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## THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Board of education hears highlights of PCHS band trip

The Perquimans County School Board members heard highlights from the band's Washington, D.C. trip on Monday night. Two band members, Band Director David Ziemba and Principal William Byrum were on hand to give a very positive report to the board.

Ziemba said, "I was extremely proud of just the whole trip. The kids acted professional in their music, and also acted like adults."

Christy Waters, drum major, and Cornelius Mack, horn line captain and soloist, thanked the board and school personnel for their support. They excitedly told board members about their sightseeing, and the feeling of heightened patriotism they felt came as a result of the trip.

William Byrum said, "Perquimans County should be proud of these kids. They performed very well on this trip." He added, "The students performed exceptionally, and they behaved even better."

The group was very pleased with the reaction of the crowd they played for during the festivities. They were all impressed with the friendliness shown them while in Washington.

School Board Chairman Clifford Winslow thanked the students for bringing pride to Perquimans County. He told of a stop he made on the trip home in a small shop. The clerk, he said, asked if he was with the group. He answered that he was, and told her that the band had performed in the inaugural. The clerk relayed to Winslow that the youth were the best-behaved young people ever to enter the shop.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Jo Martin said, "They (the band members) are a very special group of young people." She added that they reminded her of what was positive about America, that they were symbolic of the qualities hoped for by America's founding

fathers.

Winslow related the board's actions when funding was first approved for the band program. "We stuck our necks out to put in the budget to start a band. I think we can honestly say that it was something well worth doing." He added, "This is really a climax for all those 11 years of hard work."

Winslow said many applications were received for the position of band director. David Ziemba, Winslow stated, said in his interview, "If Perquimans County wants a good band, I'm the man that you need." Winslow said that Ziemba's confidence was infectious, and that he obviously had meant what he said.

The board voted to give the band \$3,900 towards the expense of the trip. By consensus at an earlier meeting, the board had agreed to pay the difference in what the band had collected on the Friday prior to

the trip, and the approximately \$17,000 cost of the trip.

The donations did exceed what was collected as of that Friday, but the board felt that since they had set the cut-off date, they should advance the funds to the band. The overage will be deposited into the Band Boosters' treasury.

## Personnel Vacancies

Paul Ward apprised the board of positions still vacant. They are special education teacher, after-school care coordinator and interim teacher. Ward told the board that he had contacted every N.C. college and university placement office, as well as private personnel agencies, but had still been unsuccessful in his search for a special education teacher.

When asked why positions in the county are so difficult to fill, Ward said that some qualified people will not move to this part of the state.

He also said that many larger systems are offering sign-up bonuses and other benefits with which Perquimans County cannot compete.

Dr. Martin also blamed the situation on the nation-wide teacher shortage.

Board member Cliff Towe suggested that the problem be dealt with at the board's annual retreat, so that solutions can be discussed.

## Leave policy

Cliff Towe urged the board to consider a new sick leave and annual leave policy whereby personnel would be paid for unused leave. He said he sees the action as a deterrent to teachers taking leave time during instructional periods.

Paul Ward informed the board that such a policy was on the legislative agenda this year. Board members decided to write their legislators both individually and as a board requesting that the matter be given priority.

## Traffic light

The board also opted to support the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and Church Street Extended. With the closing of the causeway, buses will be rerouted through that intersection. Board members feel that the corner presents possible danger to the students who will ride buses. Board member Wayne Howell said that the board should take every action possible in order to ensure the safety of the children at the intersection.

## Positions filled

The board approved the appointment of Jeanie Lashley as interim first grade teacher at Perquimans Central School.

## Leaves granted

The board granted the requests of Sharon Ward and Freda Nelson for extended leave.

## Band trip successful

An excited group of band members and chaperone pulled out of Hertford last Wednesday morning at 11:00 a.m. escorted through town by both the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department and the Hertford Police Department.

Upon pulling in to Washington Wednesday evening, the band was greeted by the inaugural fireworks. According to Band Director David Ziemba, one student said, "Look! They knew Perquimans County was coming!"

According to band members, the trip was one they will never forget.

Horn line captain Cornelius Mack said the highlight for him was the parade. "The very highest point was when George Bush walked by us in the parade."

