

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 53, No. 17

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, April 24, 1986

25 CENTS

Hertford Police Officer resigns; citing low salary

By JANE B. WILLIAMS
HERTFORD—A resignation last week from Patrolman William T. Ward was the fourth in the past ten months for the Hertford Police Department.

Ward, who joined the department in July, 1985, resigned to accept a higher paying position with the Kitty Hawk Police Department. That department is now under the leadership of former Hertford Assistant Chief of Police Robert K. Morris. Morris

resigned from the Hertford Department in March to accept the position as Chief of Police in Kitty Hawk. Three of that department's five-man force were formerly employed by the Hertford Police Department.

Since 1983, six men that were employed by the Hertford Police Department as officers have gained employment on police forces in Dare County.

Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt attributes the turnover in

his department to a \$5,000.00 difference in annual starting salary. He also added that benefits offered by police departments in Dare County are far superior to local benefit packages.

Merritt expressed concern that his department has now dropped to three full-time and one part-time officers. The part-time officer is currently enrolled in an academy to obtain state certification and is only available on a limited basis for patrolling duties.

Officers are either having to work 12-hour shifts with limited time off, or eight-hour shifts daily with no time off.

Merritt said, "A tired officer is not an effective officer, and he's not as alert as he should be." He added that it is "virtually impossible for officers to take vacation or compensatory time off under the present arrangement."

According to figures obtained from the police department, through the last pay period in

April officers have logged 122-hours of overtime that must be reimbursed at time and one-half. Officers are usually granted compensatory time off for overtime.

Merritt stated that there is "no way we will ever be able to compete with the beach unless we increase starting salaries." An advertisement in area newspapers recently quoted an annual salary of \$14,500.00 for a new officer in the Kitty Hawk Department. A new officer in Hertford is paid \$9,500.00 annually. According to Merritt, an officer in Hertford is eligible for step increases that would bring his annual pay to \$14,500.00 after six years of employment.

When asked his reasons for resigning his post Ward stated that salary difference was the only factor he used in determining the move. "You will continue to have this turnover on the police force until the Town Council and the Mayor realize that they're going to have to pay a competitive salary to keep qualified individuals here," he said.

Ward expressed regret at leaving the local department and the community. "I feel supportive of this department" he said; "I feel they have a lot to do and little to do the job with. I personally feel it's a damn shame that a law enforcement officer here has to put his life on the line for so little compensation."

Ward, who is married and the father of three children ranging in age from 9 to 16, commented that the salary paid by the department was insufficient to support a family. He stated that his salary was well below the established poverty level in the state for a family of four.

Ward disclosed that after taxes and insurance are subtracted from his earnings his take home pay with the Hertford Department is \$129.00 per week. "The only way I've been able to support my family has been to apply for food stamps and rental assistance through the Economic Improvement Council," Ward said. "I'm ashamed of that for myself, for my family, for my department and for the Town Council."

Departmental records indicate that the Hertford Police Department responds to an average of 10.75 calls per day. Depending on the type of call or service needed an officer can spend between five-minutes and three and one-half hours on any given call. The department is allotted, in Fiscal Year 1985-86, positions for five officers. A request for additional funds for a sixth man was denied by the council according to Merritt.

Merritt sees low pay and long hours as a major detriment to his department. The salary base virtually assures that the town will not attract trained law enforcement officers.

In the case of Ward, he will have to reimburse the town for

monies spent on his training as is required by a contract enacted by the Town Council last summer. The contract, which must be signed by all uncertified officers, states that any officer leaving the department prior to achieving a three-year tenure must reimburse the town for expenses incurred in his training. Ward was the first officer required to sign this contract. He stated that he felt it was more economically feasible to reimburse the town than to remain in their employ.

Ward stated that he was told by Chief Merritt that a qualified, ambitious officer could have a future with the Hertford Police Department. "But you can't eat a future," Ward said.

Merritt acknowledged that he was referring to the step increases offered by the town, but admitted that competitive salaries were several years in an officer's future.

When asked about the problems that are being faced by the Police Department Hertford Mayor/Manager Bill Cox stated that he was well aware of the difference in pay between the local police department and those at the beach. "I'm also aware that we've lost several officers to beach departments," Cox said. "The council and I realize that the starting pay for the Hertford Police Department is not in line with beach departments, however it is closely in line with those departments that are more closely related to the Town. The Town of Hertford doesn't have the tax base that towns in Dare County have."

Cox continued saying, "We have taken several looks at the starting pay for officers and also at other officers in the department. The Police Department presented to the board a pay plan, and upon their recommendation we adopted it. At that time they must have felt it was a fair and equitable plan."

"I realize that to live on \$9,500.00 is almost impossible," Cox said. "Unfortunately, the tax base in Hertford is limited and presently the police department budget exceeds our total property tax revenue."

