

NAACP July events

Page 2

Cam[p] Nowheezin planned

Page 3

Ag events scheduled

Page 3

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THE PERQUIMANS

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Filing for town seats slow County men arrested in drug sting

The filing period for local municipal elections has opened, but as of Monday, only one of six incumbents in Hertford and Winfall has filed for re-election.

Hertford Mayor Sid Eley

has filed to keep his current position, however council members JoAnn Morris and Carlton Davenport had not filed as of Monday.

Winfall voters will choose a mayor and two

councilpersons. Mayor Fred Yates, Mayor Pro Tempore Kenneth Rominger and councilman Mitchell Morris hold those seats, but none had filed by Monday.

The filing period closes

on Aug. 1 at noon.

The last date to register to vote is Oct. 10. Elections are scheduled for Nov. 4.

The county Board of Elections office is open Monday—Friday, 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m.

County men arrested in drug sting

Another nabbed at checkpoint

JOANIE MORRIS
The Daily Advance

A drug sting operation reaching across two local counties resulted in the arrest of 20 suspects last Wednesday.

"Operation Citizen Complaints" targeted neighborhoods in Pasquotank and Perquimans counties where officials in both counties had received numerous complaints from citizens.

Narcotic Agent R.L. Parker with the Pasquotank County-Elizabeth City Drug Task Force said all of the suspects arrested are "street level dealers."

However, several other suspects were also picked up on charges unrelated to the sting.

"These are (warrants) for street level dealers that the citizens are seeing on the corners," Parker said. "These are folks who have been living here 30 years, and drugs are taking over their neighborhoods."

Parker and the rest of the Drug Task Force organized the sting as a result of numerous calls from concerned citizens.

Officers from the Drug Task Force, Pasquotank Sheriff's Department, Elizabeth City Police Department, Hertford Police Department and Perquimans Sheriff's Department were involved.

The sting started when officers posed as buyers and purchased drugs in Pasquotank and Perquimans counties from 44 dealers over a 10-month period. Officers bought drugs and video-taped the sellers.

Wednesday, some of those same officers were involved in the arrests.

In Hertford, Police Chief Dale Vanscoy was surprised at how easily officer-spiked up some of the suspects.

"This is one of our major problems as far as drug trafficking, crimes, and assaults," Vanscoy said, standing on the corner of Market Street and Edenton Road. "This is it right here."

Officers drove up and down major problem streets in both counties, looking for drug suspects on their list. At some points, they stopped and knocked on doors or talked to neighbors who may have known the whereabouts of some of the wanted individuals.

At Market Street, Vanscoy said there is a lot of school traffic because the high school is just up the road.

"We get complaints down here all the time," Vanscoy said.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said it's a similar situation in the county. Riding with one of the narcotic agents from the Drug Task Force, Tilley was one of the first to arrest a man in Perquimans County on Wednesday. He caught the man as he was exiting from a court hearing first thing in the morning.

Tilley said most of the suspects picked up are repeat offenders.

"You just get the same folks all the time," Tilley said.

"It's all teamwork," Parker said, giving credit to all the agencies involved. "I'm impressed. I didn't think we'd get that many."

Those from Perquimans County arrested were:

Willie Aydlett, 37, of Lot 10 Dogwood Mobile Home Park, Hertford;

David Brothers, 25, of 320 Dobbs St., Hertford;

Herbert Farrow,

Hertford;

Kenneth Ferebee, 40, of

325 Grubb St., Hertford;

Kenny Felton, 40, of 309

Brace Ave., Hertford;

James Kee, 22, of Meads

Mobile Home Park,

Hertford;

Alvin Lee, 37, Hertford;

and

Jermaine Porter, 19, of

209 Wynne Fork Court,

Hertford.

Clarence Chestnut of 53

Meads Circle, Hertford.

All of the suspects were charged with possession with the intent to sell and deliver a schedule two narcotic and selling and delivering a schedule two narcotic.

They were being held at Albemarle District Jail.