Bush reportedly walked through much of the parade route, and was walking when he passed the Perquimans delegation.

Drum Major Christy Waters agreed with Mack. "I think from now on he'll seem more personal," she said.

The group reported that their day of sightseeing Thursday was very impressive. Band parent Linda Privott said that two couples found the names of Perquimans County natives killed in Viet Nam on the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial and placed small American flags there in their honor.

Waters and Band Director David Ziemba were pleased with the response to their musical abilities. "We were told we were the best band there by the head of the Army bands," Waters said excitedly. Ziemba, Waters said, "acted real happy" at the statement.

The biggest thrill of the trip for Ziemba, he said, was playing "God Bless America" for Ronald Reagan as he passed. Both Ziemba and Waters said they'll never forget the look Reagan gave them.

Ziemba said the band played for an hour in the morning and again for two and one-half hours in the afternoon.

Band students Joey Haskett said that the hotel agreed to let the band practice around the pool area. He said the students looked up, and many of the hotel windows were open with people cheering for them.

Two of the band students, Mary Stallings and Kne Everett, received the honor of carrying the banner for the Tuskegee Air Corp, an elite group of black fliers in World War II. The corp was the first all-black air corp in the nation.

Cornelius Mack was interviewed by Michelle Harvey for a broadcast on Friday's 6:00 news. The band, according to Harvey, "represented Hampton Roads very well."

The students and all those who traveled to Washington expressed their deep appreciation to all those individuals and groups who gave them financial and moral support.

Christy Waters' summation of the trip speaks for most of those who went. "I saw so many things," she said. "It was just a wonderful experience for me."

It was a wonderful experience for all Perquimans.



The PCHS band lined up for a group shot (right) before boarding the buses to head for Washington, D. C. Above, if screams could be photographed, this would be a loud picture as the band students cheered for their good fortune at being selected to perform at the inaugural.



## Prestigious service awards presented by Jaycees

The Perquimans County Jaycees presented several awards to local residents at their annual Distinguished Service Awards banquet last Wednesday night.

A Hertford resident received the highest honor the Jaycees give in the community, the Distinguished Service Award. William Elliott "Billy" Layden was the recipient of this year's award.

Layden was nominated for the award due to his community involvement and his willingness to help those that need assistance. "I'll guarantee you that you'll never ask Billy for his assistance and not get it if it's in his power to give it to you," said award presenter Susan Harris.

Layden was recently named in the latest edition of Outstanding Young Men of America. He is a Perquimans County Jaycee, and is very active in the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department. He is a member of Anderson United Methodist Church, where he has been a member of the Administrative Council.

Layden is employed by Elliott Layden Radio and Electric Shop.

A new category was added to the awards list this year, outstanding family. The recipients of this award were A.O. and Carole Eure Roberts and their children, Kevin, Michael and Kristen. The Roberts are very active in the Berea Church of Christ.

Both the parents and the children involved in the Extension service through 4-H, 4-H Advisory Council, N.C. Extension Advisory Council, and 4-H Livestock Show.

The family has also worked in

the Central School P.T.A., serving in many capacities, and are presently working with a group of parents interested in revitalizing the Middle School P.T.A.

The parents have played an integral part in the children's involvement in sports, ballet and other activities, through their unfailing support.

When asked what impact they had made on the community, the Roberts wrote, "Above all else, we believe our involvement in the community through our work in the church has made the greatest impact and has brought about the most improvement in our family life. Sometimes doing just the smallest things...can seem so large for those you are doing these things for. These are the types of things that improve our lives beyond all others."

Presenter Richard Copeland said that the Roberts nomination form typified the community spirit in the county.

Sharon Tunnell captured the Outstanding Young Educator award. Tunnell is certified in health, physical education and early childhood education. She is presently a second grade teacher at Winfall Central School, where she also serves as grade level chairperson.

In recommending Tunnell for the award, Central School Principal Morris Kornegay wrote, "I believe from my conveyance to you of the duties and responsibilities entrusted to Sharon, it is very evident that she is a dedicated, capable person, capable of not only 'getting the job done' but of getting it done in a fashion worthy of the respect

and trust that I and others have in her abilities."

