

The Perquimans Weekly

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

ROYALTY/HOMECOMING COURT CROWNED

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Perquimans royalty was crowned Friday night during halftime of the homecoming football game at Perquimans High School.

Seniors Shikara Elliott and Brian White were named queen and king by the student body. Crowned princess and prince were juniors Jennifer Rountree and Tavarus Ferebee. Chosen Miss and Mr. Class of 1999 were Brandy Hollowell and Andrew Harris. Named Miss and Mr. Class of 2000 were Brandi Dennison and Ryan Woodell.

The Marching Pirates presented a special halftime show featuring selections from their 1996 competition program and "When a Man Loves a Woman." The musicians also provided music and drum cadences to accompany the cheerleaders during the Friday afternoon pep rally.

Homecoming festivities ended with a post-game dance in the school gym.

Friday started with students arriving at P.C.H.S. dressed in school colors, black and gold. Several students entered the car decorating contest. Contest winners were Mike Dail, first place; Leary Winslow, second place; and Lee Dail, third place.

After about a 20-year absence, a parade was part of



PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

On the Perquimans High School homecoming court were (above, left to right) Faith Dean, Miss Class of 2000 Brandi Dennison, Miss Class of 1999 Brandy Hollowell, LeAnn Ferrell, Julie Bunch, Princess Jennifer Rountree, Queen Shikara Elliott, Erica Ennis, (below, left to right) Brian Holland, Mr. Class of 2000 Ryan Woodell, Corey Moore, King Brian White, Toby Crandall, Prince Tavarus Ferebee, Mr. Class of 1999 Andrew Harris, and James White.



homecoming. Over 30 entries made their way from the high school through the downtown area Friday afternoon. Floats, the band, decorated cars and the home-

coming court, all entered by groups from the high school and the middle school, made up the parade. Two former homecoming queens, Georgia Winslow Stallings and

Sharon Riddick Lane, rode in the parade. Dr. Randall Henion led the parade.

Students enjoyed a variety of events all during homecoming week.

Hertford casts compromise fishing rule

S-bridge open to fishing during daylight hours

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Hertford Town Council cast a compromise vote this month when the board decided to reopen the S-shaped bridge to fishing.

Council visited the bridge fishing issue in May, when several residents appeared before the board and requested that fishing from the bridges in the town's municipal limits be halted. Among the problems cited by the residents were fishermen in the roadway, casting into passing vehicles, litter, loud talking late at night, alcohol consumption, public urination and parking on private property. Town manager John Christensen called state officials the next day to determine what steps the town would need to take to outlaw fishing on the bridges.

In June, council voted to ask the state DOT to take action on the town's request to close the bridges to fishing. The state approved the request

and fishing was banned on the S-bridge, Walter's Bridge and Skinner's Bridge.

August brought residents with a petition to the town board's monthly meeting bearing 100 signatures requesting that the town reconsider its ordinance. Willie Riddick and George Riddick presented the petition to the town, and asked what problems had occurred that caused council to ban fish-

ing. The pair said if they could find out what the problems were, they and other fishermen would help police the area to curtail

the problems.

Council agreed to reconsider the issue.

This month, the board voted to reopen the S-bridge to fishing during daylight hours only. Walter's Bridge and Skinner's Bridge remain closed to fishing.

"We reached a compromise," Christensen said this week. He said many of the problems that led to the town's decision to close the S-bridge to fishing occurred at night. By allowing fishing only during the day, council is hoping the former problems will not recur.

"We reached a compromise."

John Christensen
Hertford Town Manager

Trick or treat hours set

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Ghosts, goblins and witches will make their way through Hertford Thursday evening, repeating the familiar refrain "Trick or treat!"

Hertford Police Chief Bennie Murphy announced last week that trick-or-treat hours for the town will be 5:30-8 p.m. Murphy said only children 12 and under should trick-or-treat, and all trick-or-treaters should be accompanied by an adult or older youth. Only those homes with porch lights on should be visited.

Murphy also said his officers will be on the look-out for those who use Halloween as an evening to commit mischief, such as smashing pumpkins.

Perquimans Sheriff David Lane said following simple tips can make Halloween activities safer and more fun. Suggestions for a safe Halloween include:

- Use face paint instead of a mask when possible to that children can see well.
- Wear reflective clothing, carry a bright bag and a flashlight or glowstick.
- Always walk on the sidewalk or left side of the road facing traffic.
- Young children should be accompanied by an adult.
- All candy should be taken home and inspected by parents before being eaten.
- Unwrapped candy and any suspicious-looking goodies should be thrown away.
- Lighted jack-o-lanterns and electrical decorations can be a fire hazard. Keep them out of reach of small children and away from flammable materials.

Commissioner candidates speak about issues

Part 5 in a series

Last week in The Perquimans Weekly, the first question asked all four county commissioner candidates appeared. This week, the rest of the questions, along with a little about each candidate, appears.

