

Lady Pirates take hoops classic

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Library has new books

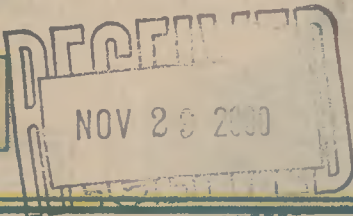
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Choose toys with care

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Harrell chosen interim super

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Pat Harrell is coming home. The Perquimans native and former superintendent of Perquimans County Schools was named interim schools superintendent Monday night. School board chairman Walter Leigh said the board will meet with Harrell in December to finalize a contract.

Harrell served as superintendent in Perquimans County from June 1976 until July 1988, after serving as both assistant superintendent and principal at Hertford Grammar School. He left the county to accept the position of superintendent in Dare County Schools. After retiring, he has held interim positions including schools superintendent, executive director of Albemarle Commission and chief administrator at COA.

Harrell will serve upon the Dec. 31 retirement of Gregory Todd. Todd resigned last month to accept a position as executive director of Tarboro-Edgecombe Habitat for Humanity.

The board also set a schedule for the process of hiring a new superintendent.

Application packages are being distributed and accepted through the office of board attorney John Matthews. The deadline to apply is Feb. 28. The packages will be reviewed by board members March 1-15. Initial interviews will be scheduled March 16-April 16, with final interviews April 17-21. An announcement will be made as soon as possible after that date. The candidate chosen would be expected to begin work in Perquimans no later than July 1.

In other personnel items, the board approved:

- the appointments of Beth Hughes as behavioral specialist at Oasis, Brian Page as PE teacher at Hertford Grammar, Melissa White as exceptional children teacher at Central and the high school, Tonya Brothers as part-time teacher assistant at Hertford Grammar, and James Newby Jr. as custodian at the middle school.

- the transfer of Ed Williams from custodian at the middle school to transportation/maintenance.

- the retirement of Elonza Joyner as special populations coordinator at the high school as of Dec. 31, and a temporary contract for Joyner to continue to perform those duties through June 30.

- the resignations of Todd Hunter as PE teacher at Hertford Grammar, Hilda Knight as bus driver at the middle school, Kevin White from maintenance/transportation, and Susan Winslow, who was on a leave of absence.

- the addition of Karen Nowlin to the substitute teacher list.

Santa to arrive at parade Saturday

Smiths serve as grand marshalls

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Paul and Anna Wrae Smith are grand marshalls of this Saturday's Christmas parade.

The Hertford couple and their son, Jason, are well-known in the community as owners of Smith's Jewelry and Fine Gifts and as farmers. Both are active in a variety of community, business, and church

organizations. Mr. Smith is currently chairman of the county elections board. Mrs. Smith has served on the chamber board of directors.

Flynn Serat will serve as master of ceremonies for the holiday event.

The parade will leave Perquimans High School at 1:30 p.m. It will proceed north on Edenton Road Street and turn east onto Grubb. Then, the parade will move south on Church Street before turning west onto Dobbs Street, then back onto Edenton Road to end at the high school. Highlights of the parade

will include music from the PCHS Marching Pirates and PCMS Marching Tigers, and the man every child wants to impress at Christmas, Santa Claus. Santa will leave his sleigh downtown to listen to the wish lists of girls and boys. The theme is Joys of Christmas Past.

Also on parade day, craft and food vendors will have booths downtown.

"We hope people will spend the day shopping, eating lunch and enjoying our parade," said Gay Murray, Chamber of Commerce president. The chamber sponsors the parade.

The Perquimans Arts League is responsible for parade judging.

Last year's parade day drew large crowds to shop and enjoy the holiday event.

The parade is the first of several holiday events. The next will be on Dec. 7 when the annual caroling on the courthouse green and merchants treasure hunt, extension Christmas Ramble and Antique Dealers Ramble are scheduled.

Downtown entertainment, 6-9 p.m., will feature Brittany Perry and the PCMS band. The treasure hunt will begin at

Frankie's Hertford Cafe at 7 p.m. Merchants will be open until 8 p.m. The activities are sponsored by the Historic Hertford Business Association.

The Extension and Community Association's annual homes tour will be held at 6:30 p.m. The ramble will feature three homes and Burgess Baptist Church. For tickets, brochures, and information, call 426-7697.

The antique dealers ramble begins at 3 p.m. and includes mystery coupon specials. Call or visit local antique and collectibles dealers for information.

DETOUR



Motorists will continue to detour off Grubb Street until the end of the week, according to workmen on the site installing new sewer equipment at the intersection of Grubb and Edenton Road streets. Work crews have been on the job for several days. The road should be cleared in time for Saturday's Christmas parade, which will leave the high school at 1:30 p.m.



Board questions maintenance work order report

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Reported leaks left unrepaired for a month on the maintenance department work order report caused raised eyebrows at Monday night's school board meeting.

Board member Iris Byrne asked why there were several requests for dry erase boards not honored.

Board vice chair Marjorie Rayburn said she was more concerned that a faucet reported constantly dripping at Hertford Grammar School on Oct. 18 had not been fixed by the time the work order report was updated on Nov. 17. She also asked why two leaks reported in the high school

cafeteria two days later had not been fixed.

"Leaks cost money and they also do damage if they're not contained," Rayburn said.

While Rayburn said she appreciates the importance of installing dry erase boards, priorities should be items that left unrepaired cost the system money, endanger the structural integrity of the buildings and are a safety concern for students and staff.

Rayburn's questions prompted board chair Walter Leigh to ask who is responsible for following up on maintenance requests.

Superintendent Gregory Todd said principals are responsible for maintenance employees assigned to the

school. In the maintenance department, Director Richard O'Neal is the overseer. Todd added that O'Neal prioritizes and assigns work to the maintenance employees. While there is some cross-training, one employee specializes in plumbing, one in electrical maintenance, one in carpentry and repairs and one in painting.

Todd added that ceiling and roof leaks are priorities as leaks can cause structural damage if left unchecked. Electrical problems are also top priorities.

Board member Helen Shaw noted that repair requests are highest at the middle and high schools, which are the oldest buildings. The middle school

had 58 requests on the list ranging from installing dry erase boards to ceiling leaks.

In addition to sending employees to fix problems, Todd said periodically the entire crew is sent to one location to fix as many problems at that site as possible.

The 10-page work order tracking report goes back to April and is updated each month. The report shows that 175 out of 243 requests have been completed. A couple of items have been contracted out.

The maintenance department is responsible for all the repairs and maintenance at all of the school properties, as well as constructing and installing new items.

Todd unhappy with remediation attendance

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Getting students to attend on remediation days built into the school calendar is proving challenging.

Superintendent Gregory Todd said he is disappointed in the number of students taking advantage of the remediation and acceleration opportunities.

Only 22 students at Central School participated in the Oct. 17 remediation/acceleration day. Sixty-eight students in grades K-2 were invited to participate. Forty-two responded that they would attend. However, only 22 did.

At Hertford Grammar School, 53 students, almost half in the third grade, attended.

The middle school had 93 students show up, about half who attended the ECSU math workshop for female students.

Participation was highest at the high school, where 78 students participated in the PSAT workshop and 20 in remediation activities.

While board members discussed the problems of non-participation, how to raise test scores, and how to reach parents about the importance of helping students through remediation, board member Helen Shaw was optimistic. She said remediation is new, and people must be given time to accept change.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 52
Low: 30
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
High: 53
Low: 35
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 48
Low: 30
PARTLY CLOUDY