

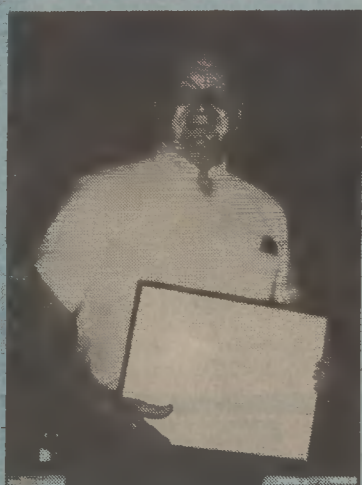
The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

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Rescue Squad celebrates its 30th anniversary

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Perquimans County an All of Us Community

October's theme: **Have patience and listen**

JobReady Expo a success

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The JobReady Expo held last week at the Edenton Cotton Mill by Perquimans, Chowan and Gates county school systems and the county's Chambers of Commerce was a success, organizers said. Chowan Chamber Director Richard Bunch said the group set a goal of having 20 businesses in the tri-county area participate in the expo. Thirty-seven businesses set up booths for the two-day event. The event allowed students and parents to see the skills they need to learn in order to compete in the job market. It

Please see JobReady, page 3

Tice back before school board

Former principal wants to set the record straight

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

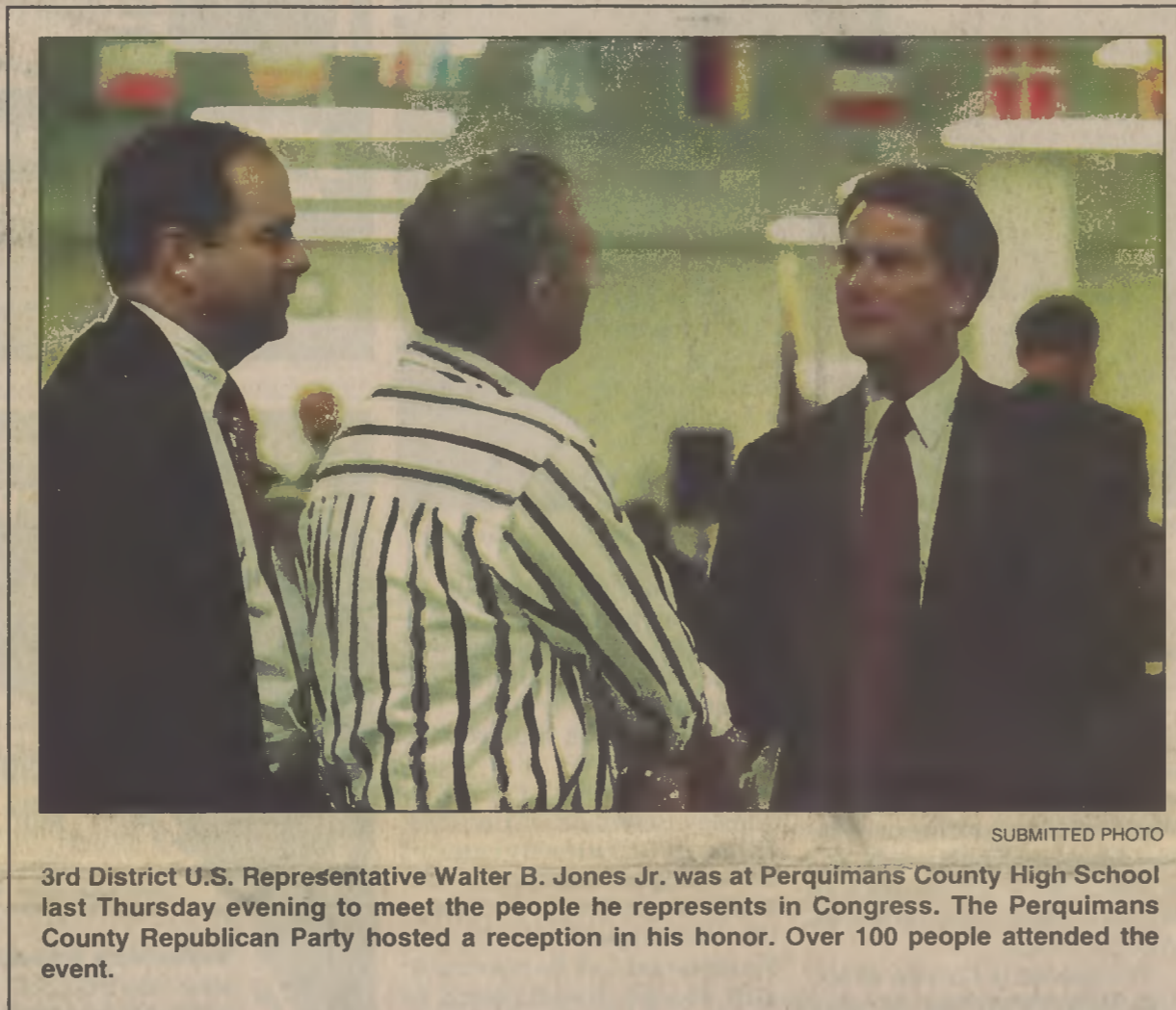
Bill Tice told the school board Monday night that he wanted to go on record that teacher evaluations were being performed at Hertford Grammar School under his tenure.