Tunnell is married to Lee Tunnell. The couple has three children, Matt, Monte and Amy.

Winner of the Outstanding Young Firefighter award was Richard Copeland. Copeland is a member of the Winfall Fire Department, where he has been selected Outstanding Young Firefighter in 1978, 1981 and 1988. He was also chosen Winfall's Firefighter of the Year in 1982 and 1986.

A member of the department since 1975, Copeland has been instrumental in equipment maintenance and recruitment. He logs approximately 70 training hours per year, according to fire department records.

Copeland is also an active member of the Perquimans County Jaycees, an organization in which he has held numerous offices, including those on the state level.

Copeland's nominator said, "Richard's greatest award to his community is best summed up in this phrase, 'The greatest achievement of the human spirit is to live up to one's opportunities and make the most of one's resources.'"

Copeland and his wife, Diane, live in Winfall.

Capturing the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer was Craig Garriss of Hertford. Garriss is a Senior Trooper with the N.C. State Highway Patrol.

Garriss received his certification in Basic Law Enforcement from Halifax Community College. He began his law enforcement career in 1975 when he was sworn in as a Special Deputy with the Northamp-

ton County Sheriff's Department, where he was assigned to the drug enforcement division in 1976.

He moved to the Conway Police Department in 1978, and in 1978 was made assistant chief. His affiliation with the N.C. Highway Patrol came in 1984.

Garriss is credited with pulling two youths from a burning vehicle, rescuing an infant drowning victim and working diligently to eradicate drugs in our area.

He is a member of the Hertford Fire Department and Chowan County Law Enforcement Officer's Association.

His nomination form states, "Trooper Garriss shows through his job and outside interests that his philosophy is to preserve and protect life and property both in his professional and personal life. He believes that to be the best that you can be you have to serve others."

Lillian Chappell won the Outstanding Young Rescuer award. Chappell is a dispatcher with the Perquimans County Dispatch Service. She is an EMT with the Perquimans County Volunteer Rescue Squad, and is presently serving on the squad's board of directors.

Chappell has spent many hours serving on both the day and night squads, as well as assisting in the training of other members.

She was elected to the Outstanding Young Women of America in 1986.

Chappell's contributions to the community also include assisting with the Red Cross Bloodmobile and volunteering and supporting the Special Olympics program.

She is married to Jerry Chappell. Joe Lee Tunnell received the Outstanding Senior Citizen award. Tunnell taught school for 38 years. Many boys who graduated from Perquimans County fondly remember their days under Tunnell's guidance.

Although originally from Swan Quarter, Tunnell considers Perquimans County his home. He has donated countless hours to civic organization and community concerns with both time and financial assistance.

His nominator said Tunnell is "willing to help with any situation that calls for public assistance...There have been several times that people have been in need of money to help them through hard times...He has sacrificed many times...to get out and help raise money for these people." Tunnell is probably best-known for his abilities as an auctioneer.

Tunnell has been an active member of the Hertford Lions Club and Hertford United Methodist Church.

He and his wife, Atha have two children, Lee and Nancy, and three grandchildren.

N.C. State Jaycee Vice President Tim Avery delivered the address to the group assembled for the D.S.A. banquet.

Avery praised all the nominees and winners, stressing that working together, people can make our communities better places in which to live. Avery encouraged the group to continue community service and volunteerism.

Billy Layden (left) was presented with the highest award the Jaycees give in the community, the Distinguished Service Award. Layden was nominated for his willingness to help his fellow man. At right, the winners of the Jaycee awards are: Outstanding Young Educator-Sharon Tunnell; Outstanding Young Firefighter-Richard Copeland; Outstanding Senior Citizen-Joe Tunnell; Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer-Craig Garriss; Outstanding Young Rescuer-Lillian Chappell and Outstanding Young Family-A.O. Carole, Kevin, Michael and Kristen Roberts-Not pictured is Nancy Boynton, Outstanding Youth. Her picture and accomplishments will be published next week.



## Omission

In last week's edition, a story ran on the front page detailing a wreck on U.S. Highway 17 south of Hertford. The story did not include two county groups who also responded to the call, the Bethel Fire Department and the Perquimans County Rescue Squad. The paper regrets the omission.