Another Perquimans County man, Marvin Woodard, 21, of Hayward Smith Road, Winfall, was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and with simple possession of marijuana at a DWI checkpoint in front of Central School in Elizabeth City Friday night.

NEW ADMINISTRATORS MOVE IN



Middle school assistant principal Jamie Liverman (left) and principal Melvin Hawkins (center) speak with local residents at an open house at the school Sunday. Liverman and Hawkins are the new administrative team at Perquimans Middle School.

New principals assume duties

SUSAN R. HARRIS

If excitement, enthusiasm and desire are any indication of success, Perquimans' two newest school principals may find themselves up against each other for state Principal of the Year honors.

Melvin Hawkins, the leader at Perquimans Middle School, said he has found a tremendously hard-working staff on board at the middle school. He has met with most staff members and met some of his students Monday when they arrived for the Jump Start program, designed to ease the transition between elementary and middle school.

"We're all excited...we're ready to get rolling," Hawkins said.

An educator for 14 years, Hawkins believes in setting high expectations for students and staff, involving the community in the school and having fun while learning and working.

Hawkins couldn't imagine himself working with middle schoolers while he was in college.

"All I ever wanted to do was teach high school," Hawkins said.

But after earning his masters degree, he accepted a position as assistant principal at Camden Middle School. And he was hooked.

"This is a fun age," Hawkins said. "It's a very impressionable time. You really make it or break it for a kid here. You want it to be fun, but make sure you're preparing for success."

The most important thing those working with middle schoolers can do is listen, Hawkins said.

"They're going through things they don't understand," Hawkins said. "We need to help them learn from their mistakes and listen to them."

The rewards of helping middle schoolers learn and prepare for high school are great; however, there can be special challenges also. Therefore, Hawkins wants students, parents and local residents to feel comfortable visiting or calling he or assistant principal Jamie Liverman with concerns and suggestions. Working collaboratively, Hawkins believes Perquimans Middle School can build on its previous success and grow even better.

Students and parents will be invited to pick up student schedules and supply lists on July 29 and 30, 4-6 p.m.

School will open on Aug. 6, and there will be an open house on Aug. 11, 5:30-7 p.m.

In the meantime, Hawkins and Liverman are studying pick-up areas, continuing to meet staff

and getting the school ready to open.

Over at the high school, Hans Lassiter is reveling in his new job.

"I love it," Lassiter said. "It's everything I thought it would be. I'm very, very busy all day. This is what I asked for."

"You'll never hear me complain about the long hours, the long days or working through weekends... being a community figure is part of the principal's job."

Lassiter said he is big on the team concept, using the acronym "together everyone achieves more" and reminding people that there is no "I" in team.

He's also pulled out another acronym, "PRIDE," or personal responsibility in daily effort.

"That is a direct challenge to administrators, teachers and students," Lassiter said. "Students will be challenged."

One way that challenge will be seen is through the school's new turn-back policy. If a student turns in work a teacher does not feel is the student's best, it will be returned for revision and resubmission.

"If we can get total buy-in... this will be the most awesome place," Lassiter said.

And students who meet certain criteria will automatically be put in honors

courses, part of Lassiter's rigorous curriculum initiative.

In an era of increasing accountability, Lassiter said administrators and teachers are under scrutiny and pressure to produce test scores. He believes that the faculty and staff should get the training they need to help students achieve at the highest possible levels.

And he doesn't see a problem with that at PCHS.

"I have found everyone here to be very eager, very friendly and have a genuine love for what they do and for their kids," Lassiter said.

He said at many schools, teachers go into "hibernation" for the summer, but he has seen a steady flow of traffic at Perquimans.

Periodic assessments, especially with seniors, are high on Lassiter's list of programs. He wants there to be no surprises the last week of school. And he wants students exposed to every possible resource for getting into and paying for college.

Lassiter believes in giving students every chance to learn from mistakes and improve behavior, but he said he will not compromise learning for a whole class because of one disruptive student.

The new principal is happy to meet with parents and looks forward to getting to know folks here.