

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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20 CENTS



No ugly ducklings

These birds are certainly no ugly ducklings and in fact were identified by several town residents as swans. The flock settled on the Perquimans River for a few days during recent severe weather. (Photo by MIKE MCLAUGHLIN)

Billups guilty in shooting, theft

A Perquimans County jury decided last Tuesday afternoon that former Hertford resident Waymare Billups was indeed the man who shot and robbed Isaac Wood Lowe at his home on the night of Feb. 20, 1979.

The jury deliberated 45 minutes before reaching a guilty verdict following a trial that stretched nearly two days.

Initially charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and inflicting serious bodily injury, the jury decided to omit "intent to kill" from its verdict, and Superior Court Judge Michael Bruce sentenced Billups to life im-

prisonment and an additional 10 year term.

The life term on the assault charge was to follow the ten year term assessed for the robbery. Both were the maximum allowable sentences.

Billups wore leg irons throughout the trial. Local law enforcement officials had expressed a fear that he might try to escape custody during proceedings, and the leg irons were a precaution against such an attempt.

The prosecuting attorney's primary witness was Mrs. Laura Lowe, wife of the shooting victim.

She testified that she and her husband were watching "Roots" on television on the

night the shooting occurred. The doorbell rang and a young man identified in court as being Billups, inquired about renting a room.

After a few minutes conversation, Billups ordered Lowe upstairs at gunpoint, first taking five \$20 bills from the table, Lowe's wallet, an additional \$86, a change purse, and a .22 pistol that was lying beneath the table.

She testified that she heard a shot from a gun Lowe kept upstairs, then heard three more shots from Billups' gun.

"He was on the last step shooting at Isaac," Mrs. Lowe said. "He (Lowe) was hit alright. The side of his jaw was like a spigot."

Both Mrs. Lowe and her

husband identified Billups as the culprit.

Defense attorney Walter Edwards Jr. based his case on

the unreliability of eyewitness identification. Two witnesses, Billups' (Continued on page 11)

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identification.

Two witnesses, Billups'

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Futuristic gas pricing arrives

Pull into one of several service stations in the county and you might just think you had rolled back in time about 15 years. The price on the gas pump reads something like 30 cents.

Before you think about psychiatric treatment look again. The price is in liters, not gallons. Multiply by approximately 3.75 and you get the per gallon price.

The futuristic age of metrics has swooped into Perquimans County, prompted by soaring gasoline prices that have gone higher than many gasoline pumps can count.

Rather than pay the cost of installing new computers in the pumps, the Winslow Oil Company decided to make the much less expensive conversion to metrics.

The oil company operates eight stations in Perquimans County, each with two or three pumps, according to owner Julian Winslow. It maintains 75 to 100 pumps in the area, and at an estimated \$350 for installing a new computer in each pump, the figures mount rapidly. At some \$30 per pump, metric conversion is much less costly.

But for some customers, less costly can be more con-

fusing. One customer at the One Stop Service Center in Hertford, wanted her gasoline in gallons, not liters. Owner Dennis Hare told her he would compute the total gallons for her but she wanted to see it on the pumps. Hare will begin handing out conversion charts to all his customers as soon as they are available.

He said that liter pricing is much preferable to the old half-pricing system which showed only half the total purchase on the pump.

"I have several employees and every time a sale was made they had to calculate on paper or in their heads what the total sale was. It was confusing to some customers. They questioned it quite a bit," Hare said.

The old half-pricing system must be phased out in July anyway, and Winslow said he is only preparing for the inevitable.

"It looks like we're going to liters... I mean the country," Winslow said.

Reed and Hollowell Oil Companies, however, appear in no hurry to make the conversion to metrics.

Both are taking steps to show the full price and total

Principal says Coaching oust wasn't racial

Principal William Byrum assured a group of concerned adults and students that the removal of Perquimans High School head football coach Calvin Webster was not racially motivated in a school board meeting last Tuesday night.

"If your question is whether or not it was a whites and blacks matter I can assure you...and you can't see inside my heart...My part of it had nothing to do with blacks and whites," Byrum said.

Byrum said he had recommended the replacement of Webster to schools Superintendent Pat Harrell, who had in turn made the recommendation to the school board.

While he and other school officials at the meeting stuck by their earlier commitments to withhold specific reasons for Webster's removal, Byrum did confirm Webster's claim that he had been told he was being replaced because of "lack of community support" was accurate.

Asked if community support meant getting white students to go out for the team, Byrum said it was more than that.

"It's being able to walk

down the street and hear good things about the football team. It's to be able to go to the commissioners and ask for a new fieldhouse," Byrum said.

But apparently there was more to the replacement than the community support issue. Byrum said that Webster had been informed several times over the years of problems he perceived in his coaching performance and Webster had promised to get them corrected.

"I wrote Mr. Webster a letter or two and once he even came to me and said the situation would be corrected. He asked me to destroy the letter and not put it in his files and I did," Byrum said.

"I think Mr. Webster can read from our concerns, both oral and written, the reasons for his dismissal as football coach," Byrum said.

In response to questioning, Byrum said that all of the money generated in football had been returned to the athletic program, and if facilities were lacking, it was because the sport simply doesn't generate enough money.

Football, and to some extent basketball, are the money

sports and finance the entire athletic program at the high school.

Some members of the delegation, however, appeared less than content with the discussion that took place at the meeting.

"You hear a lot of bad things but you've overlooked a lot of good things...like the number of scholarships Coach Webster has gotten for these kids who might not of gone to college otherwise...but mind you once again they were all black kids," said one delegate.