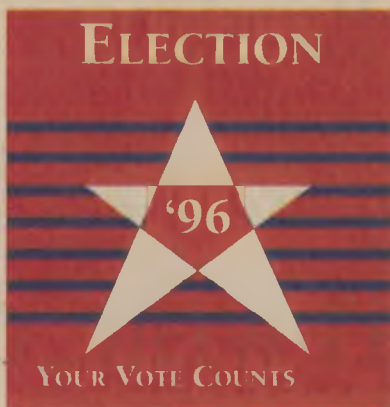
The county is presently the owner of a 400-acre tract of land upon which a commercial park will be built. This site is being developed with county funds, along with limited grant funds. What, if any, incentives should be granted to businesses desiring to establish a business in that park? Why?

Hayes: NONE! I believe in bringing what businesses we can to this county, but let private investors develop the industrial "dream" park, don't use our much-needed tax dollars. We have far more important priorities that are in need of our tax dollars i.e. teachers, school equipment and supplies, emergency equipment i.e. fire truck and ambulance. This year's budget for the industrial "dream" park exceeds \$260,000. Next year will be more of the same.

Howell: The county is not in a position financially to offer monetary incentives. We would have to do a hard sell on the physical and other attributes we have to offer.

Miller: Business incentives should be offered when the location of the business will give benefits to the people of Perquimans County, such as jobs, increased tax revenues, and increased tax base. Incentives could be of several types, such as decreased cost of property, infrastructure, or utilities. At the same time the benefits that the county would receive would have to be greater than the incentives offered.

Yates: Once we have devel-



oped our infrastructure to the park, we should be concerned about what industry is interested in coming and try to provide training for people in the county so they will be able to acquire some of these jobs and industry will not have to train all of its employees. And we will take a look and see if we can offer some type tax incentives. The county has to be concerned with developing its own park if some assistance is needed by the town of Hertford and Winfall and we have the resources to help than I think we should. Development should be a joint effort.

Should the county offer the same opportunities/incentives for businesses in other locations or for other projects such as downtown revitalization?

Hayes: To my knowledge the county has not helped any local businesses. Our local merchants have had to make improvements on their own property with their own money. Before the County Commissioners decided to dump tax dollars into a industrial park they should have improved the downtown area. Major companies or businesses are going to locate in an attractive well maintained community. For a few thousand dollars the downtown area could be spruced up and made more appealing to

potential businesses. After all, it has been our local businesses that have stuck with us through good times and not so good of times.

Howell: I believe in being impartial so the same opportunities should be offered to all. I would not like to see a ghost town in downtown Hertford.

Miller: The county should offer the same opportunities or incentives in other locations if these businesses can offer the same advantages to the citizens of Perquimans County.

Yates: No answer.

How involved should commissioners be in the day-to-day operation of the county government. Why?

Hayes: Commissioners should not get involved in the day-to-day operation of the county. There is a tiered structured form of management for most major businesses and local governments. Commissioners delegate authority and a measured amount of responsibility to the county manager who in turn manages the over all operation of the county. Interference in the manager's role by a commissioner undermines the authority of the manager. If the commissioners are displeased with the poor performance of a particular department then the Chairman of the County Commissioners takes the matter up with the County Manager.

Howell: Commissioners should operate as a Board. Individual involvement would only cause disruption. The Board is a policy making body not a day-to-day operative.

Miller: In my opinion, county commissioners are the policy making body of your local government. The county manager and the

department heads are hired to take care of the day to day operation of the county business. One responsibility of a county commissioner is to listen to feedback from the public and county employees to determine if a problem exists. Where or when a problem exists in a department, all commissioners should be advised and proper action should then be taken.

Yates: We should be involved each day. I spend time at the senior center and deliver meals on wheels so I can listen to seniors tell about their needs. I work with the school system to find out the needs of children. I talk with young mothers and fathers in the supermarkets, at games, church, service stations and anywhere I see people whom I feel I should talk to. This is now I am involved in the community.

The county presently rents office space for department of social services overflow and will soon move dispatch into rented quarters. Other departments report overcrowding and the need for more space. What is your solution to this problem?

Hayes: Why are our county

departments growing, our population is remaining stable at around 10,000 residents? What services are we now having to provide that we have not been providing? Before seeking more space I would appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to look at the position descriptions of each employee in those impacted departments to see if the work assignments could be consolidated. If it is determined that more space is needed then the vacant buildings downtown or in Winfall should be explored for possible renovation.

Howell: The county owns land suitable for office space. The possibility of having office space constructed on a lease to own plan would be an alternative.

Miller: The commissioners are aware of this problem and there are funds appropriated in this year's budget to build an office building on property already owned by the county that would help alleviate this problem.

Yates: I think the county should build its own office building on land that it owns and rent the space that is not needed to help pay for the building.

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Outside

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | |
| High: 70s Low: 50s PARTLY CLOUDY | High: 70s Low: 50s PARTLY CLOUDY | High: 60s Low: 40s MOSTLY SUNNY |