

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Competency Tests Scores Released

Results Please Harrell

By Tony Jordan

"We are pleased at our results (in the Competency Test). This does not mean that we are not concerned with the students that didn't pass," James P. Harrell, superintendent of Perquimans County Schools, said Jan. 10 after state-wide results were released the day before.

Of the 123 juniors at Perquimans High School who took the test last fall, only 19 failed the mathematics section of the test and 17 failed the reading. The percentage of students who did fail was considerably lower than what had been expected for the entire Northeastern North Carolina area as well as the county.

The Competency Testing Program was legislated in the 1977 General Assembly and provided that the tests be administered to all 11th grade students in the state as a requirement for graduation.

The tests are basic skills tests of reading and mathematics designed to measure minimum competency, not ideal achievement. It is important to note that in addition to passing the tests, a student must still meet local and state Boards of Education standards.

According to Harrell, surprisingly good results from Perquimans County is attributed to "school administrators, teachers, and others that had worked very hard with students who were identified as likely to have difficulty in passing."

Remedial labs along with the hard work also played a part in the good scores. These labs were possible through ESEA, Title I and CETA grants as well as funds directly from Competency Testing Program. Gov. James Hunt stated to the people of North Carolina on television Jan. 9 that he would ask the General Assembly to add \$3.4 million for remedial work across the state.

Four and a half million dollars has already been allocated to the program.

Statewide, 10 percent of public school juniors failed the reading test while 14 percent failed the mathematics. The fact that a rural county, such as Perquimans, was only slightly higher than the average for the state should tell the citizens of the county the work the local teachers and administrators are doing.

In the 17 public school systems that make up the 15-county Northeastern area, only three systems had a better percentage of passing students than Perquimans County. Dare County led the state with a near perfect passing record. Currituck County and Greenville City Public School Systems were the others that scored better.

For those who didn't pass the tests, they get another chance this spring. In their senior year of school, the student gets an additional two more chances to pass. If he or she has not passed the test then, they receive certificates of attendance rather than high school diplomas. But even then, if he can go back and pass the test, he will receive and get the diploma up until the age of 21.

The tests require students to apply basic reading and arithmetic skills to tasks that will face them in a couple of years as they enter the working force or continue their education. On the test were questions ranging from fractions to following directions on a road map.

Harrell pointed out that the areas in which the student missed would be closely examined by the teacher in the remedial lab. Parents are sent copies of their child's failures so they may be corrected with help in the home.

Concerning Hunt's statement that

this should be a community project and not just the school, Harrell said, "We would welcome any individuals or organizations discussing with us the ways in which their help can be used."

An interesting statistic to the testing is the importance that the parents background played in whether the student passed or failed. Statewide ninety-eight percent of the children whose parents have an education beyond high school passed the reading test. Only 68 percent of the students whose parents dropped out with a less than 8th grade education passed. County figures on this were not available.

Only two percent of the private school students across the state failed. But 45 percent of the private schools, mainly church-related schools, refused to give the test. Chowan and Albemarle Academies were among those that did administer the test. At Chowan, nine took the test and all passed. Of the 17 juniors at Albemarle, only one failed the reading and no one failed the math.

At Perquimans High of the 24 that failed, 14 failed both sections. Those 24 will be the only juniors that will take the test again this spring.

There have been discussions on whether teachers simply taught the test in remedial labs. Superintendent Harrell made it clear that it was not the case in Perquimans. He pointed out the difference in teaching the test and teaching the skills to master the test, the latter being the correct use of the labs.

Hunt, speaking on the morning NBC Today show, said, "These are our kids and our future. The way in which we respond to these scores will tell alot about us and about our future in North Carolina."



AADA MEETING — The Albemarle Area Development Association met last Thursday night at the Soundview Restaurant to discuss plans for the upcoming year. Last year's

president, wayne Ashley, talked to the group about the importance of the association's ability to reach the people. "For 1979, we need to stress the tangible. We must go back to the

county level. Our 10 county area will only be as strong as our counties are," the Hertford resident said. (Staff photo by Tony Jordan)

Education Board Meets

By Paige Eure

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session Monday, Jan. 15, to discuss and take action on several matters.

Susan Winslow, Staff Trainee, was guest of the Board to report on how the Staff Training Program is coming along. She commented on the

Program by saying, "It's the greatest thing that's come along in a long time," and that she was "very pleased with the way things are turning out."

A policy was discussed in depth by the Board on the rules and regulations of public use of Perquimans County School facilities, buildings, and equipment.

The policy states that "the Perquimans County Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to make school facilities and equipment available for community use." In the policy the words "Community activities" are defined as "well-planned wholesome functions of general interest."

Among some of the regulations that accompanied the policy include that the "principal shall be responsible for deciding who may use the facilities and for setting the date and time of such usage." A written request for use of a building or facility shall be filed with the principal, a copy going to the superintendent, five (5) school days prior to the date of the planned use.

Someone employed by the Board of Education, including the janitor must be "present during the entire time the building is in use."

