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Local Briefs

Schools to offer new program

The Perquimans County school system is very excited about the new Parent-Preschool Program which will begin in August 1989.

The program will be established in a small setting in Perquimans High School. Approximately 10-15 adults who did not graduate from high school and who have a four-year old child will be selected to enroll.

The parents and children will be involved in separate educational activities during the morning session and will be in a joint session for the purpose of parent-child bonding during the afternoon.

The program will be staffed by one early childhood teacher, an early childhood assistant and one adult education teacher. These individuals will function as a team and will plan appropriate activities.

There are two major goals of the Parent-Preschool Program. One is to raise the educational level of parents of preschool children through instruction in basic skills and child care; the second is to provide a preschool program for four-year olds.

The issues of economics and parent education demonstrate needs that could be addressed more effectively if addressed simultaneously. The family must be strengthened as an economic unit and as an educational support system that provides a positive environment for its young.

Many first time parents need to be better prepared to assume their roles as parents. The old cliché "when we become parents, the instructions come with the baby," is not necessarily true.

When to feed, when to change, obtaining check-ups and appropriate immunizations are the tip of the iceberg when it comes to beginning the long road to parenthood.

Parents, as well as their children, will benefit when afforded the opportunity to gain skills and knowledge that they need to become more effective parents and teachers of their young children.

The program is designed to meet the needs of parents and children by addressing the following:

1. to increase academic skills by working toward acquiring a GED (Graduate Equivalent Diploma) and to increase job related skills necessary to obtain employment.
2. to enhance parent-child bonding and communication.
3. to increase parent skills in coping with the stresses of child care.
4. to increase the awareness of other appropriate agencies.
5. to increase parental knowledge about home and child management.
6. to reduce family isolation and increase peer support.

Lack of basic education has a profound effect on the ability of the members of a family to cope with the problems and stresses of modern society.

Inadequate literacy skills affect the individual's ability to budget and keep a job in today's world and these same individuals will need more skills to be able to compete in the world of the future.

Illiteracy and poverty contribute to other serious problems in society such as juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, drug use and poor health.

Local star to open concert

Barbara Jean and the Band of Gold will open WCMS Radio's 35th birthday party to be held Sunday, July 9 at Town Point Park in Norfolk, Virginia beginning at 12:00 noon.

The band, along with DJ Eric Stevens from WCMS, will be fronting the show for singer-songwriter Lee Greenwood.

Barbara Jean is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Layden of Belvidere.

Aerobics

The Perquimans County Recreation Department is sponsoring a six-week aerobics class starting Monday, July 10. Classes will be taught on Monday and Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The instructor will be Julie Jordan from Edenton. Cost of the aerobics program is \$30 per person. The classes will be held at the Perquimans County High School. To register, call 426-5885.

Happy Birthday, America!

Annual 4th Fest is success in Perquimans

The Perquimans County Jaycees sponsored one of the most successful fourth of July celebrations in the history of Perquimans County Tuesday. The day was filled with fun for all ages.

The festival began with a flag raising ceremony. The Hertford Fifes and Drums served as color-guard for the occasion. Those gathered recited the pledge of allegiance and sang the Star Spangled Banner.

After that, members of three fire departments, Bethel, Hertford and Winfall, participated in a competi-

tion. The first phase was a relay race to see how fast three contestants from each department could put on full turn-out gear. The three teams tied in that event.

Next, three members from each department entered a four-legged race. All three firefighters on each team were tied together and raced down the track and back.

In the final contest, two members from each team competed in the "wedding" race. The two competitors left the starting line together. One then got in a wheelbarrow, while the other navigated it

through a series of cones. They were hit by a "rain shower" (bucket of water) on their way to the wedding dinner, which consisted of two raw hot dogs for each.

After their delicious meal, the happy couples again started on their journey through another series of cones. One more time, they hit a rain storm. Finally, they reached their destination and jumped into a bed full of flour.

