

Happy Thanksgiving

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER FOR AND ABOUT PERQUIMANS COUNTY AND ITS PEOPLE

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Pirates storm Hurricanes

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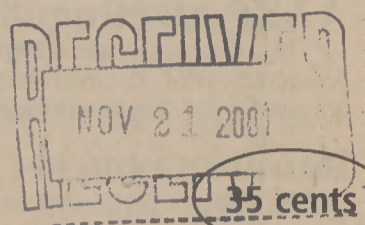
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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



November 21, 2001

Vol. 69, No. 37 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Mugging proves need for extra caution

Woman attacked on Dobbs Street

SUSAN R. HARRIS

A recent mugging outside Hertford United Methodist Church left church member Miriam Haskett with a broken pelvis.

It also brought church members to the Hertford Town Council last week asking for more lighting around the church.

According to Mayor Sid Eley, the town has working street lights on three sides of the church, which fronts Market, Dobbs and Covent Garden streets. Town officials suggested that the church place lighting on its property to improve security.

The latest edition of the church newsletter also suggests that members visit the church in pairs to increase safety.

Especially during the Christmas season, local law enforcement officials recommend that everyone be careful. They say that there

are things people can do to be safer during the holiday rush.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said one of the most important steps people can take is to enter and exit holiday events in groups. He suggested that if a church or other group is hosting an event, several males be designated as escorts to see people in and out of buildings. Alternately, people can arrange to arrive at the same time and go in and leave together.

Another thing people to need to be careful of is car-

rying shoulder bags. Allowed to hang from the shoulder, the straps allow would-be thieves to snatch the purse and run. It is also unwise to carry wallets and checkbooks in back pockets where they are also easy targets.

"Most of the time that kind of stuff (purse snatchings, pick-pockets) is a crime of opportunity," Vanscoy said. "Someone is walking down the street, they're alone, they've got their bag free and it just happens. Very little of that type of crime is planned."

The same holds for grab-

bing purses from unattended in a shopping carts.

Carrying a lot of cash and opening a wallet filled with cash at a check-out counter are two more problem areas.

Shoppers should be careful when using credit cards. Customers should ask for any carbons between the sheets of credit card receipts and destroy them.

Other moves to keep from becoming a target for a criminal during the holidays include locking vehicles and putting packages in trunks, avoiding shopping alone at night, and parking in well-lighted

areas.

Vanscoy also recommends that people take care to lock the doors and windows of their homes.

If a crime does occur, the most important step a victim can do is report it immediately.

"I know it's a traumatic thing that happens to them, but they (victims) need to get the best description they can and report it as soon as possible so officers can get in the area and begin a search," Vanscoy said.

Vanscoy said robberies usually increase when the economy weakens.

Wells on NCCAT board

Perquimans Schools Superintendent Kenneth Wells was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

Wells was appointed by Senator Marc Basnight.

Wells joined Perquimans County Schools in July, after serving as assistant superintendent in Dare County. Prior to coming East, Wells was a teacher, assistant principal and principal in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System.

A native of Wilmington, Wells earned his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his Masters of Education in Human Development and Learning, Educational Administration from UNC-Charlotte.

During his tenure in Charlotte, Wells earned numerous honors from education groups for his leadership as a principal.

He is a board member of the Chowan-Gates-Perquimans Partnership for Children and the Interagency Council. He is also a volunteer board member for the N.C. Aquarium on Roanoke Island and a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. In addition, he is a member of several professional organizations.

The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, located in Cullowhee, is touted by Director Mary Jo Allen as one of the nation's most significant educational endeavors for the benefit of school teachers. The organization is dedicated to advancing the art and profession of teaching by providing intellectual and creative renewal experiences for classroom teachers.

Chamber helps Matthews restore treasure

SUSAN R. HARRIS

One of downtown Hertford's most striking historic buildings is getting a facelift.

The office of John V. Matthews Jr., Attorney and Counsellor at Law, has had its imposing columns and woodwork repainted. Work is also in progress on the capitals atop the columns.

John and Darla Matthews purchased the building in 1985 to house John Matthews' legal practice. Offices were created inside the building at that time.

For over 2 years, the Matthews have planned the building's renovation. John Matthews' heart surgery in August 2000 interrupted work on the project, but the couple is now back on track.

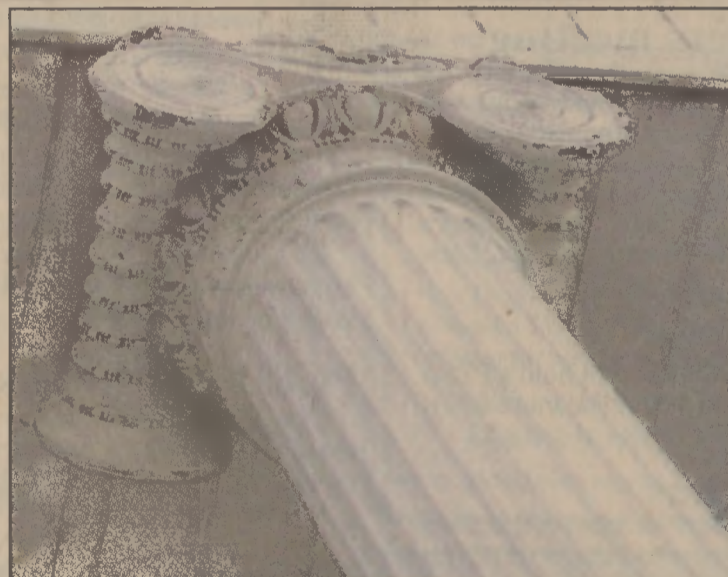
The Matthews were one of the first businesses downtown to apply for the reopened Chamber of Commerce Facade Grant Program. The program, which was put on hold several years ago when the Chamber hit financial difficulties, provides grants to help downtown commercial building owners with facade renovations. The maximum grant is \$1,000, and provides \$1 for every \$3 of project costs.

How to deal with the capitals atop the columns on the Matthews' building is proving one of the most time-consuming parts of the project, both in planning and actual renovation.



Chamber of Commerce President Becky Winslow and Treasurer Margie Nixon present a facade grant to John and Darla Matthews to help with renovations at John Matthews' Church Street law office. One portion of the project is repairing the capitals atop the building's imposing columns have been damaged by birds.

The capitals are in the Greek style called Ionic and thus each is in the shape of a scroll. According to John



Matthews, the distinctive capitals, made of terracotta, have been damaged by pigeons and other birds

pecking on them. One capital was so badly damaged that it had to be removed in May 2000.



Chamber, government and business leaders joined Barry Wallgren for the grand opening of Main Street Realty of North Carolina, Inc. recently. The business is located in Hall of Fame Square in historic downtown Hertford.

Main Street Realty opens in Hall of Fame Square

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Hertford doesn't have a Main Street, but it now is home to Main Street Realty of North Carolina, Inc.

Barry J. Wallgren, principal broker, recently celebrated the company's grand opening. The business is housed in the Hall of Fame Square at 109 N. Church Street.

At a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Wallgren's guests were entertained by a quartet from the Albemarle Sounds. Several

people walking along Church Street stopped to listen to the barbershop harmony.

Perquimans County boasts a variety of homes and building lots - historic, waterfront, in town and in country settings. Wallgren will both list homes for sale and help those looking for a new home to find a perfect match.

For information, call Wallgren or his associates at 426-9800 or visit him at Hall of Fame Square, 109 N. Church Street, Hertford.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 60
Low: 39
SUNNY

FRIDAY
High: 66
Low: 45
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 68
Low: 44
PARTLY CLOUDY