Cox added that the only way to increase revenues for the police department would be to increase taxes in the town, raise the costs of fees and charges, or to increase utility rates. "I think that in the past the council has shown consideration for the taxpayers when considering salary increases not only for police officers, but in other areas as well," Cox said.

He did state that the council had begun work on the 1986-87 budget, and that the salaries within the police department has been one of their primary concerns. "I hope we can find sufficient funds, we must find sufficient funds, so that our police officers can have an adequate salary," Cox said.

Local youth participate in Special Olympics

Fifty-one special olympians participated in the 1986 local Special Olympics held at Perquimans Central School on Tuesday, April 15, 1986.

Stated co-ordinator Kathy Ansink: "We had a wonderful day and this was truly the best year ever with the local police, sheriff and fire department and Rescue Squad participating and helping the Olympians have a fun day."

Ansink also expressed her appreciation to all the local businesses, organizations, clubs, and Perquimans County High School students that helped make the 1986 Olympics the best yet. Also, she extended thanks on behalf of the olympians to the Cann Memorial Presbyterian Puppeteers, and the First Christian Church Clown group.

"A special 'thank you' to Carol Stanley, Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Department for her hours of work training the olympians and being our '86 guest

speaker," said Ansink.

Approximately 35 olympians will be at the Regional competition at ECSU on Saturday, April 26th. Nine olympians will be going to the state Special Olympics in Charlotte, NC on May 30, 31, and June 1st.

Local winners at last Tuesday's event included:

50 meter dash: First place winners: Edward Harrell, Denise Beasley, Chanda Wilson, James Everett, Maurice Brinkley, Richard Williams, Maurice Lane, Paul Jordan, Chris Carter, Dwayne Legg, Katherine Foreman, Gaylene Walker. Second place winners: Trelton Mallory, Stephanie Chaulk, Charlie Jordan, Lamont Walker, Curtis Whitehurst, Katherine Foreman, Robert Wills, Bryant Copeland. Third place winners: Ricky Carter, Jeffries Howell, Antonia White, Jackie Ward.

100 meter race: First place winners: Chris Carter and

Katherine Foreman. Second place winners: Jeffries Howell and Chanda Wilson. Third place winner: Lorenzo Farrow.

200 meter race: First place winner was Chris Carter, second place winner was Delton Mallory, and third place winner was Lorenzo Farrow.

25 meter dash: First place winner was Lakesha Tillet and second place went to Blondie Graves.

100 meter walking race: First place winners: Jarrold Turner, Robert Wills, Belinda Lane. Second place winners: Leslie Winslow, Dwayne Legg, LaToi Hunter. Third place winners: Curtis Whitehurst and Brian Forehand.

Shot Put: First place winners: Belinda Lane and Tracy Cohan. Second place winner: Earl Ward. Third place winner: Jesse Etheridge.

Standing broad jump: First place winners: Edward Harrell, Paul Jordan, LaToi

Hunter, and Antoinette Whidbee. Second Place Winners: Richard Williams, Earnail White, Barbara Etheridge, Stephanie White. Third Place winners: Brian Forehand, Maurice Brinkley, and Portia Hunter.

Running long jump: First place winners: Jason Smith, Charlotte Cohen, Clinton Brothers. Second place winners: David Rue and Jeffries Howell. Third place winners: James Everett and Earl Ward.

Softball throw: First place winners: James Everett, Richard Williams, Antoinette Whidbee, Trelton Mallory, Clinton Brothers, Maurice Lane, Gaylene Walker, Dwayne Legg, Ricky Carter, and Earnail White. Second Place winners: Lamont Walker, Curtis Whitehurst, Charlotte Cohen, Jarrold Turner, Daniel Rue, Belinda Lane, Lakesha Tillet, Jackie Ward, Tremayne Jordan, and Paul Jordan. Third place winners: Chris Carter, Rodney White, Portia Hunter, Robert Alexander, Jessie Etheridge, Stephanie White, Bryant Copeland, and Tracy Cohen.

Frisbee Throw: First place winners: Ricky Carter, Lamont Walker, Denise Beasley, Stephanie Chaulk, Robert Alexander, Charlotte Cohen, David Rue, Tracy Cohen, Maurice Brinkley, Gaylene Walker, and Maurice Lane. Second place winners: Brian Forehand, Trelton Mallory, Barbara Etheridge, Portia Hunter, Jarrold Turner, LaToi Hunter, Jesse Etheridge, Bryant Copeland, Clinton Brothers, and Stephanie White. Third place winners: Jason Smith, Blondie Graves, Lakesha Tillet, Rodney White, Antoinette Whidbee, Leslie Winslow and Jackie Ward.



