

Lady Pirates still perfect

Page 9

Lady Tigers end with win

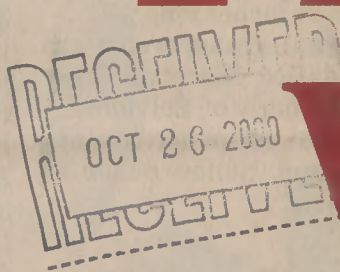
Page 9

NC Ag students in demand

Page 6

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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

## Schools superintendent resigns Monday

### Hertford gets funds for period lighting

#### Bridge, Church Street blocks to get new look

JEREMY DESPOSITO  
The Daily Advance

The longest "S" bridge in the country is also set to become one of the most scenic. Hertford Main Street Coordinator Belinda Washlesky announced last week that, as expected, the town had received \$240,320 in federal grant funds for a project that will include putting 1920s-era light poles on the S bridge.

The project, which includes \$60,080 in matching funds from Perquimans County, will install 13 lights on either side of the 72-year-old bridge, which spans the Perquimans River just north of town, and along both sides of Church Street for one block downtown, from Grubb Street to Dobbs Street.

Funding for the beautification project, which comes from a pool of funds called TEA-21



Local officials gathered by the S-bridge Friday to celebrate receipt of a federal grant that will install 1920s lighting on the bridge and two blocks of Church Street, as well as bury utility lines.

grants, will also allow the town to move its overhead electric utilities underground in those areas, Washlesky said.

"You can look forward to visual signs of progress on this

project in about a year. And, once complete, much beauty will be added to an already picturesque community," she said.

Hertford's TEA-21 applica-

tion envisions a three-phase project costing \$551,000. The grant covers phases one and three.

Please see GRANT, page 13

### Gregory Todd will retire on Dec. 31

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

The school board and central office personnel are reeling this week, the result of the unexpected resignation of schools superintendent Gregory T. Todd Monday night. His resignation is effective Dec. 31.

Todd said Tuesday morning that he has accepted the position of executive director of Tarboro-Edgecombe Habitat for Humanity. The unit is the second largest in the five-state southeast region, Todd said.

"Since the flood (in September 1999 associated with Hurricane Floyd), they've had just all kinds of demands," Todd said. "They're going to work with the regional Habitat organization."

The timing of his resignation came somewhat as a surprise to Todd, also. He said he was looking at another 2-3 years in education before retiring. But a call from Habitat asking him to talk to them about the position about two weeks ago changed his plans.

Todd said the offer gives him "a good flow into retire-



Gregory T. Todd

ment, yet still giving and contributing to a community and giving to an organization. I can draw retirement and still contribute."

School board chairman Walter Leigh said after the public announcement of the resignation Tuesday morning that Todd will be difficult to replace.

"That is a tough one," said Leigh. "He knocked a big hole in us (with his resignation)."

Leigh said while the board is disappointed to see Todd leave, its members were able to reflect on the good things he brought to the school system and the community.

Please see TODD, page 13

## No-excuse voting available in N.C.

Registered voters who can't get to the polls on election day can still cast a ballot.

North Carolina now offers two methods of casting ballots other than appearing in person at the polling place on election day, absentee by mail and absentee one-stop.

Absentee by mail is the traditional way to cast a ballot if a voter cannot be at the polls on election day. Any registered voter is authorized to vote by mail an absentee ballot in any primary or election conducted by the county board of elections under any one of five conditions:

- The voter expects to be absent from the county during the entire period that the polls are open on election day.

- The voter is unable to be present at the voting place because of sickness or disability.

- The voter is incarcerated and is not a convicted felon

who has lost citizenship rights,

- The voter is observing a religious holiday

- The voter is a precinct official/observer/employee of the county board of elections.

The voter or the voter's near relative may send a signed written request to the county board of elections office. The request must be received in the office no later than the Tuesday prior to the election. The election is Nov. 7, so requests must be received by Oct. 31.

Each request must be signed by the voter or the voter's near relative, and include the voter's name and address as they appear on the registration records, and the address where the ballot is to be mailed.

If the voter is qualified,

Please see VOTE, page 13

## Students use Expo for career planning

Schools and the business community came together last week for the fourth annual Job Ready Business Expo in Edenton.

Ninth graders from Perquimans, Gates and Chowan county schools attended the educational career planning experience on Thursday. Students interviewed business people and industry representatives employed in a variety of jobs to find out job, training and education requirements needed in today's workforce.

On Thursday evening, eighth grade students from Perquimans attended the Expo. The interviewed business participants and will use what they learned to develop a career path as they enter high school next year.

The eighth grade band from Perquimans Middle School, under the direction of David Ziemba, performed selections including *The Star Spangled Banner*, *Freedom's March* and *Hail the Conquering Heroes*. As a surprise for principal Anne White, the Marching Tigers played *Eye of the Tiger* as the finale to their performance.

Harrell Thach, Teacher of the Year for Perquimans County High School, was guest speaker for this year's Expo. He talked to students about being successful in today's workplace. He encouraged students to believe in themselves and to strive for success in their lives. He told them to never be satisfied, always looking for a way to better them-



The Marching Tigers (above) entertained those who attended the Thursday evening session of Job Ready Business Expo 2000 last week. The band eighth graders played under the direction of David Ziemba. PCHS Teacher of the Year Harrell Thach (below) was speaker.

selves or someone around them.

In a recent letter of recommendation written for Thach by former PCHS principal Elaine Pritchard, she states, "Noteworthy is the energy, innovation and versatility of Harrell Thach. Aside from his teaching responsibilities, Harrell has taken the time to become certified in the area of academically gifted, is an EMT as well as lieutenant on the Perquimans County Rescue Squad, is captain of the Volunteer Firemen, and has earned his black belt in karate.

Further, Harrell's coaching record is noteworthy as seen in his carrying teams in basketball, football and track to conference and regional titles."

Thach credits his successes to always being willing to stand up for what he believed and the three Ds — desire, determination and discipline.

The Job Ready Expo is a joint venture of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce and the Job Ready programs in Chowan, Gates and Perquimans county schools. It was held at the National Guard Armory.



**Daylight Savings Time ends early Sunday morning. Don't forget to move your clock back one hour before going to bed Saturday night. Check your smoke detector batteries, too.**

### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 75  
Low: 54  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
High: 73  
Low: 51  
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY  
High: 76  
Low: 51  
PARTLY CLOUDY

### Trick-or-treat safely

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said those planning to trick-or-treat in Hertford should plan a safe Halloween experience.

Vanscoy said trick-or-

treaters should be age 12 and under, be accompanied by adults, and be on the street between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. Trick-or-treaters should go to those houses with a front

yard or porch light on. Reflective costumes that are not too long are best.

Motorists are advised to watch for ghosts and goblins darting out into the streets.