

The Perquimans Weekly

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

How to vote on Nov. 5

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Part 2 of a series

The registration books for the Nov. 5 general election close Friday. County residents who are not registered by Oct. 11 will not be eligible to vote in the general election.

Voters should take special care when voting for county



commissioner. There are four candidates running for three available seats. Under the county's electoral plan, each voter may choose only one candidate for the office. The three candidates who collect the most votes will be declared the winners.

If a voter chooses more than one candidate, the ballot will be declared spoiled, and the vote will not count.

County commissioners will be sworn in at the board's December meeting. Commissioners serve four-year terms.

All polling places are manned throughout election day. They are responsible for checking registration records for all those who go to the polls to vote. All those who vote must be registered.

Voters are given ballots for each race and/or referendum item. Voters take the ballots into voting booths to mark their choices. After voters complete their ballots, the ballots are placed in the appropriate locked ballot boxes.

When the polls close, the election workers at each precinct, sometimes assisted by appointed counters, begin the process of counting votes. One person calls out the name of each candidate who gets a vote, while others at the table tally. This process is done for each ballot item.

After this process has been completed for each item on each ballot, a sheet is completed showing the results from all ballots in each precinct. This sheet, along with all the ballots placed back in the ballot boxes and locked, is taken to the board of elections office.

At the elections office, full results from each precinct are written on posters. After one stop votes, absentee ballots and the results from all precincts are in, results for each ballot item are totalled. These results are still unofficial until the elections board validates them at the county canvass later the same week.

Vote counting is open to the public; however, those who choose to be present during the process must not interfere, with the vote tabulation and must be quiet so that those involved in counting can clearly hear the person calling out the votes.

Elections personnel are careful to follow all local, state and federal elections guidelines and laws to ensure the integrity of the election process.

No. 1 IN PEANUT FEST PARADE



PHOTO BY BRIAN VANDERLIET, THE DAILY ADVANCE

Josh Harrell adjusts his trumpet while waiting for the Perquimans High School Marching Band to take to the field during Saturday's Edenton Peanut Festival band competition. Perquimans High School voted the top parade band.

Marching Pirates take first in Peanut Festival parade

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Marching Pirates took first place in Edenton's Peanut Festival Parade Saturday.

In addition, the Perquimans band took second place drum line and third place drum major in class AAA category. The Marching Pirates narrowly missed claiming third place overall in the group's first

year competing in the 3-A category.

David Ziemba, Perquimans County Schools Director of Instrumental Music, said he was extremely pleased with the band's overall performance.

The band competition was the largest and most competitive in the 21-year history of the Peanut Festival. Twenty-one bands from northeastern North Carolina and southern

Virginia participated in the event.

Cox High School won the festival's Band of the Day Award for receiving the top field performance award.

Bertie County High School received the Marvin Shaw Award for having the highest combined parade and field competition scores.

The festival is a fund raising event for the Edenton-Chowan band programs.

Federal help available for local hurricane victims

USDA Rural Development Representative Barbara Scaff announced the availability of loans and grants to repair or replace homes damaged by Hurricane Fran. Scaff said that the assistance is available under Public Law 104-134 which appropriated funds to be used to assist persons needing emergency assistance resulting from natural disasters.

USDA Rural Development has two programs which can assist low or very-low income applicants whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Fran. One program, Section 504, provides loans to very-low income homeowners to make repairs or improvements needed to remove health hazards. Loans are made at one percent with payment terms of up to 20 years. Very-low income elderly applicants may qualify for grants of up to \$7,500 to make

necessary repairs. Home construction, purchase, or improvement are eligible purposes for the Section 502 loan program. Rural residents who have suffered uninsured damage to their homes or renters who have lost their homes due to damage from Fran may want to contact their local USDA Rural Development Office to receive information.

"USDA housing disaster assistance will complement other disaster programs being provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA), the Small Business Administration, and others. Anyone in need of assistance due to the damage caused by Hurricane Fran should contact FEMA for information and assistance," said Scaff.

Information on USDA Rural Development Programs can be obtained by calling 426-5733 or

by visiting the office at 512 S. Church Street, Hertford.

Perquimans County farmers who sustained physical or production losses courtesy of Hurricane Fran may qualify for federal assistance.

President Clinton declared the entire state of North Carolina a major disaster due to the damages and losses caused by Hurricane Fran.

M. Kent Sawyer of the Farm Service Agency, Ag Credit Division in Hertford said farmers in Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck and Chowan counties may apply for emergency loan assistance for both physical and production losses. May 6, 1997 is the filing deadline.

The Perquimans FSA office is located in the county office building at 512 S. Church Street, Hertford, 426-5802. Offices hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Manager: Purchase orders a must

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

County government department heads who refuse to follow established procedures for purchases may find themselves in front of the board of commissioners.

County Manager N. Paul Gregory told the commissioners Monday that he has had a problem with some department heads not obtaining purchase orders and getting prior approval from his office before placing orders. In one case, Gregory said, an order exceeded the approved budget item by \$250.

Gregory said he has reminded all department heads in writing that county audit procedures require obtaining and having approved purchase orders prior to placing any order for items costing over \$25. He said the item will also be on the agenda when department heads meet with him at their regular monthly meeting in November.

The next time a department head fails to follow policy, Gregory said he will not pay the bill and will have the department head come before the commissioners to ask for the money.

As finance officer, Gregory

said he makes every attempt to follow state audit guidelines, as well as the recommendations of the county's auditor, Sonja Hibbard. Both require purchase orders.

In departments where one person is responsible for all purchase orders, there is no problem, Gregory said.

Commissioner Charles Skinner said he saw no need for department heads to come before the commissioners. Skinner said he questions the performance of a department head who fails to follow established procedures. Bringing an offender before the commissioners was tagged by Skinner "a waste of time."

A group of Snug Harbor residents joined the list of those complaining to commissioners about dog problems in their neighborhoods.

Cindy Bowling told the commissioners that dogs in the subdivision are attacking people, other dogs and property.

"It's getting real bad," Bowling said.

Gregory told the group that animal control officer Ron Priddy needs help determining the owners of offending dogs so that citations can be issued. Priddy is trying to catch the strays, Gregory said.

Health officials plan shot day

Influenza and pneumonia are major public health problems in North Carolina. In 1994, more than 2,200 North Carolinians died due to complications of influenza and pneumonia, most of whom were 65 and older. Locally pneumonia and influenza is the fifth leading cause of death, in 1994, 36 persons died from disease complications. Many of these deaths could have been prevented by timely vaccinations.

More than 50 percent of North Carolina's population over 65 do not receive an annual influenza vaccination. Many of those who receive the vaccine receive it too early in the year and have little protection during the critical months of January and February.

Influenza vaccines are most effective if received from mid-October to mid-November, the closer to the beginning of flu season (mid-December) the better. More than 70 percent of those 65 and older have never received the pneumonia vaccine. This is true even though

Medicare Part B pays for the cost of effective, safe vaccinations for influenza and pneumonia.

With the support of Governor James B. Hunt Jr., local organizations and health care facilities have joined forces to improve North Carolina's influenza and pneumonia prevention efforts. Their efforts will result in Senior Vaccination Sunday events, a mass influenza and pneumonia vaccination promotion to take place Nov. 3, the Sunday before Election Day. Plans are being made to make Nov. 3 a grand event in the Albemarle area.

If you are 65 or older or know someone who is, Nov. 3 will be the perfect opportunity for you to protect yourself or a loved one from contracting a preventable disease.

Details on Senior Vaccination Sunday grand events will be coming soon.

For additional information call the senior citizens center or health department in Perquimans County.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 70s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 70s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 70s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY