

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Perquimans results in annual testing program:

# First graders up; ninth graders down

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

Perquimans County School Superintendent Pat Harrell joined other superintendents in the Albemarle area Thursday afternoon at a press conference held to release results of local students' performances in the statewide annual testing program which was administered in the spring of 1978.

All school systems in the state were given a suggested release form to provide uniformity in releasing the student test results to the public. Released scores were for individual grades in each system. No release was made of individual student scores or results from individual schools.

Across the state, students in grades 1, 2, 3, 6, and 9 were tested. The test results for students in Perquimans County showed first graders doing extremely well and ninth graders falling below average

when compared to scores of students across the state and nation.

Second and third graders in Perquimans County fell more along the average line with sixth graders performing below the state and national levels.

The released information provides two ways to compare Perquimans students with students in North Carolina and in the nation. Figures are given in grade equivalents and in percentile ranks. The figures in these two areas for first and second graders are given in estimates, but school spokespeople have labeled them as "valid estimates."

Throughout the press conference, educators stressed the danger of placing too much emphasis on and misinterpretation of grade equivalent comparisons. Educators agreed that percentile rank scores are more effective for comparisons.

When grade equivalents are presented, the average should be the

grade number plus .7 meaning the seventh month of the year which is when testing occurred. Therefore, a first grader in the nation is given a 1.7 figure as average while a ninth grader is given a 9.7 figure as average.

In percentile rank, 50 is considered average.

Reading and mathematics tests were administered to first and second graders. Students in grades three and six were tested in these two areas plus language, spelling, and given a total score. Ninth grade students were tested in reading, mathematics, language, and given a total score for comparison.

A story from the Associated Press Thursday brought out several trends when looking at test scores of students across the state:

\*Family income has a direct relation to scores, whereas, children from families earning \$15,000 a year or more scoring generally higher.

\*Girls did much better than boys, especially in the higher grades.

\*Students in mountain and upper Piedmont schools tended to do best on the tests, while the lowest average scores came from north-eastern counties and the sandhills counties of the southeast.

\*Black children generally did not do as well as white children, and the performance gap grew wider in the higher grades.

\*North Carolina school children scored roughly the same on the tests as children in other states, but first and second graders did significantly better. (This also held true for Perquimans County students).

The report from AP also pointed out that ninth grade students in the state scored seven months behind the national average in reading and math, and four months behind in language.

Comparatively, Perquimans County ninth graders scored more

than one year behind both the state and national average in all areas tested.

In Perquimans County, ninth grade students were one year and eight months behind the national average in both reading and mathematics. Perquimans students' scores showed them one year and one month behind the state in both reading and math.

In language, Perquimans ninth graders scored two years and three months behind the national average and one year and nine months behind the state average.

On the total test, Perquimans ninth graders scored one year and nine months behind national averages and one year and two months behind the state average.

Perquimans County second and third graders were at the state and national levels overall with only a few months difference either way in all areas.

Perquimans County sixth graders did well in spelling but fell behind state and national averages in all other areas. Local sixth graders scored one year and eight months better than the national average and one year and four months better than the state average in spelling.

In other areas, Perquimans sixth graders were five months behind the national figure and nine months behind the state average in reading. They were one year behind the national average in mathematics and eight months behind the state average in that area.

And, on the total test, Perquimans sixth grade averages saw them performing nine months behind the national average and six months behind the state average.

An overall look at test scores for Perquimans County in all grades tested, plus some interpretation by school officials, appears elsewhere in this edition.

**SAFE TAKEN FROM LOCAL BUSINESS** — This picture shows where the safe at Cannon's Cleaners in Hertford stood prior to breaking and entering early Monday morning when five suspects allegedly drug the safe out of the business. The safe was later found in a wooded section in the Bagley Swamp area of the county. (Photo courtesy of Officer Robert K. Morris)



## School calendar is released

Superintendent Pat Harrell reminds teachers that they are to report for work at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 16 at Perquimans High School. Following a brief meeting, teachers will then report to their assigned schools.

Dec. 20. Christmas Holidays begin at close of school	Jan. 2 School begins after Christmas Vacation
Dec. 21-Jan. 1... Christmas and New Year's Holidays	Jan. 4... End of fourth school month
Jan. 18... End of third six weeks and first semester	Jan. 19-22 Teacher employment days
Jan. 19-22 Teacher employment days	Feb. 5... End of fifth school month
Aug. 16... Teachers report for work	March 5... Teacher employment day
Aug. 16-24 Teacher employment days	March 6... End of sixth school month and fourth six weeks
Aug. 25... Pupil orientation day	April 3. End of seventh school month
Aug. 28... Beginning of the 180-day school term	April 13-17... Easter Holidays
Sept. 4... Labor Day Holiday	April 20... End of fifth six weeks
Sept. 25... End of first school month	April 23... Teacher employment day
Oct. 9... Teacher employment day	May 7... End of eighth school month
Oct. 10... End of first six weeks	June 4 End of ninth school month and sixth six weeks
Oct. 24... End of second school month	June 5... Teacher employment day
Nov. 3... Teacher employment day (NCAE district convention)	June 6... Teacher employment one-half day; annual vacation one-half day
Nov. 22... End of third school month and second six weeks	June 7-15... Annual vacation days
Nov. 23-24... Thanksgiving Holidays	
Nov. 27... Teacher employment day	

