

Council's Vote On PTO Grant Angers Some Leland Residents

BY TERRY POPE

Some Leland residents say they have lost trust in their town council.

The controversy stems from the board's 3-2 vote to revise a proposed contract awarding a \$1,000 educational grant to Lincoln Primary School's Parent Teacher Organization.

PTO President Tina Childs had already signed the contract and forwarded it to Leland Mayor Russell Baldwin when the vote was taken.

"We had an agreement, and you broke it," PTO spokesman Letha Thomas told the council last Thursday. "As a citizen, I resent that."

Board members Lynette Carlisle, William Benton and Baldwin voted July 27 to revise the contract to require 50 percent matching funds.

Nine days earlier, the board had voted 3-1 to bypass matching funds and to require two reports from the PTO on how the money was spent.

Council members George Yates and Jane Gilbert voted against Benton's motion to revise the contract and questioned why Baldwin had failed to sign the agreement. The PTO now says it does not want the grant.

"There was a contract which obligates the town to that agreement," said Yates, who asked Town Attorney Glen Peterson for a legal ruling on the vote.

After an hour-long executive session, Peterson said he had advised the board on the legality of the motion but could not comment on the confidential matter.

Yates said the board never established a matching funds policy prior to its vote to give the PTO part of \$6,000 the town set aside for grants from its education commission, a body that was formed in March but has not organized.

The PTO had originally asked for \$1,500 to help fund a "Caught You Being Good" program for Lincoln's 800 or more students in grades K-3. The program is designed to improve grades, behavior and self-esteem by rewarding students with tokens that can be traded in for prizes.

"We'll get this program," said Ms. Thomas. "I think it's unfortunate, though, that the people of this town can't depend on the council."

Baldwin said the motion did not take money away from the PTO, but would require all groups in the future to provide matching funds.

"It's the principle," Ms. Thomas responded. "I don't trust people who give me their word and then go back on it. Nobody in this town should expect to do business this way."

The matching funds requirement is to protect against groups who

"come up here asking us for money and sit down over there and do nothing," said Benton. "I'm for it 100 percent. This \$1,000 being turned down is a lack of good understanding."

Rosemary Long, a Leland resident, said some council members are no longer listening to their constituents. The Leland Civic Association supported incorporation two years ago under a promise that the residents would "have a say in our governmental body," she said.

"After what the council has done, I don't see how we can take their word on anything," said Ms. Long.

Mike Thomas says he plans to actively campaign this fall to have some council members voted from the board.

"It's a crying shame we have to wait two years to get you defeated," he told Benton.

"There may be a great surprise for you," Benton replied.

Baldwin will run against S.L. Doty Jr. for the mayor's seat. Ms. Carlisle, Ms. Gilbert and newcomer Thomas Hyatt are running for two available seats on the council.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Riggs Serves As Page

Brett Ortmann Riggs, a student at E.A. Laney High School, recently served as a page in the N.C. State House of Representatives.

He is the son of Kathy Lemon and William Clyde Riggs III of Castle Hayne and the nephew of H. Edward and Deborah Bowman Lemon Jr. of Shallotte.

Brett was sponsored by Rep. E. David Redwine and appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Daniel T. Blue Jr.

On Dean's List

Natasha Veronica Godwin attained the spring semester dean's list at N.C. Central University in Durham.

To qualify a student must be a junior or senior with a semester grade point average of at least 3.0, carrying at least 15 semester hours.

An elementary education major, Miss Godwin is the daughter of Cary and Bettie Godwin of Ash and the great-granddaughter of the late Roosevelt and Ruth Marlowe of Ash.

Pritchard Honored

Tina Pritchard, coordinator of the Brunswick County Senior Games and a member of the N.C. Senior Games State Finals Committee, was honored at the annual Gold Celebration in Raleigh July 17.

Gov. James Martin honored Ms. Pritchard, an employee with Brunswick County Parks and Recreation, for her dedication and devotion in

providing volunteer services to North Carolina's senior adults.

Brunswick County Senior Games is part of a statewide network of 43 local games programs that offer competition in more than 40 sports, events and arts categories. This year's state final will be held Sept. 26-29 in Raleigh.

