

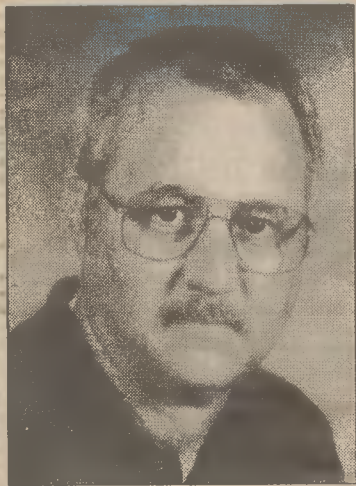
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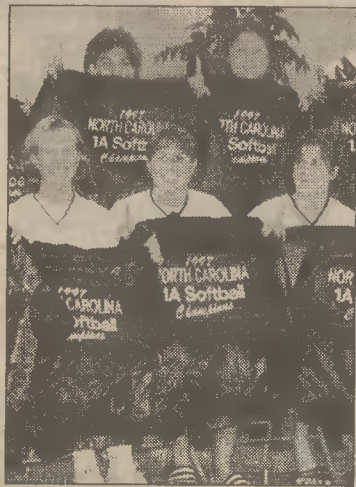
Hertford, North Carolina 27944

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Perquimans County
an
All of Us Care
Community

June's theme:
Get out of a rut

All of Us need a little change to get out of a rut. Write that long overdue letter or make phone calls to folks you haven't spoken with in a while. Try something new. Start that project or stop that bad habit. Get involved in a new organization or activity in your community. Plan a new adventure. Take a different route to work. Check out a library book on an unfamiliar subject. Try something that you haven't done in a long time. Stop and smell the flowers. Take a walk. Go fly a kite. Visit someone who could use some company. Doing something little for someone can often boost your energy!

For All of Us Care information, contact
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Chamber of Commerce
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Crop circles work of pranksters

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

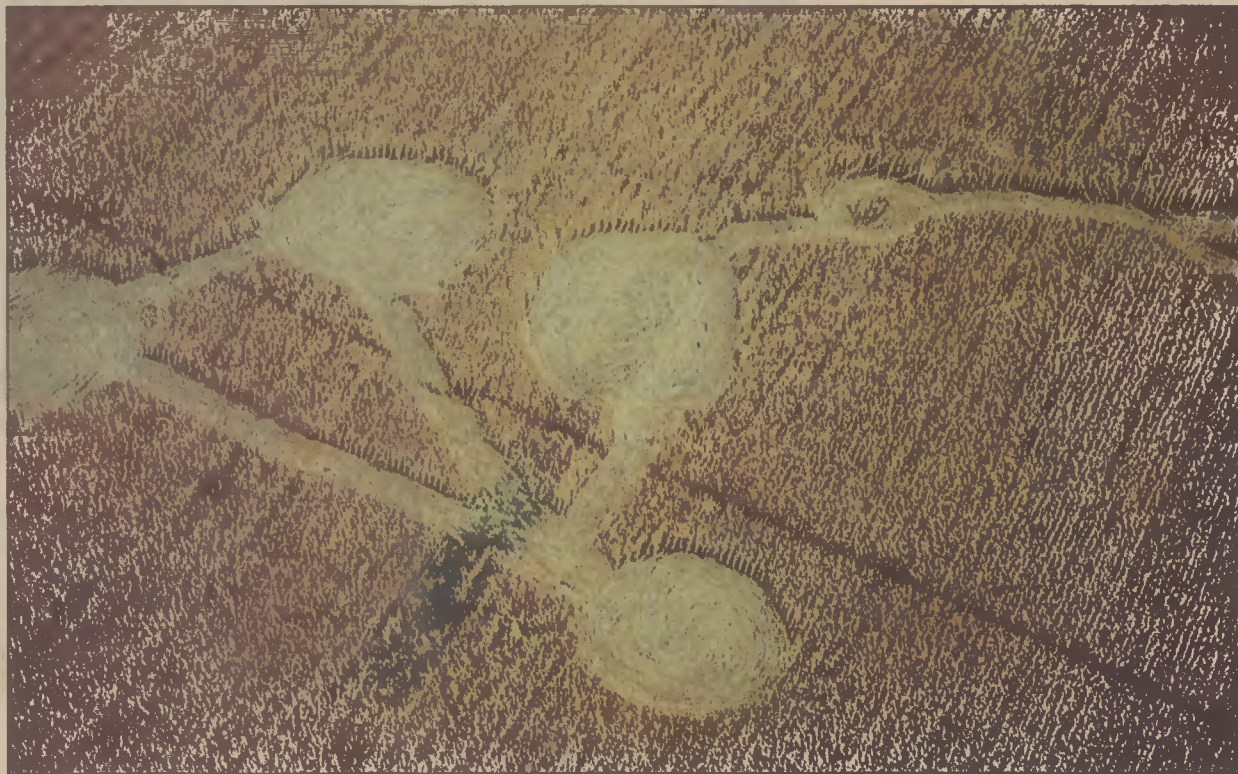
Patterns found in a wheat field in Hertford caused quite a stir last week as those who are into the unexplained considered what could have gone 25 yards into a field without leaving tracks and inscribed the letters D, T, A and F or W.

But over the last few days, it has become obvious to farmers Ed and Nick Nixon that the crop circles are the work of pranksters out to have fun. A second set of circles and two boards with cables attached found next to two fields lead the father and son to believe that the circles are nothing more than a hoax.