## Five arrested after break-in

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

Five suspects have been arrested and charged with safecracking and breaking and entering following an incident occurring sometime after midnight on Monday at Cannon's Cleaners in Hertford.

Following the arrests, one suspect was additionally charged with assault on a police officer and Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt was charged with assault and battery.

Chief Merritt explained that the break-in was discovered at opening hours Monday when the owner of the business located adjacent to Cannon's prepared to open for the day. He discovered the back door open and called the police. Investigating the call, Officer J.R. Logan discovered the missing safe.

Chief Merritt explained that the police department "developed a suspect" and checked a vehicle. He recounts that officers then "found certain evidence there that indicated one suspect had participated in the break-in."

Further investigation yielded information, according to Chief Merritt, which led to recovering the safe in a wooded area in the Beech Springs section of Perquimans County.

Found in the busted safe were only papers. It had been determined that items taken from the safe included about \$800 in cash, and two pistols. Investigating officers later recovered one of the pistols, \$385, one watch, and some antique coins. These items were recovered from three of the five suspects.

Arrested and charged with the two counts were the following: Eric Elliott, 23, of Hampton, Va.; Eton Stepney, 19, of Edenton Road St., Hertford; Willie Louis Ford, 19, of Stokes St., Hertford; Willie Jones, 25, of Covent Garden St., Hertford;

and Kenny Felton, 18, of King St., Hertford.

All five were taken before Magistrate Broughton Dail and Clerk of Court Jarvis Ward. Elliott was released on a \$5,000 secured bond; Ford and Jones were released each on a \$1,000 secured bond; and Felton and Stepney were both released on a written promise to appear.

Involved in the arrests and investigation were Chief Merritt, Officer Logan, and Officer Robert K. Morris. Maximum sentence for safecracking is 30 years and for breaking and entering, 10 years.

The charge levied against Elliott of assaulting a police officer resulted after an incident at the

police station when the five were brought in.

Chief Merritt explained that relatives of the suspects arrived at the police station and at least one attempted to interfere with an officer performing his duty.

Chief Merritt said that Elliott was handcuffed and allegedly kicked him and then attempted to kick another officer. At that point, according to Chief Merritt, the by-standing relative attempted to interfere. In an effort to bring the suspect under control, Chief Merritt said he pushed Elliott back toward a chair. As a result of the incident, Elliott was charged with assault on a police officer. A criminal summons was then issued by Elliott against

Chief Merritt charging him with assault and battery. Officer Morris served the summons on his chief.

The two assault charges will be heard in the Aug. 16 session of District Court. All five suspects will also make a first appearance at that court session.

## President Carter visits Wilson

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

Residents of Small Town, America may have often wondered what the reaction might be if the President of the United States paid them a visit.

Well, residents of Wilson, N.C. found out first hand when President Jimmy Carter spent about four hours in their town on Saturday.

The visit, originally announced as an endorsement of Democrat John Ingram's bid for the U.S. Senate seat, turned out to be two-fold as the president attempted to increase his popularity in the tobacco-producing area following recent federal anti-smoking efforts.

The town was slicked up for the arrival of Carter with flags waving and

police and highway patrolmen out in full force.

While President Carter had several events on his agenda for the Wilson visit, only one, a speech from the Wilson County Library, was open to the public.

Despite that, a large group of citizens lined the fence outside the Wilson-Rocky Mount Airport to see the president arrive around 1:15 p.m. On the runway, he was greeted by a throng of reporters, photographers, radio and television people.

The president went over to the fence for some hand-shaking before being swept in limousine to his downtown speaking engagement.

There, he was received warmly by about 10,000 people who stood on the



**VISITING THE TAR HEEL STATE** — President Jimmy Carter displays his characteristic smile as he is greeted by spectators and members of the press at the Rocky Mount-

Wilson Municipal Airport. Shown with the president, (l. to r.) are: Senator Robert Morgan, Governor Jim Hunt, and Senatorial candidate

John Ingram. Part of the reason for the president's visit was in support of Ingram's campaign. (Staff photo by Kathy M. Newbern)