

Newbold-White Christmas

Page 2

Discipline for toddlers

Page 3

Roberson joins The Pride

Page 9

December 4, 2002

Vol. 71, No. 49 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

P6/C5*****5-DIGIT 27944
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
110 W ACADEMY ST
HERTFORD, NC 27944-1306

RECEIVED
DEC 04 2002

35 cents

Local schools among safest in the state

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans County continues to have one of the safest school systems in the state.

According to the school violence report released recently by the state, the local school district ranked in the top 12 safest of the 117 local education units in North Carolina. Six incidents were reported last year, averaging 3.5 violent acts for every 1,000 students. The state average is 9.5 per 1,000 students.

While the state average increased by 28 percent from the year before, Perquimans' 2001-2002 report showed a decrease in violent acts. Ten incidents were reported in 2000-2001, for an average of 5.790 per 1,000 students.

"I am excited about the positive report but that doesn't mean the district's work is complete," said Superintendent Kenneth Wells. "We will continue to work diligently to decrease the number of violent acts in our schools again this year. One violent act is too many."

Reportable incidents include possession of a weapon, possession of a controlled substance, possession of an alcoholic bev-

erage, assault on school personnel, assault resulting in serious injury, sexual assault, assault involving the use of a weapon, sexual offense, possession of a firearm, robbery without a dangerous weapon, robbery with a dangerous weapon, taking indecent liberties with a minor, rape, death by other than natural causes, kidnapping, bome threat and burning of a school building.

Perquimans reported three weapons possessions, and one count each of possession of a controlled substance, possession of alcohol and assault resulting in serious injury.

School safety is one of the local school board's top priorities and is a key component in all local school improvement plans, according to Wells. Last year, three of the four schools in Perquimans County were named "Triple S" (Super Safe School) Schools by the state.

This year, all four schools will participate in the rigid volunteer process of assessing safety procedures, incidents of disruption and violence, and school response to safety concerns to apply for the prestigious award.

Continued on page 10

CHRISTMAS IS HERE!



Town of Hertford public works employee Joe Baker puts up Christmas decorations in downtown Hertford. The lights will be turned on after Saturday's parade. All across the county, lights are twinkling on lawns and from windows as residents prepare for the holiday season.

Parade marches Saturday

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Last-minute entries continue to come in for the annual Perquimans County Christmas Parade set for Saturday.

Chamber of Commerce Parade Chairman Suzy Swindell said three bands, baton twirlers, floats, Smokey the Bear, fire trucks, horses and the man of the day, Santa Claus, will make their way down the parade route through Historic Downtown Hertford. The parade will leave Perquimans County High School at 2 p.m. Frank Roberts is the grand marshal of the event.

The parade will leave the high school and proceed down Edenton Road Street, turn right onto Grubb Street, right onto Church Street, right onto Dobbs Street and left onto Edenton Road Street, ending back at the school.

Jimmy Hunter Drive and Ainsley Drive will be one-way on parade day, and only parade vehicles will be allowed in the line-up area. The cemetery gates will be closed on the King Street side also.

This year, Swindell said, all those who wish to ride their horses in the parade must provide a negative Coggins before being allowed in the line-up area.

Vendor booths will be on the courthouse lawn during the day. Spaces are still available for rent.

Anyone wishing to enter the parade, rent a booth or get information on the parade should contact the Chamber office.

The parade will come just days after the Christmas ramble and caroling on the green on Thursday.

Caroling on the Green begins at 5 p.m. and entertainers include the Perquimans County Middle School Band, Hertford Baptist Adult Choir, Darryl Stallings, Up River Friends Children's Choir, Inspirational Voices, Albemarle Sounds Barbershop Chorus, New Bethel Baptist Gospel Choir, Whiteville Grove Choir and group singing.

For ramble information, call 426-5428.

McMahon named Hertford Main Street Champion

SUSAN R. HARRIS

From the time Jane McMahon came to Hertford over 5 years ago, she's been a strong advocate for economic growth and development.

Her ongoing efforts were recently recognized when the Hertford Main Street Program designated her as this year's Main Street Champion.

Each Main Street community was given the opportunity to select one individual who has made a significant contribution to the success of their downtown program for the honor. Designation as a Main Street Champion recognizes the efforts of individuals who have been instrumental in downtown revitalization.

"Jane McMahon opened the Covent Garden Inn within walking distance of downtown Historic Hertford in 1999," said Main Street Program Director Belinda Washlesky on McMahon's nomination form. "In May of 2000 she opened Hertfordshire Antiques right in the middle of downtown. For four years Jane has been a tireless organizer and supporter of events designed to bring people, and their money, downtown. She always takes the lead, volunteering countless hours to promote



Hertford businesswoman Jane McMahon was recently named Hertford's Main Street Champion. McMahon owns Covent Garden Inn and Hertfordshire Antiques, and has been a tireless advocate for economic growth and develop in the downtown business district.

the town. Jane has attended all Main Street sponsored public forums and a design workshop.

McMahon was drawn to Hertford from Florida when a friend of hers moved to Elizabeth City and was enthusiastic about the area. She decided to leave the Sunshine State and check out Northeastern North Carolina.

"Elizabeth City didn't capture my fancy anywhere near as strongly as Hertford," McMahon said. "I just started branching out from there (Elizabeth City) and really loved Hertford."

McMahon said she felt that Hertford, sitting between two towns known for tourism and bed and breakfast accommodations, was poised for growth.

"I thought it wouldn't be long before things started to happen in Hertford," she said.

She purchased a home on Covent Garden with the idea of opening a bed and breakfast. As she began renovating the house, a job done largely with her own hands, she also began to get into antique dealing. Now, she opens her doors to guests, but is mainly involved in her antique

Continued on page 11

Schools discuss PCHS facilities needs with commissioners

BRADY S. CALHOUN
The Daily Advance

This winter a Wilmington based architectural firm will do a facilities study at 78-year-old Perquimans County High School.

Boney Architecture will look at every part of the school and make recommendations about needed construction, repairs and prevention issues, Superintendent Ken Wells told County Commissioners at their Monday meeting.

"The building continues to deteriorate as we continue to use it every day," Wells said. "We're going to need community help and support in the very near future."

The price of the examination cannot exceed \$42,000. However, the project is still in its infancy, and officials are not expected to have a report ready until late February.

Among the more important items the school board wants addressed are technology, the gymnasium, the media center, security, the athletic fields and Jimmy Hunter Drive.

Jimmy Hunter Drive serves both the school and Cedarwood Cemetery. Currently, students have

to cross the street every day to attend class at portable classrooms. Officials keep them safe by closing down the street during school hours. Officials said that the solution has worked so far but they need a permanent fix.

The Town of Hertford has allowed the street to be closed for the past two school years, but made it clear to Wells in August that they do not expect to allow that solution next year.

The firm that is examining the building is the same one that drew the plans for the original school in 1924. The engineers in charge are the grandsons of Leslie Boney the building's original designer, Wells said.

Also at the meeting, new board member Tammy Miller-White was sworn in. Miller-White took over Evelyn Stubbins seat on the board.

Wallace Nelson was voted chairman of the board and Mack Nixon was elected vice chairman.

"I appreciate y'all's vote of confidence and I'll try to do the best I can," Nelson said.

Nelson formerly served as chairman of the local school board.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 51
Low: 29
RAIN

FRIDAY
High: 49
Low: 28
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 54
Low: 37
MOSTLY SUNNY