Voters to select candidates in Primary

By JANE B. WILLIAMS
Perquimans County voters will cast their ballots for several choices of candidates during the May 6 Primary Election.

Local races that will be ticketed on the ballot include that for the Democratic Candidate for Sheriff and two seats on the Perquimans County Board of Education.

Candidates in the race for sheriff include Incumbent Sheriff Julian "Little Man" Broughton, Joe Lothian, Donald Riddick and B.F. (Ben) Shively.

Broughton, who has served in this capacity for 20-years, is a ne-

tive of Perquimans County. In addition to his duties as sheriff, Broughton owns and operates the Hertford Bus Station. He is a World War II veteran, a member of the American Legion, the Hertford Baptist Church and a charter member of the Perquimans County Rescue Squad.

Lothian is currently employed as Chief of Police in Winfall. He as held that position since the department was organized in 1983.

A 17-year resident of northeastern North Carolina, he has spent the last 14-years as a resident of Perquimans County. Lothian's

law enforcement background covers approximately 10-years. In addition to his experience with the Winfall Department, he has served as a police officer in the Elizabeth City Police Department, and following that, as a deputy sheriff with the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department.

Lothian's law enforcement education includes courses in advanced criminal investigation, advanced drug investigation, advance crime scene processing, and covert investigation and intelligence gathering.

Riddick is a lifelong resident of Perquimans County. He has worked for 17-years as a building contractor. Riddick has stated that he believes common sense and logic are the two most important factors in dealing with anything.

He is seeking office on the basis of a "sincere concern and caring for the people of the county."

Shively is a native of Roanoke, Va. He has resided in Perquimans County for approximately 14-years, following completion of 30-years active and reserve naval service. During his years in the U.S. Navy, Shively served as a Chief Master of Arms, a Shore Patrol Officer, and a Command Boat Captain.

He is currently self-employed as a maintenance mechanic.

Three candidates will vie for two available seats on the Perquimans County Board of Education during the primary election. Board Chairman Clifford Winslow will face no opposition in his bid for re-election.

New Hope Board Member Mack Nixon is being challenged by the Rev. Walter Leigh.

Nixon is a native of Perquimans County and part-owner of Albemarle Builders Inc. and Nags Head Realty, Inc. He is a member of Berea Church of Christ in New Hope, where he serves as treasurer and Chairman of the Business Committee.

He is also a member of the Board of Advisors for Roanoke Bible College. Nixon is completing his first term of office on the board.

Leigh is also a native of Perquimans County. He has studied at Elizabeth City State University, the College of the Albemarle, and at Roanoke Bible College.

He has been an A.M.E. Zion minister and pastor for 14-years. He is also employed with DL Furniture Company as a Production Coordinator. He has been employed with that firm for 16-years.

Arts Extravaganza gets underway

There is something special in the air around Perquimans County. Plans are nearing completion for an event that will both entertain and inform the people of our area. Community artists, classroom teachers, and students will join together April 24-26 to present "The Very Special Arts Extravaganza" at Perquimans Union School in Winfall.

With the success of the '84-'85 affair, the Steering Committee, under the leadership of Deborah Coates, has made plans to carry out "The Extravaganza" with flair.

The event is slated for April 24th and 25th from 9:00-3:00 and April 26th from 10:00-5:00. Community artists will display their crafts of macrame, puppetry, cake decorating, and perform with dancing and singing.

An express purpose of the festival is to share with the general public the way that art can be incorporated with any curriculum taught in the classroom. It is a

form of expression that enables a student to freely demonstrate his understanding or interpretation of concepts being learned.

Students and teachers have been working together to prepare displays of students' artwork. The students are also working to prepare performances of dancing, singing, recitations, and aerobics.

The music lovers of the county will be treated to a performance "under the tent" at Union School on Thursday evening, April 24th at 7:30p.m. Under the direction of David Ziemba, this talented group of young musicians are sure to entertain and delight.

A special feature of the festival this year will be the opportunity for the general public to view the exhibits and performances on Saturday, April 26th.

Plan to attend the "Very Special Arts Extravaganza" and support the Perquimans County Schools in their effort to bring the world of art into the life of Perquimans County.

Transportation meeting set

HERTFORD—The third in a series of 15-scheduled statewide transportation meetings will be held here on Thursday, May 1, 1986, at 2:00 p.m. at the Albemarle Commission Building.

The purpose of the meeting is to obtain advice from area officials and citizens on needed highway improvements throughout Division I. The meeting is sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Comments and advice obtained at these meetings will be studied by the Department of

Transportation's board members and will be used in updating the department's ten-year Transportation Improvement Plan.

The meeting is open to the public, and citizens are urged to attend to offer input on the state's transportation plans.

Those wishing to make comments or suggestions at the meeting are urged to arrive early to register. Registration for those individuals planning to make a presentation at the meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.