

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Legislative Picture Is Considered

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

enforcement and planning and zoning.

Two regional groups met Thursday night with the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) to hear of their available services, positions on proposed legislation, and the proposed construction of a permanent home for the group in Raleigh.

Prior to the joint meeting, the two groups, the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission (ARPDC) and the Albemarle Area Development Association (AADA) held brief meetings to handle business. ARPDC Chairman R.S. Monds and AADA Chairman R.L. Stevenson, both of Perquimans County, were present and presided.

In action taken, AADA went on record supporting the Shallowbag Bay Project in Manteo and the Oregon Inlet Deep Water Project.

Both AADA and ARPDC supported a resolution initiated by Commissioner Macon Johnson of Camden opposing the reclassification of the Pasquotank River if that action would no longer allow area farmers to drain their fields in the river.

In introducing the guest group, NCLM, Bill Gardner of Edenton described them as "a great benefit to all municipalities without whose efforts some town and cities in this area would be lost."

Leigh Wilson, director of the NCLM, first discussed proposed legislation in the General Assembly and the organization's views on them. He prefaced his comments by saying, "In the General Assembly lies all the authority and power we in the local communities have." The list of proposed bills given to those present included items in the categories of alcoholic beverage control, employer-employee relations, finance and taxation, and general government, law

Wilson specifically referred to HB 349, opposed by NCLM, which would authorize collective bargaining contracts for all public employees. In connection with that, he mentioned HB 872, also opposed, which would call for a minimum wage for all public employees of \$2.30 per hour. Wilson said, "When the state mandates what you pay and what your tax rate will be, this is where we have to stand up and be counted." He also described this proposal as "unwarranted intervention in local affairs." Another newly introduced bill, HB 909 would require that prior to the time a North Carolinian could get his automobile license, he would have to first present evidence that property taxes on motor vehicles had been paid. NCLM supports this legislation and Wilson said it would result in a local revenue increase of about \$25 million. Also discussed was a proposed bill to expand the open meetings law in North Carolina, HB 522. The NCLM is continuing study of this proposal.

Wilson encouraged the government officials to consider these legislative proposals and to voice their opinions to their representatives in Raleigh. He said, "Members of the General Assembly are people and they're good people and they listen to you."

This discussion was followed by a film on the services available from the NCLM and on the proposed Albert Coates Local Government Center to be built in Raleigh as a permanent home for the NCLM at a cost of \$1.5 million. Municipalities would contribute financially to this construction based on their population. The contribution for Hertford would be in the sum of \$1,270 and could be paid by one of three plans which are open to all municipalities in the state.

## Alliance To Receive Grant

POWELLVILLE — Governor James B. Hunt has announced a \$30,000 Coastal Plains Regional Commission grant to Alliance for Progress, Inc., for a feasibility study of the outdoor education environmental center site on 3,800 acres of land in Gates County.

Alliance Chairman Riley Monds Jr. of Hertford states that "we are real pleased to receive this grant as we feel it will ultimately provide an educational and economic impact on northeastern North Carolina."

Gates County Commissioner Frank Rice, who is also Vice Chairman of Alliance for Progress, says, "There is every reason to believe this grant will enable us to start the long range planning process for this giant outdoor classroom and laboratory center that should put our area on the map by benefiting all the educational systems of northeastern North Carolina and some of our neighboring states — and the concept ties in with our efforts in getting Millpond State Park established."

The study will be conducted by Dr. Richard Wilkinson and Dr. Art

Howard Lea, Secretary of the Department of Natural and Economic Resources, plans to visit the site in June and to discuss the plans with Alliance for Progress board members at that time.



VANDALISM — Pictured is some of the damage caused by vandalism over the weekend at the Wildlife Boating Access Area in New Hope.

