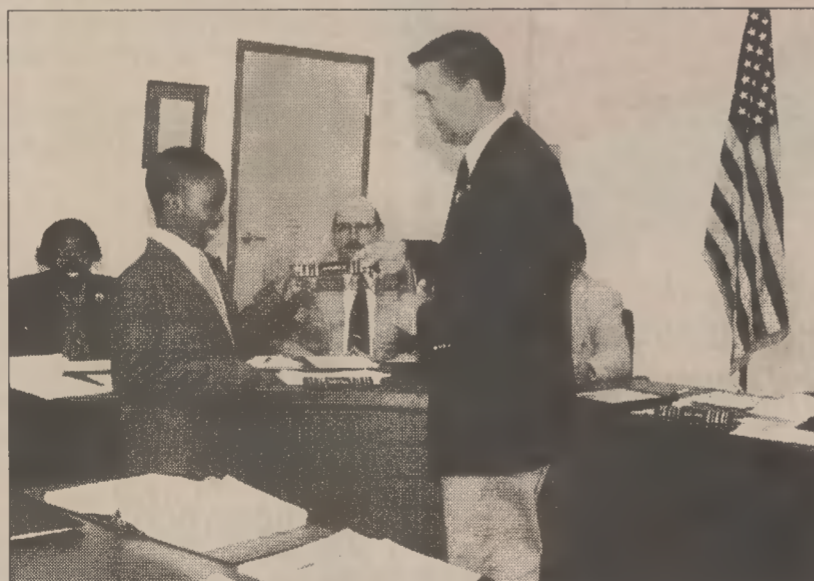
Whether they're heartless tightwads or conservative money managers is a topic that will no doubt be discussed on the streets of Perquimans this week.

The Perquimans County Commissioners allowed a motion by Shirley Yates to give county employees a \$200 Christmas bonus to die for lack of a second. The motion was to give all permanent full-time, permanent parttime and other employees who work at least 20 hours per week the bonus.

The bonus would have required approximately \$20,000 to be drawn from the county's fund balance, a withdrawal the board was obviously hesitant to make.

"They're going to look for something," Yates told fellow board members while discussing the issue. She said because the county gave bonuses last year, employees would expect them this year. She said the board should be consistent.

Commissioner Charlie



David Bines accepts his father's county commissioner nameplate from commissioners' chairman Mack Nixon Monday.

Skinner said he had considered Christmas bonuses carefully because taxpayers have talked with him about county benefits. Employees are being paid a salary to perform their jobs and benefits not being "in line" was a problem to some people, he said.

Yates said the employees should have been told in advance that bonuses were not included in the fiscal budget passed in July.

"Let's don't wait till the last minute and then decide you're not going to do it," Yates said.

Board chairman Mack Nixon said he thought the \$200 bonuses paid last year came as a result of lesser pay raises than were requested by department heads.

Charles Ward reminded commissioners that \$20,000 "is almost a penny on the tax rate."

County manager Paul Gregory almost skipped the item on the agenda because Yates had nipped a request to raise county building inspector Aubrey Onley's salary because he received his level 2

certification in July.

Yates said she was not squabbling with the raise, but that other items not included in the budget were required by board policy to be considered at the second meeting after their request.

Gregory said he considered the funding of what he said was "a couple hundred dollars" regular business because employees who upgrade skills have been approved for raises in the past as soon as the county was made aware of the upgrade.

Onley earned the certification about 5 months ago, but only recently brought it to Gregory's attention because Onley thought the state would notify the county manager. After several months passed with no increase in pay, Gregory said Onley questioned Gregory about the raise.

The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Another raise request tabled until the next meeting was that of Sheriff David Lane to grant chief deputy Dean Cartwright a merit raise. Lane said Cartwright was hired with the understanding that he could anticipate a raise at his performance appraisal in one year. He was hired on Dec. 5, 1994. Gregory said the raise

would cost the county about \$6,000, but that he would have to carefully review budget records to determine whether the raise was included in the fiscal budget.

Recreation director Lee Hoffman addressed growth in recreation and told the commissioners a one-man department may not continue to be feasible. With growth of 20-50 percent in traditional sports and the addition of new programs, one person may not be able to continue to operate the department, Hoffman said.

Ward recommended that Hoffman look for volunteers to fill the gap. But Yates support-

ed the idea, saying she has seen the hours Hoffman puts in the duties he performs.

"He's supposed to be the director and he's the worker. He doesn't have anybody to direct is the way I see it," Yates said.

At the end of the meeting, commissioners presented a plaque and resolutions from the local board and the state association to Willie Ann Bines, widow of past commissioner David Bines Jr., recognizing his service to the county. Bines' nameplate was accepted by his son, David.

Bines died in October at the age of 47.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 50s Low: 30s FAIR	High: 50s Low: 30s FAIR	High: 60s Low: 30s FAIR