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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Tilley to remain sheriff Rabies reported in Perquimans

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Before yesterday, Eric Tilley was an untried candidate. Thanks to the outcome of Tuesday's election, Tilley knows he can win an

election, and in fact did defeat challenger David Shaffer 2,369-983.

Tilley was appointed by the county commissioners to fill the unexpired term of Ralph Robinson, who four

years ago ousted incumbent sheriff David Lane. Robinson brought Tilley back to Perquimans County as his chief deputy, and Tilley was subsequently appointed when

Robinson died in office.

Tilley was the Democratic candidate, while Shaffer earned the right to appear on the ballot by petition.

Results are unofficial.

SUSAN R. HARRIS

It's hard not to cry when you watch the classic movie "Old Yeller." The agony that comes when the family pet contracts rabies and eventually must be put to death is tough to watch.

Sadly, the heart-wrenching ending to the movie is still true today in some cases, although with advances in medical technology, domestic animals no longer have to be in danger of contracting rabies. At least, not unless their owners fail to get them vaccinated against the disease.

Perquimans County is experiencing what veterinarian Ruston Howell considers an epidemic of rabies, and he, county officials and the SPCA are doing what they can to encourage people to make sure animals get the rabies shots required by law for dogs and cats.

Howell said the state diagnostic lab recently confirmed a case of rabies in the Beech Springs community. Dogs were attacked by a raccoon that later tested positive for rabies.

Hunting dogs may be most at risk for contracting rabies, Howell said. Dogs are let loose to run and may come in contact with a rabid wild animal. A dog's owner may not realize that the animal has come in contact with a rabid animal until the dog begins to display signs of rabies three or four months later.

Dogs and cats allowed to roam freely are also at greater risk of contracting rabies than animals kept inside or in secure pens.

Howell said dogs and cats should have shots when they are very young, with a booster one year later. From there, a booster is needed every three years. The cost of the vaccinations at rabies clinics, such as the ones held this summer and this fall by the SPCA, is \$5.

"You're talking about a few dollars to prevent acquiring a fatal disease," Howell said.

Rabies virus that infects the brain causing a change in behavioral patterns. It is almost invariably fatal to animals. Humans can acquire this dangerous disease as well through contact with infected animals, according to Albemarle Regional Health Services.

Although rabies is usually transmitted through the bite of an infected animal, the virus can be transmitted by contact with infectious saliva or brain tissue. The bite from an infected animal may not become inflamed, red or tender.

A rabid animal may show signs of the disease, including changes in temperament, including wild animals losing their fear of humans. Animals may be easily agitated, showing aggression even towards inanimate objects, make repeated and unusual sounds, and become uncoordinated. Eventually the animal can no longer stand

and death is certain.

Humans can avoid help avoid contact with the disease by making sure pets are vaccinated, not petting or feeding unknown animals or wildlife and not coming into contact with animals engaged in unusual behavior. Even animals that appear normal can have the disease. Pet food should not be left outside at night and garbage can lids should be secured.

People bitten by a suspect animal should wash the area with warm water and soap. The animal control officer should be contacted. Some people do not need further treatment. Relatively few require the post-exposure rabies vaccination, but it is important to seek medical attention immediately.

The post-exposure treatment is five rabies vaccinations in the arm spaced out over 28 days and a final one-time dose of rabies immune globulin.

Rabies is most commonly found in raccoons, skunks and foxes. It has infected dogs, cats, horses, cattle, bats and bobcats in North Carolina. The disease is rare in small rodents, opossums and rabbits.

Howell cautioned against dog and cat owners vaccinating their own animals. He said it is illegal to possess rabies vaccine unless you are a licensed veterinarian. It is also a misdemeanor for anyone other than a veterinarian or someone certified by the state to give rabies vaccinations to administer the shots. Those who vaccinate animals owned by another person may be also be charged with the practice of veterinary medicine without a license.

The state has prosecuted 17 people under these state statutes. State veterinary officials call veterinarians regularly to see if they are aware of anyone breaking these laws and investigate those turned in to them by veterinarians and citizens.

What's more, Howell said if a dog or cat has been vaccinated by someone not authorized by law to do so and the animal bites a human, the dog is considered unvaccinated  
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## Hertford featured on TV

If you see an ad for Hertford while watching your favorite movie or sports team play on cable TV, you are not dreaming.

Several downtown businesses banded together to promote historic Hertford as a business and tourist destination on a made-for-cable-television commercial. The 30-second spot invites the audience to "Come Home to Hertford" to shop in friendly home-owned stores, see local points of interest and enjoy Southern hospitality.

According to Main Street Program Manager Belinda Washlesky, the commercial will run 360 times between Oct. 29 and Dec. 29 on Lifetime, ESPN and Arts & Entertainment cable TV channels. The area of coverage runs as far north as the Virginia line (with the exception of Elizabeth City), as far west as Rocky Mount and as far south as New Bern.

Those responsible for the commercial are Frankie's Hertford Café, The Heritage House, Hertford Hardware, Hertford Main Street Program, Hertfordshire Antiques, Historic Hertford Business Association, InteliPort, Market Street Antiques, The Tin Rabbit, White's Dress Shoppe, The Wishing Well and Woodard's Pharmacy.

## HALLOWEEN IN HERTFORD



PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

Ghosts, goblins, witches, pumpkins, ghouls, kisses and more were spied in downtown Hertford last Thursday evening, as the Historic Hertford Business Association again welcomed trick-or-treaters for Halloween. The young and the young at heart enjoyed collecting candy and visiting with friends and neighbors as they walked the main business block. Several parents said they appreciated the merchants' participation in the safe, fun activity that allowed their children to trick-or-treat during daylight hours and had them back home in time for supper.



## Periauger one step closer to reality

ALICE BREWIN  
 Staff Writer

Hertford was host to some fine examples of boat-building last Friday and Saturday. The Periauger Project is coming closer to reaching its goal of building the first replica of the little-known boat.

The Perquimans County Restoration Association has partnered with the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort and East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies to reconstruct this important piece of maritime history.

According to Monty Spindler, chairman of the project, the boat was a victim of its own popularity.

"There's no remains. This is the only one of its kind," Spindler said.

Spindler also noted the boat's popularity in the area, noting they weren't considered special, and therefore weren't pre-

served.

Periaugers are similar to many boats that were used in colonial America. Spindler points out the likeness of both name and type with the pirogue, a boat associated with southern Louisiana.

Spindler is also quick to note the number of volunteers that have so willingly donated their time and skills to this project. Most notably are boat builders Jerry Zell, director of the project, and Frank Aubert. Aubert recently made and donated a mahogany canoe for an auction item at the Periauger Gala.

Instructor Bill Abbruzzese from the Maritime Museum in Beaufort taught oar building techniques to the volunteers.

The Hertford volunteers constructed ten periauger oars, or sweeps as they were called in colonial times. They will also construct the mast for the boat. The hull will be constructed at the N.C. Maritime



PHOTO BY ALICE BREWIN

Local volunteers construct the oars for the periauger to be built at the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort this spring.

Museum in Beaufort.

While the skilled volunteers felt they could handle the sweeps, the mast will be attempted after they observe some master boat builders from the Maritime Museum in Manteo.

Construction on the hull should begin in Beaufort in May

The Restoration Association has worked diligently on research and raising funds for the project. The periauger will be housed at the Newbold-White Historic Site, and will be one more step in the organization's continuing efforts to interpret life at the site in its early years.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 High: 62  
 Low: 43  
 MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY  
 High: 64  
 Low: 45  
 MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY  
 High: 69  
 Low: 50  
 PARTLY CLOUDY