School board chairman Clifford Winslow responded that Webster had done a good job, the school board had weighed both sides and decided it would be in the best interest of the football team to replace him.

Winslow later clarified his comment, saying that he had meant Webster had done a good job in some areas.

When asked whether the next football coach would be replaced if he could not generate community support, Byrum said that he personally, would like to see the new coach produce in one year or vacate the position.

He stressed that this was his personal view and not that of the school board.

Water meters

Reading habits change

Perquimans County Water Department will apparently be asked to read meters quarterly, rather than monthly, in an effort to conserve gasoline and cut down on expenses.

Wayne Floyd, an engineer with Rivers and Associates, the firm that designed the county water system, advocated the quarterly meter reading system at the county commissioners' meeting

Monday night. Floyd met with the board to present cost cutting measures that could be taken at the water department to keep

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Mrs. Winslow



Mrs. Collie



Mrs. Perry

Women back hopefuls

In an effort to aid campaign efforts in what has been described as "a difficult district to campaign in," the Northeastern North Carolina Women's Political Caucus hosted a rally for 12 candidates for state and national office last Thursday night.

Chairperson of NNCWPC, Winnie Wood, said that the caucus was designed to encourage women to "enter into and get involved in the political arena."

And with that goal in mind, the caucus asked that can-

didates send women as their representatives.

Three Perquimans County women participated in the event. They were: Shirley Perry, speaking for Perquimans County resident, Lee Overman, who is running for the N.C. House of Representatives; Lucille Winslow, speaking for Rep. Charles Evans, who is seeking re-election, and Rita Collie, speaking for Carl Stewart, candidate for U. governor.

Other candidates represented were: for the U.S.

House of Representatives, Joe Hollowell by Louisa Sellers and Rep. Walter B. Jones by Edna Sawyer; for governor, Gov. James Hunt by Elaine Williams and Bob Scott by Annette Gregory; for lieutenant governor, Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green by Ruth Markham; for N.C. House, Rep. Vernon James by Pat James; for N.C. Senate, State Sen. Monk Harington by Anne Culliphar, State Sen. Melvin Daniels by Mrs. A.O. Smith, and Mrs. Winnie Wood by Bev Small.

School days here again

It appears that persons convicted of driving under the influence for the first time will be going back to the classroom to learn the perils of mixing drinking and driving.

Under new laws effective January 1, anyone wishing to have limited driving privileges following a DUI conviction must attend the school, which consists of five two and one half hour sessions.

A person convicted of reckless driving after drinking would face a mandatory six months jail sentence, but that sentence may be suspended, with one condition being attendance at the school conducted in this area

by Albemarle Mental Health Center.

The offender, in either case, would be required to pay a \$100 tuition fee and complete the school within 75 days of referral by a judge.

If the school is not completed within 75 days, in the case of a DUI, the driver's license is not reinstated for 12 months. The reckless driver who does not complete the school within the allotted time frame could face an active jail sentence.

The closest available schools to Perquimans County will be at the Chowan County Office Building in Edenton from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, and at Elizabeth City

on Monday nights during the same time frame.

Textbook policy set

The Perquimans County Board of Education approved a textbook adoption plan at a meeting last Tuesday.

New textbooks are needed in several different course areas in the county schools, and the plan will establish selection criteria for a special committee to abide by.

The committee will be composed of a variety of county educators and will check for such qualities as readability, adherence to

CONVERSION FROM LITERS TO U.S. GALLONS

LITERS	GALLONS	LITERS	GALLONS	LITERS	GALLONS
1	0.03	29.0	7.66	65.0	17.17
2	0.05	30.0	7.93	66.0	17.44
3	0.08	31.0	8.19	67.0	17.70
4	0.11	32.0	8.45	68.0	17.96
5	0.13	33.0	8.72	69.0	18.23
6	0.16	34.0	8.98	70.0	18.49
7	0.18	35.0	9.25	71.0	18.76
8	0.21	36.0	9.51	72.0	19.02
9	0.24	37.0	9.77	73.0	19.28
10	0.26	38.0	10.04	74.0	19.55
20	0.53	39.0	10.30	75.0	19.81
30	0.79	40.0	10.57	76.0	20.08
40	1.06	41.0	10.83	77.0	20.34
50	1.32	42.0	11.10	78.0	20.61
60	1.59	43.0	11.36	79.0	20.87
70	1.85	44.0	11.62	80.0	21.13
80	2.11	45.0	11.89	81.0	21.40
90	2.38	46.0	12.15	82.0	21.66
100	2.64	47.0	12.42	83.0	21.93
110	2.91	48.0	12.68	84.0	22.19
120	3.17	49.0	12.94	85.0	22.45
130	3.43	50.0	13.21	86.0	22.72
140	3.70	51.0	13.47	87.0	22.98
150	3.96	52.0	13.74	88.0	23.25
160	4.23	53.0	14.00	89.0	23.51
170	4.49	54.0	14.27	90.0	23.78
180	4.76	55.0	14.53	91.0	24.04
190	5.02	56.0	14.79	92.0	24.30
200	5.28	57.0	15.06	93.0	24.57
210	5.55	58.0	15.32	94.0	24.83
220	5.81	59.0	15.59	95.0	25.10
230	6.08	60.0	15.85	96.0	25.36
240	6.34	61.0	16.11	97.0	25.62
250	6.60	62.0	16.38	98.0	25.89
260	6.87	63.0	16.64	99.0	26.15
270	7.13	64.0	16.91	100.0	26.42
280	7.40				

How to figure: Example, 62.6 liters equals 7 gallons. Take even liters (62.0) and add tenths of liter (.6). Answer: 16.38 plus .16 = 16.54 gal.

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