Nick Nixon found the first set of letters in a wheat field off Grubb Street Extended.

"I was plowing cotton and saw that some of the wheat (in an adjacent field) was laying down," Nick Nixon said. "I went out there to investigate it and saw that there were some patterns out there."

At first, the Nixons could not explain how the patterns were made. There were no tracks through the wheat



AP PHOTO

Crop circles found in a Hertford wheat field have caused quite a stir over the past few days. But evidence that the crop circles were a prank and finding a second set in another field have farmers Ed and Nick Nixon concerned about crop losses due to the damage.

going into the field, nor were there any unusual vehicle tracks in the area.

Word began to spread about the unusual findings, and it

was even put out on the Internet.

But the next day, a neighbor found a board with a cable attached to it near the area.

Nick Nixon surmises that those responsible for the patterns left no tracks because they followed field drains.

"It just looks like somebody

was out there playing around," Nixon said. "They saw something on TV or something and they were going to try it."

In the past few days, a second set of patterns in another of the Nixon's fields, along with a second board and cable have left no doubt in their minds that the crop circles are a prank.

And now it's now how they got there, but the damage that's being done to the crops that is a concern. The damaged wheat is so flat that it cannot be picked.

"We just thought it was a little prank at first, but now we've found the second circle," Nixon said. "It's getting serious now. This is a lot of wheat they're starting to mess up."

In addition to ruining crops, Nixon is concerned that the area's reputation could suffer as a result of the publicity.

"They could have really hurt Hertford's reputation if we had not found that board because there were people who were going to fly into Hertford to investigate those crop circles," Nixon said.

Please see Prank, Page 7

GRADUATION '97



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Graduation at Perquimans High School brought an overflow audience Friday night, as 127 seniors officially became freshmen again.

127 graduate from PCHS

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

An overflow audience filled Memorial Stadium Friday evening for the 72nd commencement exercises at Perquimans County High School.

The class of 1997 made its graduation memorable by breaking with tradition and having class members serve as keynote speakers and provide both the invocation and benediction in addition to the welcome and farewell addresses. Another classmate organized a musical ensemble to perform "I Will Remember You" as a tribute to the class. During the song, classmates lit sparklers and stood arm-in-arm, their last activity as classmates.

After the invocation by Crayton Matthews and welcome by Diana Boyce, valedictorian Cindy Rayburn addressed her classmates.

"As I look out at you, the class of 1997, I see people who have stuck together through the bad and celebrated together through the good. I see graduates who have encountered and overcome countless obsta-

cles and who have made themselves different people, for better, or for worse. But most of all I see you as a class, and as individuals who have seen and experienced many changes."

Rayburn reflected with humor on growing up, and on moving from the middle school to the high school.

"If you see something you think should be different, never, ever be afraid to change it."

Cindy Rayburn
Valedictorian
Class of 1997

"Overall, your high school years have probably been the strangest, most confusing, most agonizing, and yet best and most memorable years of your life. ...If you think all those changes were hard to adjust to, excuse my bad language, but you ain't seen nothing yet!"

Rayburn advised her class-

mates to accept change as well as to create it.

"Being able to adapt to change is a commendable quality, but as you go out into the world it is more important to remember this: You can make changes just as well as you can endure them. If you see something that you think should be different, never, ever be afraid to change it. Make things happen in this world, don't just let them happen to you."

Salutatorian Amber Curles followed Rayburn.

"Of all the words in the English language the one that ranks high on the list is the word friend," Curles began her address. "A friend is one who is always there for you when you need them, one who gives respect and gets respect; a friend is honest and loyal to you."

Curles related the fears of not belonging, then the joys of blossoming and enduring friendships throughout the school years.

Please see grads, Page 7

(Related story on Page 2)

Hertford responds to call for action

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

Hertford Town Manager John Christensen is moving swiftly to ask the town's residents to participate in sprucing up the town.

Two days after Mary Alice Brinn presented her list of concerns to the town council before a packed house, Christensen began sending written invitations to those on Brinn's list asking for their cooperation.

"The Hertford Town Council is very interested in enhancing the beauty of our Town," Christensen began his letters. "Hertford has a tremendous potential which can only be met through

everyone's efforts. All of us as citizens and property owners in Hertford need to be aware of how our property reflects the image of our town."

The notices went on to list the area of concern for specific property owners.

"I hope that you will agree to correct these concerns and through your own self evaluation of your properties, upgrade your properties beyond these obvious items."

Brinn rode through Hertford prior to the council's June meeting and submitted a list to Christensen noting her concerns about such items as weeds, trash, crooked and faded signs, and buildings needing paint.

Holiday Island seeks county help for roads

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

Driving around Holiday Island is no picnic, resident Stan Busted told the county commissioners earlier this month.

Busted described driving on the community's poorly maintained roads as a tooth-jarring experience in his plea for assistance from the county.

"I come to you this afternoon with an appeal for action," Busted said.

According to Busted, the

Holiday Island Property Owners Association, HIPOA, has no authority to access subdivision residents to collect funds for road maintenance. HIPOA has relied on residents' donations to keep its roads passable.

"We have no authority to do anything other than run around with hat in hand," he said.

Five of the subdivision's roads have been brought up to DOT standards and have been

Please see Roads, page 3

Outside

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
High: 80s	Low: 70s	High: 80s	Low: 70	High: 80s	Low: 60s
CHANCE OF RAIN		CHANCE OF RAIN		PARTLY CLOUDY	