In Who's Who

Sally Schutte, a rising sophomore at West Brunswick High School, has been chosen to appear in the 25th anniversary edition of *Who's Who Among American High School Students*.

Only 5 percent of the nation's students are honored in *Who's Who* each year.

She is the daughter of Stephen and Connie Schutte of Supply.

Casola To Compete

Shannon Casola of Shallotte will represent North Carolina in the beauty and talent divisions at the 28th annual Miss Hemisphere Pageant Aug. 21-24 in Miami Beach, Fla.

Contestants will compete from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, the South Pacific and Guam.

Miss Casola won the Miss Eastern N.C. Hemisphere and Miss N.C. Hemisphere pageants June 21 and 22 in Kinston. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Brown of Kennesaw, Ga., and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Turner of Acworth, Ga.



RIGGS



SCHUTTE



GODWIN



CASOLA

Records Show Hot, Wet July

The month of July was one of the wettest and warmest on record in southeastern North Carolina, according to the National Weather Service office in Wilmington.

It was the ninth wettest July on record, service records indicate, and tied with July 1980 for fourth place in the top 10 warmest Julys.

Average temperature was 82.9 degrees, almost three degrees above normal. The region received 13.35 inches of rain or 5.91 inches above normal.

The average daily high temperature in July was 91.2 degrees while the average daily low was 74.6 degrees, according to the weather service's monthly report.

The highest temperature for the month was 97 degrees occurring on July 8 and 14. Twenty days last month the temperature reached 90 degrees or above.

The lowest temperature was 71 degrees recorded on both July 11 and 17.

Cooling degree day units totaled 565 or 91 units above normal. There were no heating degree day units.

The weather service recorded 2.84 inches of rain on July 6. The greatest rainfall in a 24-hour period was 3.01 inches occurring between July 28 and 29. Rainfall was recorded on 23 days with measurable rain on 18 days and trace amounts on 5 days. There were 7 days with rainfall of 1/2 inch or more and four days with one inch or more.

There were only two clear days for the month of July and the sunshine percentage was 51 percent about half the normal. Thunder was recorded on 17 days; 11.4 days is normal. Heavy fog was recorded only one day. The average daily wind speed was 7.2 mph and the highest wind was a gust from the north at 31 mph on July 11.

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Bolivia Bypass Paving To Begin

Paving of a U.S. 17 bypass around Bolivia is set to begin later this month following award last Friday of a \$3.6 million contract to a Wilson firm.

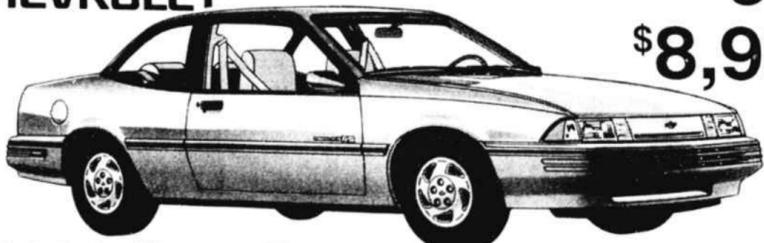
The N.C. Board of Transportation awarded the contract for the 7.4-mile project to the low bidder, S.T. Wooten Construction Co. of Wilson. It calls for paving a newly graded section of the bypass from Galloway Road (S.R. 1401) to U.S. 17 north of Bolivia.

This was the last of four contracts

to be awarded by the board to build a four-lane, 13.7-mile section of divided highway from N.C. 211 north of Supply to N.C. 87 at Bell Swamp. Total expected costs for the four projects is \$15.1 million.

The paving is scheduled to be completed in December 1992.

During construction, a news release from DOT indicated, safeguards will be taken to protect small streams and wetlands from contamination by soil or construction materials. Grass will be planted to cover bare ground caused by construction.



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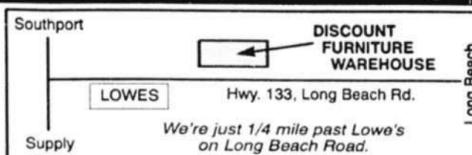


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