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35 cents

Voter turnout strong

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Almost 45 percent of Perquimans County's 7,919 registered voters cast ballots last Tuesday.

Perquimans County Elections Supervisor Eula Forbes said 3,518 people voted in the general election. Casting one-stop ballots were 325 voters.

Incumbent sheriff Eric Tilley defeated challenger David Shaffer 2,369 to 983. Tilley had never run for public office. The Democrat served as chief deputy under former Sheriff Ralph Robinson and was appointed to fill the top law enforcement slot when Robinson died in office. Shaffer is currently the Winfall Police Chief.

In the only other local race, Bert Eure and Charles Mathews were elected to the Perquimans County Soil & Water Conservation Board. Former committee employee Ginger O'Neal also ran for a seat.

The increasing presence of Republicans in the county was obvious in the federal races, where Democrats barely squeezed past Republicans in this traditionally overwhelmingly Democratic community. In the highly visible U.S. Senate race, Erskine Bowles garnered 1,710 votes to Elizabeth Dole's 1,688. For the House District 1 seat, Frank Ballance tallied 1,659 votes to Greg Dority's 1,598.

The state senate and house races were not so close. Democrats carried both by wide margins. Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight easily defeated challenger Ron Toppin, 2,242 to 1,148. Likewise, Bill Culpepper carried the county in the House District 2 race 2,117 to 1,234 over Beall.

STUDENTS PERFORM ON TV



Several members of the Panther Percussion Team from Hertford Grammar School performed on the WITN-7 5 p.m. news program recently. Participating in the live television performance were Michael Frierson, Heather Congdon, Ellis Hinton, Toya Simpson, Eddie Felton, Richard Lee and Stephen Parker, who performed under the direction of music teacher Heather Webb. They got to meet news anchor Linda Shore (above right).



The students presented three selections for the television audience and the crowd at the Colonial Mall studios. The Panther Percussion Team is part of the 21st Century After School Program.

Towns get street funds

Hertford and Winfall will get help from the state with funds for maintenance, repair, construction, widening and sidewalks on city-owned streets.

The towns were among 503 municipalities to share \$130.2 million in state street aid through the N.C. Department of

Transportation. The aid is known as the Powell Bill Fund.

Hertford will get \$65,559, while Winfall's share is \$20,654.

The funds come from revenues generated by state gas tax and other highway user fees. They are dispersed annually using a

formula set by the General Assembly. Seventy-five percent of the funds are allocated based on population, while the remaining 25 percent is based on the number of city-owned street miles of each municipality.

The first allocation of Powell Bill Funds was in 1951 for \$4.5 million.

Hertford man is stabbed

SUSAN R. HARRIS

A Hertford man is in serious but stable condition at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital after being stabbed Monday.

Roy Powell Jr., 25, was apparently stabbed at 205 E. Railroad Avenue around 10 a.m. Monday, according to Hertford Police Officer N.B. Krause.

Krause said he arrived on the scene just after 10 o'clock to find Powell lying on the lawn of the property with a knife wound to his chest. Powell was transported by Perquimans County EMS to Chowan Hospital and was later air-

lifted to the Norfolk hospital.

The initial investigation indicates that the altercation that led to Powell's stabbing had occurred at the Railroad Avenue residence. There were two other people at the residence at the time, Krause said.

Krause was interviewing people who may have information about the incident Monday afternoon and Tuesday. He said Tuesday morning that the investigation is still in the preliminary stages.

Anyone with information about the incident should call the Hertford Police Department.

County passes new junk car ordinance

SUSAN R. HARRIS

County commissioners approved a junk car ordinance last week that will make it easier to force residents to dispose of junk vehicles.

County Manager Paul Gregory said the county's standing junk ordinance was general and was cumbersome to enforce. The new ordinance is more streamlined and will allow the county to better regulate and rid the county of junk vehicles, he said.

As of last Monday's meeting, Gregory and Building Inspector Jeke Jackson were interviewing for the position of code enforcement officer. That part-time employee, when hired, will be primarily responsible for enforcing

the junk vehicle ordinance.

The old ordinance required employees of several agencies to perform different aspects of enforcement. The new ordinance makes the building inspector's office primarily responsible, with the sheriff and county attorney cooperating when needed.

At present, there are grant funds available through Albemarle Regional Solid Waste Management to tow junk cars to the tri-county landfill, from where they are hauled to a recycling facility. As of Oct. 16, 181 vehicles have been towed free in Perquimans.

Once grant funds are gone, residents will have to pay the cost of removing vehicles that are defined as junk by the ordinance.

Norfolk-based Fun Tours opens second office in Hertford

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Fun Tours, Inc. tries to live up to its name.

"We truly think that once people get aboard our coach and experience our tours they'll come back because they're going to have such a good time," said Gwen Elmore, company president. "Our focus is on giving that personal touch: We don't just give a ride, we give an experience."

Elmore said the Norfolk-based family company offers breakfast, refreshments, games and prizes aboard its coaches.

"We just have a good time."

The Elmore family is bringing that good time to Hertford, where it has opened a new office in Hall of Fame Square. A ribbon cutting was sponsored there by the Chamber of Commerce last Friday.

The family chose Hertford for its second



PHOTO BY ALICE BREWIN

Company employees and guests get comfortable on a motorcoach at the grand opening of Fun Tours Inc. in Hall of Fame Square last Friday.

office because they have owned a second home on the Albemarle Sound for 10 years and like the community.

"We've been trying for

several years to expand our business into this area," Elmore said. "We knew that to really make an impact we would have to be a part of the community."

So Elmore and her in-laws, company founder and CEO Charles Elmore and his wife Nancy, are spending their time between their homes in the Tidewater area and Hertford as they establish the new office. Charles and Nancy Elmore will be the primary operators of the North Carolina operations.

The trio aren't the only family members in the company. Gwen's husband Charles is head of operations, and their son Chris also works full-time. Another son and daughter-in-law work part-time, and Gwen said even her grandchildren dream of the day when they, too, will help with the family venture.

Fun Tours offers day and overnight trips, as well as selling cruise lines. They will add international tours next year.

The largest single destination for the company is a Christian drama in Lancaster, Penn. Trips to

Myrtle Beach and New York City, as well as theater trips, garden tours and gaming tours are popular.

About half the company's trips are day trips, the other half split between single-night and up to 14-day tours. Next year, Fun Tours will offer a cross-country 18-day summer tour.

Day trips range from \$50-\$80 per person depending on the destination and what's included in the package, while overnight trips start about \$159 per night.

Tourists ride in 46-55 passenger motorcoaches.

Groups wishing to sponsor a tour may call Fun Tours and design a customized trip.

Those who want more information on the company or trips offered may log onto the website at www.funtoursinc.com or call 426-2990. Office hours in Hertford are 10 a.m.—4

p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. When the office is closed, the phone is forwarded to the Norfolk office.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 58
LOW: 42
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 63
LOW: 44
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 56
LOW: 45
FEW SHOWERS