The Bethel Department won the overall competition, with Hertford and Winfall tying for second place. Each department was presented

with a \$25 donation for participating, while Bethel took the \$100 winner's prize also.

Twenty dollars was raised for the N.C. Boys and Girls Homes in the horseshoe pitching competition. The winning team was Curtis Trueblood and Laura Dixon.

Children's games, including a Huck Finn Fishing Contest were held after the Fire Department Competition. Several youngsters lined the riverbank trying to catch fish, but the fish were not cooperating. To the children's disappointment, no fish were caught. Other games included a clothespin drop, balloon stomp, bat spin, baseball throw and balloon-between-the-knee relay races. The children's games were capped off with a parade around the park with the children playing kazoos and carrying balloons.

The Spirited Truth Gospel Singers entertained the crowd with a fine performance of religious tunes. After their songs, the Rev. Raymond Wittman of Hertford United Methodist Church spoke.

The pie-in-the-face auction was next, and raised almost \$700 for the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. Parker Newbern, Bill Cox, Y.Z. Newberry, Larry Swindell, Joe Lathan, Joe Tunnell, Georgia Stallings, Sara Winslow, Carolyn Rogers, Edgar Roberson, Wayne Layden, Pete Riddick, Roger Whitely, Ray Wittman and Eric Haste were the great sports who took the plates of whipped cream in the face for charity.

The bids ran high, with Joe Tunnell and Y.Z. Newberry raising the most money at \$132 and \$115 respectively.

A band from Virginia Beach, Phoenix, played for the street dance. The group played some-

thing for everyone. They entertained both before and after the fireworks.

"Just for Kids 1-99" performed during the band's first break. Clowns, animals, even Alf and ET were on hand during their performance produced and sponsored by Betty Bright of One Stop Auto Parts. The group pantomimed and danced with the children who were delighted with the show.

To introduce the fireworks, the group brought in "Uncle Sam" (Brandon Hurdle) and "Miss Liberty" (Lisa Ward), while dancing and singing to a medley of patriotic songs.

Then came the fireworks. Although rain had showered the crowd gathered to watch the annual show, that didn't stop them for sticking around to catch the pyrotechnics which lighted the night sky over the Perquimans River.

New to the fourth festivities this year in addition to the firemen's competition were kiddie rides, a booth set up by Chowan Hospital, snow cones, popcorn and appearances by a friendly turtle and alligator.

Loads of hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks were consumed during the day, keeping Jaycee concession stand workers busy.

Chris Peckham, overall chairman of the festivities was very pleased with the outcome. "I think everybody enjoyed the different types of entertainment, especially the pie auction and firemen's competition," Peckham commented after a long day in Missing Mill Park. "The pie auction went super," he added.

The Fourth Fest is an annual event sponsored by the Perquimans County Jaycees in Missing Mill Park.



Peoples Bank and Trust Company Monday honored their customers with a Customer Appreciation Day. A banner high across Church Street thanked the bank's customers for their patronage. On the parking lot, Becky Winslow, bank employee, serves Coke to thirsty customers.

Rogers awarded two Citadel scholarships

A 1989 Perquimans High School graduate has accepted two scholarships from the Citadel, a military university in Charleston, S.C.

Derek Rogers impressed Citadel baseball coach Chal Port, who offered him an athletic scholarship of over \$5,000 per year. Rogers said he was catching, and Port has hinted that he has a very good chance of being on the starting roster for the 1990 season.

Port had spoken with Rogers several times about playing on his team, and even traveled to Greenville to watch him play in the

American Legion league. After Port's visit, Rogers visited the school, which is near his grandparents' homes, and Port offered the scholarship. Rogers accepted.

Most valuable player and leading hitter awards were earned by Rogers this past season at Perquimans. He was named to the all-conference and all-Albemarle teams.

Other colleges, Mt. Olive and Atlantic Christian, offered Rogers athletic funds, but Rogers chose the Citadel over them.

