

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

December 5, 2007

Vol. 75, No. 49 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

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CHRISTMAS ON THE PERQUIMANS

Grand Illumination lights up downtown

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The town was filled with the beauty and warmth of glowing lights last Thursday during the annual Grand Illumination celebration.

Thousands of tiny clear lights illuminated the courthouse square, the downtown businesses, and streetlights. It was all part of the Christmas on the Perquimans in Downtown Historic Hertford holiday celebration presented by Historic Hertford MainStreet program and hosted by the downtown merchants.

Master of ceremonies Flynn Surratt welcomed all who gathered in anticipation of the illumination. Select merchants downtown stayed open later than usual and offered refreshments to customers who ventured in.

The Perquimans High School Concert Band sat under the lights and played a variety of Christmas carols to accompany the community carolers. Hot chocolate and cookies were offered at Catholic Social Ministries.

New to the illumination ceremony this year was the lighting of 50 luminaries that lined the walkway leading to the courthouse. The glowing luminaries were given in memory, honor, or in celebration of folks and events.

Other activities planned in the Christmas on the Perquimans theme include the Holiday Shop sponsored by the Perquimans Arts League Gallery open Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. till 5 p.m., and the Perquimans County Extension Ramble Tour slated for Friday evening, Dec. 14.



PLAYING UNDER THE GLISTENING lights after the Grand Illumination downtown were members of the Perquimans County High School concert band. The band supplied the music for community carolers to help usher in the Christmas on the Perquimans celebration.

Perquimans Weekly Photos by CATHY WILSON

Parade brings fun for all

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Hundreds of folks lined the streets Saturday afternoon as the Perquimans County Christmas Parade ushered the Christmas spirit into town.

Children danced with anticipation as

the parade brought through town marching units, floats, bands, vehicles, horses, and even Santa himself.

Sid Eley, executive director of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the parade, termed this parade the longest and best yet.

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SANTA WAS A POPULAR fellow after Saturday's Christmas parade. He left his sleigh to go into Inteliport, where boys and girls relayed their fondest Christmas wishes and could get their picture taken with the Jolly Old Elf. Grand marshal for the parade was local pharmacist Charles Woodard, who rode with his wife, Harriette. Woodard has long been known as one who is always willing to lend a hand in the community.



Hertford police seek Cedar Wood Cemetery vandals

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Hertford police are investigating the vandalism of 25 grave sites that occurred last week in the newest section of Cedar Wood Cemetery. Vandals also struck in other parts of town as well during the two-day spree.

Heavy granite tombstones and grave markers were turned over, concrete angel statues were broken in half, and flowerpots were damaged with flowers strewn over grassy areas in the cemetery last Wednesday and Thursday.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said the vandalism was discovered around 8:30 a.m. Nov. 28 and again on Nov. 29. The damage appears to have been done by hand rather than a vehicle since no tire tracks were found, police said.

John Christensen, town manager, said his office is attempting to contact family members of the grave sites to notify them of the vandalism. Since the grave sites are purchased, repairs to the vandalized grave sites are the responsibility of each family.



Perquimans Weekly Photo by CATHY WILSON

OFFICER DAVID LAYNE WITH the Hertford Police Department records damage to several grave sites in the newest section of Cedar Wood Cemetery last week. Police say 25 tombstones, grave markers, concrete angels and flowerpots were damaged over a two-day spree last Wednesday and Thursday. Investigation is continuing.

Christensen urged residents to check on the grave sites of loved ones in that area of the cemetery, or call the town office to see if a particular gravesite was vandalized.

Other acts of vandalism occurred both nights, and police believe they might be connected.

On Wednesday, the cemetery was struck, the Col-

lege of the Albemarle sign located at their building at Missing Mill Park was damaged, and trash cans were thrown into the river at the park area.

On Thursday, the cemetery was hit again, and two local businesses reported attempted breaking and enterings. Both One Stop and Winfall Deli reported broken windows in their

buildings, but no entry was gained in either business, police said.

Police believe the vandals struck both days sometime between 3 a.m. and 4:30 a.m.

Vanscoy said investigation into the vandalism is continuing. Off-duty police officers are watching the

cemetery at night, he said, and town officials are considering installing lighting to better illuminate the cemetery area.

Police are also working on establishing a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of person or persons involved in the local vandalism.

Upset student leaves HGS

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

An upset fourth grader at Hertford Grammar School tried to run away from school last Tuesday, but thanks to the school's communication system, school personnel were able to detain the child until police arrived.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said school officials managed to keep the child in eyesight the entire time by communicating via hand held radios.

Police said the student apparently had a rough day at school last Tuesday, and an observant teacher noticed that the student became agitated as he conversed with another young person. The student's demeanor concerned the teacher to the point that the teacher felt it was best the student not go home by bus but be picked up by a guardian instead.

When the student was told to get off the bus and that a guardian was coming to pick him up, the student bolted to the back of the school property and ran towards an adjacent field.

Vanscoy said the school bus driver immediately notified school officials of the situation via a hand-held radio, and a school counselor and school maintenance employees in the area responded immediately.

The two maintenance employees drove a pick-up truck through a tractor path off of Ballahack Road, and headed toward the student in one direction while a school counselor approached the student in the field. The counselor caught up with the student and stayed with the student until police arrived.

Police took the student in their patrol car back to the school where they met with both the student and guardian before releasing the student to the guardian.

"With the communication system the school system has now, all of the staff knew what was going on immediately," said Vanscoy. "The staff did an excellent job of keeping the student within eyesight. The training that the school staff goes through for such situations is excellent. Their relay of information went smoothly."

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 49 LOW: 38
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 60 LOW: 41
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 56 LOW: 36
PARTLY CLOUDY