



The Perquimans Weekly

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

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Perquimans County an All of Us Community

September's theme: **Do Your Best**

Manager, chief have differing ordinances

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

It began as a request from the Chamber of Commerce for town support to do away with sidewalk sales at the annual Indian Summer Festival.

It ended with the revelation that the police chief and town manager had conflicting ordinances in the town's ordinance books in their respective departments.

Police chief Bennie Murphy said the ordinance in his book prohibits selling merchandise on the sidewalks. But town manager John Christensen's book contains an ordinance that allows sidewalk sales as long as they do not extend over one-third of the width of the sidewalk.

Hertford town attorney Walter Edwards said he has suggested several times that the town recodify its ordinances, but no one wanted to spend the money to do it.

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Drug raid nets \$200K in pot

From staff reports

High school football wasn't the only game in town Friday night.

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department picked up 161 marijuana plants growing outside a Parksville residence, the largest amount of marijuana under cultivation confiscated in a drug raid in the county in quite some time.

"I know it's the largest since I've been sheriff," said Sheriff David Lane, who was elected in 1994. The confiscated marijuana has an estimated street value of \$225,475.

The alleged owner of the marijuana, 53-year-old Cecil Elliott of Route 2, Box 241, Hertford, was arrested at his mobile home on Hurdle Town Road shortly after a sheriff's raid of the property began around 7 p.m. Friday.

In addition to the marijuana plants, which were discovered growing in pots around the mobile home and in the corn field behind it, law enforcement officials also confiscated one ounce of marijuana, six half-gallons of rum, \$370 in crack cocaine and \$307 in cash from inside the

mobile home.

The rum was confiscated because officials believe Elliott was using it to sell illegal mixed drinks from a building known locally as the Cowboy Club, which is also on the property.

Lane said the raid included state Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the state Highway Patrol, and a canine unit borrowed from the Elizabeth City Police Department. It was the result of an undercover investigation of Elliott's activities that began more than two years ago.

So far, Elliott has been charged with possession of cocaine and manufacturing of a scheduled VI controlled substance (marijuana), but Lane anticipates that other charges will be filed. Officials hope to take Elliott before a grand jury on the additional charges, Lane said.

Elliott has had prior drug arrests. Lane also said that indictments will probably be filed against other suspects in the case.



PHOTO COURTESY PERQUIMANS SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Perquimans Sheriff David Lane (right), deputies, and officials from state agencies confiscated over \$225,000 in growing marijuana and other drugs from the home of Cecil Elliott Friday night. The raid was the result of a two-year investigation.

Local teens charged with bank hold-up

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

About two hours after allegedly robbing NationsBank Tuesday, two Hertford teens were in police custody, charged with armed robbery.

Travis Chapman, 19, of 515 Pennsylvania Avenue, and Clinton Jermal Oliver, 16, of 321 Market Street, were picked up by FBI agents at Oliver's home and taken to police headquarters for questioning around noon Tuesday. Hertford Police Chief Bennie Murphy said that during his interview with FBI agents Fernandez and Sauls, Chapman confessed that he went to NationsBank in Hertford with a weapon, wearing a stocking mask and robbed the bank.

Chapman and Oliver were later arrested and charged with armed robbery under state statute. Murphy said the FBI will decide within the next few days whether or not to file federal charges against the pair.

Murphy said the bank was robbed at about 10 a.m. Tuesday. Law officers received reports that two suspects had been seen running from the area of the bank toward Market Street at about that time.

Deputy Temple and his canine, Marco, of the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department were called in to assist local officers. The dog hit a trail that took officers into the vicinity of 321 Market Street, Murphy said. Two stocking masks were found in a garbage can in front of the house.

The subjects answered the door when Fernandez knocked. They were taken to the police department for questioning.

Murphy said an undisclosed amount of cash was taken during the robbery. Police recovered \$300 from Chapman at the time he was charged. Officials were executing the paperwork to obtain search warrants for Oliver's home by mid-afternoon on Tuesday.

The robbery marked the second time this year NationsBank has been robbed. The first incident was just before closing time on Jan. 10, when a lone, masked gunman entered the bank and demanded cash. No arrest has been made in that case.

In addition to the FBI and Pasquotank Sheriff's Department, the SBI also helped investigate.

Support voiced for Murphy

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

On the even of his last day with the department, several people expressed dismay over the resignation of Hertford police chief Bennie Murphy.

"Mr. Murphy, we're sorry that you have done this," mayor John Beers said when he announced that the town had accepted Murphy's resignation. He thanked the chief for his service to the town.

Vice mayor Billy Winslow followed Beers' comments with a motion to send Murphy a letter of appreciation for his service.

At the meeting's end, Hertford officer Ron Jacobs stood and addressed council. Jacobs said he did not speak for the entire department, but was a representative of several of his fellow officers. He said he hated to see the chief leave.

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I WANTA' BE LIKE MIKE



Elizabeth Phelps, age 4, won third place in the Be The Next "Mikey" Contest sponsored by The Quaker Oat Life Cereal Team. Elizabeth is the daughter of Hertford residents Mark and Julie Stamper Phelps. The adorable red-head earned her prize with this photograph. She appeared in The Lost Colony as Virginia Dare at age 10 weeks.

Festival kickoff Saturday with pageant

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

A very talented group of Perquimans High School students will take the stage Saturday night as Perquimans County's Indian Summer Festival 1997 kicks off with the Miss Indian Summer Festival pageant.

Pageant co-chairman Brenda Dail said the pageant promises to be a showcase of local talent.

"It's an outstanding group of young ladies," Dail said. "I can assure people it's going to be very worth their time to come out because the talent is really good."

Singing, dancing and instrumentals are among the talent planned for the pageant.

This year, the opening production number will feature music from the Broadway hit, "Grease." In addition to the pageant contestants, the act will include some young men.

Another highlight of the pageant will be a performance by Brandy Hollowell, Miss Indian Summer Festival 1996. Hollowell is an accomplished performer and student of dance. She spent much of her summer expanding her study of dance at Governor's School



FILE PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Miss Indian Summer Festival 1996, Brandy Hollowell (center), will crown her successor Saturday night at Perquimans Middle School. She will also dance during the pageant.

for the Arts. She will also perform during the show with James Hurdle, a PCHS graduate now attending the N.C. School of the Arts.

At the pageant's closing moments, Hollowell will crown her successor.

Miss Indian Summer Festival is a youth ambassador for the Chamber of Commerce. She makes appearances at the festival and the Christmas parade on behalf of the Chamber.

Returning to be the mistress

and master of ceremonies will be Anna Smith and Doug Umphlett.

The out-of-town judges will include a former Miss Kentucky, along with those who are knowledgeable about pageants and the performing arts, Dail said.

Originally set for Perquimans High School, the pageant has been moved to the middle school because the lights in the high school auditorium are not functioning properly.

Admission to the pageant is \$2. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7:30 show.

Outside

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
High: 80	Low: 60s	High: 80	Low: 60s	High: 80	Low: 60s
CHANCE OF RAIN		DRY		DRY	