Rogers also received the Leigh Winslow, Sr. Scholarship worth \$3,000. Leigh Winslow, Jr., a Citadel alumnus, set up the scholarship. It is awarded to Citadel students only. Winslow had wanted the funds to go to a Perquimans student for years, but Rogers is the first in many years to attend the prestigious military school.

An honor student, Rogers graduated fourth in his class and was nominated for the John Morehead

Scholarship. He made it to the second round of competition for that honor.

Although Rogers says he realized his choice means attending a very strict, regimented school, he feels it will be a positive experience. He will be required to wear uniforms to class, follow stringent rules, cut his hair, participate in marching drills and leave campus only on week-ends during his freshman year. He will also join the Air Force ROTC upon his admission.

Graduation from the Citadel does not include an obligation to enter the military, although it does provide the training and skills necessary to excel if graduates choose to enter military service.

Rogers plans to major in civil engineering.

He is the son of Clarence and Carolyn Rogers of Hertford.

Study says no one personal trait indicates work absenteeism

By: Carlos Bonilla

If the conventional wisdom is that a single major personal trait such as gender, age or race will indicate how often an employee is likely to miss work, the conventional wisdom is wrong.

In fact, most major personal traits - including marital status and education or such lifestyle considerations as use of alcohol or tobacco - fail to reliably predict individual employee absenteeism, according to a study by the National Chamber Foundation (NCF) recently released.

Simply because an individual is a member of a group - women, minorities, consumers of alcohol, consumers of tobacco - looking at the average incidence of absence among those groups will tell you nothing about the particular behavior of individuals.

The Foundation study analyzed a target population of 33,000 adult jobholders drawn from the National Center for Health Statistics' 1983 and 1985 Health Interview surveys.

The study focused on personal traits and characteristics that are easily observable or easily learned by an employer when evaluating a job applicant. The major traits were gender, age, race, education, family income and marital status. Lifestyle characteristics measured were use of alcohol, use of tobacco and physical activity.

When all the traits were analyzed simultaneously in the NCF study, the groups defied objective comparison. What was "true" for a group when one and two traits were compared - for example, women who are married or men who are young - became shrouded in qualifying statements as additional traits and characteristics were added and analyzed.

Moreover, when shifting the focus to individuals, only an individual's physical fitness or relatively high income were found to correlate with markedly lower rates of absenteeism. However, family income is of limited value as an indicator of absenteeism because job openings tend to attract men and women with similar income histories.

The study found there was no association between alcohol and tobacco use and work loss.

More than two-thirds of the people in the sample described themselves as consumers of alcohol products. The more universally a trait is held, the less predictive power it is likely to have in identifying an individual with high or low absenteeism.

The insignificance of smoking was surprising. Smoking has received widespread public disapproval in recent years, has come under widespread attack and has ceased to be publicly acceptable in many circumstances. Notwithstanding this, smoking has no statistically significant effect on work loss.

Clearly, employee absenteeism is related to a company's efficiency and financial well-being. As most personal traits and lifestyle characteristics fail as reliable predictors of absenteeism, what should guide an employer in hiring, if the goal is to reduce absenteeism?

Each job applicant should be evaluated as an individual. If possible, the individual's prior work record should be reviewed. In this way, an employer not only will have an improved chance of reducing absenteeism, but of hiring the best person for the job.

Hospital laboratory accredited

The Laboratory at Albemarle Hospital has been awarded a two-year accreditation by The Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), based on results of a recent on-site inspection.

The laboratory's director, Dr. Jerry C. Pickrel, was advised of this national recognition and congratulated for the "excellence of the services being provided." Albemarle Hospital is one of the more than 4,000 CAP-accredited laboratories nationwide.

The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s, is recognized by the federal government as being equal to or more stringent than the government's own inspection program.

Inspectors examine the records and quality control of the laboratory for the preceding two years, as well as the education and qualifications of the total staff, the adequacy of the facilities, the equipment, laboratory safety, and laboratory management, to determine how well the laboratory is serving the patient.



"Just for Kids 1-99" was a huge success at the 4th of July celebration. Here, costumed dancers invite children in the audience to participate in the show.