## Access Area Is Damaged

Damage estimated between \$600 and \$700 has been reported at the Wildlife Boating Access Area near New Hope. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission reported that the activity, attributed to vandalism, occurred between Friday and Sunday nights and resulted in one dock being burned and another damaged heavily. Also found at the site was several demolished and burned signs, litter and evidence of numerous fires. A spokesman for the commission said that a general clean-up will be conducted at present but no replacement of damaged items is planned until that group can determine if the vandalism will cease. If it continues, plans are to totally discontinue the area. The incident has been reported to the local sheriff and Wildlife Commission enforcement officers.

## Orientation Is Scheduled

Coastal area management and specifically Areas of Environmental Concern will be discussed at an orientation session for citizens to be held April 28 at 8 p.m. at the Perquimans County Courthouse.

The session is being sponsored by the Hertford Town Council, the Perquimans County Commissioners, and the Coastal Resources Commission in order to answer questions and hear comments concerning the proposal prior to a public hearing scheduled for May 4.

Erie Haste Jr. of Hertford, CRC member, will be heading the discussion and answering questions. Also featured will be a film entitled, "An Act to Protect." The film, produced by the



WALKING CANDIDATE ARRIVES — With one blister to his credit, Dave McKnight, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1978, arrived in Hertford Monday night on foot. McKnight has planned an April to October walk which will take him from Manteo to Murphy talking with North Carolinians all along

## One Killed In Accident

One person was killed as the result of a one car accident occurring Monday at 7:50 p.m. about five and one-half miles east of Durants Neck on rural unpaved road 1321.

Elisha Thomas White, 39,

of Rt. 3, Hertford was pronounced dead on arrival at Albemarle Hospital after the late model car he was driving overturned on the dirt road. White was traveling north between 50 and 60 mph trying out the car when he applied the brake too

hard and began to skid. He let go of the steering wheel and the car overturned in the roadway.

One of the three passengers received non-incapacitated injuries: Henry R. Mallory Jr., 25, of Rt. 3, Hertford, owner of the

car. Not injured were passengers Elisha Thomas White, age 9; and Rory Shawn White, age 4.

Highway Patrolman C.H. Mims investigated and reported an estimated damage of \$5,000 to the car.

## Recreation Is Discussed

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

A group of 20 concerned citizens attended the Monday night meeting of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners to discuss the recreation needs in the county. Represented were the Town Council, The Perquimans County Planning Board, and the Perquimans County Recreation Commission. Discussion first turned to the need for public tennis courts in the county but soon turned to other needs as well. Mayor Bill Cox suggested the group look into "a complete recreation program for the town and county jointly." He added that a recent questionnaire answered by town residents showed 149 out of the 249 participating saw tennis as a prime concern for improving recreation and 167 of those 249 saw the need for a public swimming area. He later added that 222 answering the questionnaire thought the current offering of recreation for the county's young people was inadequate.

Members of the existing Perquimans County Recreation Commission expressed the limitations of the volunteer body. It was pointed out that a total recreation program would need a full-time director who could also compile grant applications. County

Commissioner Chairman Lester Simpson praised the efforts of the group saying they had done an "outstanding job" with what they've had to work with. Simpson also said, "I think ARPDC will give us a lot of help on seeking funds."

John Coston was present representing the Perquimans County Planning Board and explained that recreation has also been considered by that body but at the time they were unaware of the existing Recreation Commission. It was later added that coordination is badly needed to reduce this duplication of efforts. Mayor Cox added that the school facilities can be better utilized in this area if this coordination can be obtained.

Following the discussion, it was decided to appoint a five-member committee to consider the questions brought up at the meeting. Serving on that committee will be Ed Nixon representing the planning board, Joe Nowell representing the Commissioners, Billy Winslow representing the Town Council, Sid Eley representing the recreation commission, and one member of the Perquimans County Board of Education. Board of Education members could not be at the Monday night meeting since

they were also meeting in regular session, but had earlier expressed an interest in working jointly on the matter. The newly appointed committee planned a Wednesday night meeting.

In other business, the Commissioners approved a resolution for Perquimans County Schools transferring \$7,000 from the maintenance and repairs division of the budget to the operations and utilities section.