If the janitor is required to be present, the pay rate will be 1 1/2 times his regular hourly rate.

Anyone who is interested in using any part of the school buildings or

facilities should get in touch with the principal of that school. You will then be informed on what step to take to gain usage of the facilities.

Mrs. Fronzine Green's, teacher at Perquimans High, resignation was accepted as of January 22.

The Board approved that Eugene Roscoe be employed as Vocational Director through August 1979.

In discussing the continuation of Perquimans County Band Program, the board decided to invite Mr. Ziemba to their next meeting.

The contract with the N.C. Department of Transportation for \$2,550 for 2270 square yards of work at Central Grammar School and 370 square yards of renovation at King Street parking lot was accepted by the Board.

Four members of the Board will be represented at the District School Board Meeting on February 7, at Bertie High School.

Among the latter items of business was the date of the National School Board Convention, which is to be held on April 20 in Memphis, Fla. The Board members are making their plans to attend this event but, have not made the final arrangements.

At the closing of the meeting, the Board began discussing the possibility of a need to have a policy concerning the solicitation by school children for school fund-raising activities.



CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN SOON — With the contracts signed, bad weather is all that holds up construction and renovation at Perquimans

High School. The one million dollar project, paid for by existing local funds and state grants, will add 12 new classrooms to the school and

renovate library and gym facilities. But, as you can see, studies at the school continue undaunted by the strange structures located in front of

the school. Of course, pointing a camera at the students is a different story. (Staff photo by Tony Jordan)

New Doctor to Serve Albemarle

As a part of the continuing effort to provide Medical Speciality services to the underserved areas of Northeastern North Carolina it was announced today that Dr. Walter A. Koerber, a specialist in the field of Dermatology, will be moving to the Edenton area to join the staff of the Albemarle Family Health Services. Dermatology is a speciality of medicine that involves diseases of the skin.

Dr. Koerber attended West Virginia University and graduated in 1965 with the highest grade point average in his class. He attended Medical School at Duke University, and received his M.D. degree from the University of Maryland in 1970.

A Medical Internship was served with the United States Public Health Services in 1971.

Dr. Koerber served as a medical officer in the United States Public Health Service in 1972 and 1973.

Dr. Koerber is extremely interested in the Coastal Areas of North Carolina. He received a National Science Foundation Grant to study plant phycology at Duke University and is interested in Aquatic Plants as well as the Venus Fly Trap. Historical Buildings also are one of his major interests.

In 1973 Dr. Koerber entered Stanford University to study Dermatology and finished his residency there in 1977. He was a member of

the American College of Physicians and The American Academy of Dermatology. He has published

numerous papers in the field of Dermatology, and has superior skills as a Dermatological Surgeon.

Drive Completed

A drive to raise \$25,000 in local funds for the Perquimans County Restoration Association has been successfully completed, according to R.L. Stevenson, Finance Chairman. To date, donations have been made totaling \$28,885 which assures the Association of receiving \$25,000 in matching funds from the North Carolina Legislature.

Besides contributions from many Perquimans County residents and businesses, gifts have been received from friends in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

Stevenson expressed his sincere appreciation to all who have supported this drive and said this should assure the complete restoration of North Carolina's oldest house, the Newbold-White house, by the fall of this year.

Future efforts will be made to renovate a caretaker's cottage and build a visitor's center.

This project is one that the residents of Perquimans County should be proud of having in their area. And with the major tourist attraction opening soon, it will be one that may also be profitable.

ASCS Office Moving

The Albemarle Soil Conservation Service will be moving to their new offices in the new County Office Building this Friday. The ASCS, which acts upon federal farm programs, is hoping that the citizens will quickly get use to the new surroundings, stated Thomas Riddick

of ASCS. The offices are located on South Church Street near the U.S. 17 Highway Bypass in the triangular roofed building. Riddick informs those who need the service that the ASCS will use the front entrance and the offices are on the right of the entrance.

Civic Calendar

THURS., JAN. 18
Alcoholics Anonymous will meet Thurs. at 8 p.m. in the Hertford United Methodist Church. The entrance is located at the corner of Covent Garden and Dobbs St.
Helen Gither Home Extension Club will meet.
Hertford Lions Club meets.
Hertford Fire Department meets.
Hertford BPW Club will meet.
SAT., JAN. 20
The Perquimans County Marching Unit will sponsor a Bottle Drive, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All returnable bottles will be picked up by members of the unit. If you have bot-

ties you would like picked up there will be a pickup point at Nationwide Insurance, or contact any member of the unit.
SUN., JAN. 21
Snug Harbor Civic League meets.
MON., JAN. 22
Perquimans County Rescue Squad meets.
TUES., JAN. 23
Woodmen of the World will meet.
Perquimans Masonic Lodge meets.
Hertford Rotary Club meets.
Belvidere Homemakers meet.
WED., JAN. 24
Homemakers Exec. Board meets.

No School Jan. 19 & 22

Pat Harrell, Superintendent of Perquimans County Schools, announced today that this Friday and

Monday are Teacher Employment Days. Students should not come to school on these days.