According to Tice, in the spring of 1993, system administrators decided it was an ineffective use of both teacher and evaluator time to perform standard observations for career status II teachers. Instead, the administrators decided that it would be more beneficial for career level II teachers and evaluators to work collaboratively to identify problems, come up with strategies to solve those problems and assist with the continued professional develop-

ment of the teachers, rather than perform a formal observation or written summative, Tice said. Former Central School principal Gary Stubbins backed Tice's comments. The collaborative work plans were used in the 1993-94 and 1994-95 school years. In March 1995, Tice said principals were told all teachers were to receive formal evaluations and written summatives. He said summatives are usually done by mid-May,

giving principals little time to do the performance appraisals. He asked superintendent Randall Henion, "Why didn't you tell us (principals) that teachers were to be evaluated if they were supposed to be?" Henion said Tice signed his name to a list of evaluations, but some were missing. Some were never completed, Henion said. Tice said he wanted to go on record that teacher evaluation requirements were in accordance with administrative pol-

icy with the collaborate work plans. The 32-year educator also said that principals "seem to be catching all the flak" about evaluations, but that last school year four other school employees were responsible for evaluations and observations at Hertford Grammar School also. Tice began to name the four, but was stopped by Nelson. He said no action was taken against the other administrators. Please see TICE, page 7



SUBMITTED PHOTO

3rd District U.S. Representative Walter B. Jones Jr. was at Perquimans County High School last Thursday evening to meet the people he represents in Congress. The Perquimans County Republican Party hosted a reception in his honor. Over 100 people attended the event.

Town applies for sidewalk grant

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Hertford Town Manager John Christensen wants to be proactive where pedestrian safety is concerned.

Christensen recommended that the town apply for state Department of Transportation funds to begin a sidewalk project on South Church Street Extended.

The manager made council aware of the availability of state funds for the project in September. He told them last week at their regular meeting that if the town doesn't move soon, the funds may be gone.

"We can get the money now, we'd better move," Christensen said.

The number of people walk-

ing along Church Street between King Street and Hardee's shows the need for a sidewalk project, Christensen said.

Under the program for which the town will apply, the state will fund 90 percent of the cost of constructing the sidewalk, including piping the ditch.

Christensen got estimates on installing the sidewalk from the state in September. District Engineer Jerry Jennings said it would cost about \$113,000 to do the entire project. He broke the cost down as \$70,000 from Trade Mart to Albemarle Commission, \$13,000 from Albemarle Commission to the bridge, \$15,000 from the bridge

to White Street, and \$15,000 from White Street to King Street.

Christensen recommended starting at King Street and working toward U.S. 17 Bypass, but councilmen Sid Eley and Erie Haste recommended beginning on the other side of the bridge, citing more danger to pedestrians on that portion of the road. Eley recommended started at the bridge and moving toward U.S. 17. Haste recommended moving toward King Street from U.S. 17.

The speed limit changes from 35 to 45 at the bridge.

Although no definite order of construction was decided, council did instruct Christensen to apply for grant funds.

Board's integrity questioned

Gill Underwood took up where he left off in September as he addressed the school board Monday night.

The retired principal again spoke to the issue of the integrity of the school board and superintendent regarding events surrounding the suspension and subsequent resignation of Hertford Grammar School principal Bill Tice, a 32-year system employee.

Underwood said a newspaper account of the board's August meeting reported that chairman Wallace Nelson said the board would take no action on personnel issues at the meeting. However, after a closed session that lasted about four hours, the board came back into open session and voted to back the superintendent in the Tice case.

"This to me calls into question the integrity of the chairman and his leadership," Underwood said. "In so doing he committed political suicide that night."

Underwood also questioned how Tice could have been guilty of showing "little or no improvement" in teacher eval-

uations when the board's attorney, Richard Schwartz, said in September that teacher evaluations had improved. Information presented in September by Schwartz showed a 43 percent systemwide improvement in evaluation documentation.

Underwood also said many school system employees are fearful of losing their jobs.

"The people in Perquimans County (Schools) are scared to death and that's a fact," he said.

He said the Tice incident, where the board said concerns were real and documented, added to employees' fear. He said the feeling is, "your Ps and Qs 'cause if we can't get you for A, we'll get you for B."

The work environment stifles innovation and independent solutions to circumstances in the schools, Underwood said. He added that Gary Stubbins put it bluntly to the board in August when Stubbins said an employee is not in the superintendent's corner, the employee has a problem. Please see Underwood, page 7

Council undecided about fate of U.S. 17 business

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Hertford Town Council is still trying to decide what to do about restricting truck traffic across the S-bridge and causeway.

In August, council was presented with three options by state DOT officials. The board was told by Don Conner, DOT Division Engineer, that the least complicated and most enforceable means of restricting traffic would be to reroute Highway 17 Business to enter Hertford from South Church Street Extended, turn west onto Dobbs Street, then south onto Edenton Road Street back to its junction with U.S. 17 Bypass south of town. Then he said Church Street south of

Dobbs Street could be designated a light traffic road.

Conner said the process to get the changes through would take about 60 days from the time the town passed an ordinance.

Conner said he would not recommend designating a truck route because truck routes can be difficult for travelers and truckers to understand. He added that the only way to eliminate truck traffic over the bridge is by weight restriction. Conner added that the state's Attorney General has said that limiting by axles is not legal.

Councilmen said they wanted to move quickly and not wait until September to make a decision. Please see US 17, page 3



Students and parents look over the tri-county JobReady Partnership information.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 60 Low: 40 DRY	High: 60 Low: 40 DRY	High: 70s Low: 50 MOSTLY CLOUDY