A letter was discussed from the Emergency Medical Services Council requesting two appointments to that board, one representing the commissioners and the other being a citizen interested in emergency services but a non rescue squad member. Chairman Simpson appointed Commissioner Waldo Winslow and Marsha Massey, with her approval, to serve in this capacity.

A letter was also received from the Economic Improvement Council, Inc. requesting the board to submit a letter of support for a \$123,008 request for the Region R Rental Subsidy Council. Simpson pointed out that this figure represented all areas served and no county-by-county breakdown was given. No action was taken.

In budget matters, it was announced that \$51,035 of

the Anti Recession Fiscal Fund has been received and put on investment. This amount represents the payment for the quarter beginning April 1. The Commissioners were informed that \$323,048 is currently on hand in the Capital Outlay School Building Fund, monies that are to only be used for new school construction. A motion was passed to amend the revenue sharing budget in the amount of \$70,000 to give that fund an additional \$100,000. It was also discussed that the Perquimans County Tax Department has turned in a figure of \$87,836,506 representing the county evaluation. That added to the state assessment gives a total figure of \$93,561,312. This represents an increase over last year of almost \$5 million.

A request was discussed from Albemarle Mental Health asking for a 15 cents per capita increase over last year's local allocation in this coming year's budget. The increase would amount to about \$1200 in additional funds from Perquimans County. No action was taken.

Before adjourning it was announced that the National Association of Counties (NACo) will hold its annual conference in Detroit, Mich. July 23-27.

## County To Receive Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Perquimans County has been honored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its participating in Alliance for Progress, Inc.

Perquimans County was named a 1977 achievement award winner by NACo President Dan Lynch. Achievement awards are presented to counties who have developed new programs which enhance or expand county services to citizens.

In making the announcement, Lynch congratulated the 1977 achievement award counties for their "special sensitivity to citizen needs and their efforts to strengthen county government."

Lynch explained that achievement award case studies "are distributed by NACo to other counties to serve as examples of innovative programs."

The National Association of Counties is the spokesman for county government in the United States. The nation's counties represent approximately 98 per cent of the United States population.

County achievement awards will be presented at Naco's 1977 annual conference in Wayne County, Detroit, Mich., July 24-27.

Each of the six counties in the Alliance for Progress, Inc. will receive the award for their participation in and support of the alliance concept. Alliance for Progress, Inc. is a one-of-a-kind organization combining efforts of the elected officials of the Boards of County Commissioners and Boards of Education in an effort to improve the quality of education, and thereby the quality of life, in northeastern North Carolina.

Concerning this recognition from NACo, R.S. Monds, local Commissioner and Chairman of Alliance for Progress, Inc., said, "I think it's great that they've recognized that we are attempting to do something down here especially by enhancing education. I think they also appreciate the spirit of cooperation between these counties."

## Possible School Reorganization:

## Community Meetings Planned

Two community meetings will be held next week to discuss the possible reorganization of Perquimans County Schools. The meetings are set for April 25 at 8 p.m. at Perquimans Union School and April 26 at 8 p.m. at Hertford Grammar School.

Members of the Board of Education, the Superintendent, and local principals will be present at both meetings to

answer questions and hear community comments and reactions. The question of reorganization is being considered to determine if the local schools can be organized more effectively to serve students' developmental needs as well as academic needs.

School officials are encouraging citizens to attend one or both of these meetings to discuss the question.



GRAND OPENING — Sunday marked the grand opening of Hertford's newest business, J-Dees Gifts & Ceramics, located on Church Street. The day's activities included a ribbon cutting ceremony (shown above) with (l. to r.) Mayor Bill Cox and Chamber of Commerce Executive Secretary Gary Kennedy doing the honors. Looking on is shop owner Jo Dixon and her son, Chris.

Following the ceremony, an open house was held including refreshments, door prizes, and Ceramics demonstrations. Also as part of the grand opening, several discounts were announced on store items. Mrs. Dixon later presented Mayor Cox with a ceramic gift to the Town of Hertford in appreciation for their help and support of the new business. (Newbern photo)