

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 36, No. 20

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, May 15, 1980

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## Time for a 'Fling!'

A rip-roaring celebration of the arts called Spring Fling is only two days away, and the Perquimans County Arts Council in cooperation with the county recreation department, has organized an event that can best be described in one three letter word—FUN.

The two day event kicks off on Saturday, with an American Legion fish fry. Council chairman Billy Wooten said he hopes that fish fry fans will take their dinners across the street to the Academy Street park and participate in or watch races and games for youngsters.

The fish fry is scheduled from 4:30 to 6:30 and the races

from 6:30 to 8:30. Then, as darkness falls over the park, get out the lawn chairs and blankets for sit-in (as opposed to drive-in) movies.

If you've never had the chance to have your funny bone tickled by the Three Stooges, here's your big chance, as the projector starts rolling with HAVE ROCKET WILL TRAVEL.

Anyone who has seen the trio in action knows how funny their fumbling, bumbling antics can be.

The mood will shift abruptly for the next film, and only the stout-hearted are advised to stick around for Vincent Price's HOUSE OF WAX, a classic horror film guaranteed to provide late night chills and

thrills. Just keep telling yourselves it's only a movie.

Sunday, though, is the big day, as an Albemarle-wide collection of some 20 artists and craftsmen are expected to converge on Hertford to display and demonstrate their talents from 1 to 6 p.m., as well as offer the products of their efforts for sale to the public.

The performing arts will also make their presence felt, with entertainment on the hour throughout the day.

Groups appearing will include: Claymon Sawyer and the Carolina Cut-ups, a blue grass band from Elizabeth City; school bands; the high school chorus; and area

square dance groups.

Perquimans High School art classes and the art club, under the direction of John Lavezzo, will also display their work.

The Perquimans County Rescue Squad will sell homemade ice cream and take blood pressure, and the Memory Lane Senior Citizens Club will hold a bake sale, and open the senior center to interested persons.

The Arts Council will staff an information booth that will provide a history of the organization and sign up new members, and will have concessions for sale.

According to Wooten, the Spring Fling is the initial "big event" of the young council, which has been in existence for about a year and a half.

All events are free, and the public is cordially invited to attend.



## School request up

The Perquimans County Board of Education, in its tentative working budget, is seeking increases of some 22 percent in local funding for the 1980-81 fiscal year.

Schools superintendent Pat Harrell said that the board's joint current expense-capital outlay working budget totals some \$950,000, a \$165,000 increase over the \$785,000 1979-1980 fiscal year budget.

The board of education and the county commissioners discussed the request at a meeting last Tuesday night.

"Our budgetary needs were reviewed and discussed with the commissioners without specific decisions being reached as to funding levels for a 1980-81 fiscal year budget," Harrell said.

The next step, he said, is for the commissioners to take the schools budget request and those of other county agencies to arrive at a total county budget.

Harrell described the current expense portion of the budget as "basically hold the line."

He said the request, adjusted 18 per cent for inflation, would essentially fund the same level of operation as the current year's budget.

Major increases in the current expense portion of the budget are raises of 12.5 per cent for certified and 10 per cent for non-certificated instructors funded locally, and projected jumps in the system's fuel oil and electricity bills.

Salary increases are tied to action by the General Assembly, as the school system is required to pay locally funded positions on the same scale as state funded positions.

Increases of 12.5 per cent for certified teachers are being sought on the state level, but the figure is expected to be trimmed down to 10 per cent by the General Assembly.

Under the capital outlay portion of the budget, the board of education is seeking funding for several facility improvements, with increases totaling some 26 per cent.

Projects include a new fieldhouse and restrooms at the Perquimans High School athletic complex, a new vocational shop to begin a construction program at the high school, and a renovated science laboratory.

At Perquimans Union, funding to enlarge the kitchen-cafeteria area is included. The

board is also seeking funding to continue energy conservation measures at all of the system's four schools.

In the area of furnishing and equipment, some new furniture is included at each school (worn out furniture is replaced at all of the schools each year), along with instructional equipment for the school bands and music departments, new bleachers at the high school, and a boiler at the King Street building.

Harrell said that the budget is too tenuous at present to reveal project by project costs.

"In reality, we won't be able to do all those things," he said. "We realize we may not be able to initiate all of the projects we'd like to. You take what you'd like to have and what you can agree on and prioritize," said Harrell of the budget making process."

## Tug o' war

Friday's Field Day at Perquimans Central Elementary School in Winfall generated enthusiasm for both students and teachers alike. Here student teams pull for all they are worth in the Tug of War portion of the competition. But the teachers also got a chance to get in on the act, and as they struggled through running, walking, frisbee tossing and the like, their students cheered wildly on the sidelines. The annual event, coordinated by physical education instructor Billy Stallings, is one that is eagerly anticipated at the school. (Photos by Mike McLaughlin)

## Application in for rec grant

The Perquimans County Recreation Department has applied for a \$41,852 Young Adult Conservation Corps grant that would get work underway on a recreational complex in the Parkville Township near Winfall.

If approved, the grant would pay for four young adult workers between the ages of 16 and 23 and a supervisor, along with some supplies and equipment. The grant requires no local match.

Workers would be responsible for clearing the picnic-playground and parking areas, as well as staking out and laying off the softball fields, said recreation director Billy Wooten.

Heritage Conservation funds that may have paid for fencing, and lighting of the complex, however, are currently frozen, and could delay the project, Wooten said.

A decision must be reached whether or not to submit the Perquimans County application on top of other applications that would receive prior consideration, or to wait until the freeze thaws. Either move would delay the project for at least a year, Wooten said, because of application deadlines that have already passed.

He said that other sources are also being considered, including fund raising, donations, and direct allocation of funds from

governing bodies.

Perquimans County donated a 13.8 acre tract of land for construction of a recreational complex in November. In an October meeting, Wooten had told the county board of commissioners that the land could probably be used as a match for state and federal grant monies.

The facility was projected to include two lighted softball fields with portable fences that could be moved for football and soccer games, and a refreshment stand-restroom building.

Drawings recently completed by the Regional Development Institute at East Carolina University in Greenville show a playground area, and a picnic area by a creek-like canal that runs through the property, along with the recreational fields.

There is also a Phase II portion of the project that includes lighted tennis courts. "We're not looking to develop that right now," said Wooten, "but we had to plan something for that piece of property."

If lighting can be secured for the fields, and the YACC grant is approved, the complex may still be ready for use by next softball season, Wooten said.

This season, some 215 participants in the county softball league are playing on the Perquimans Union field in Winfall.



## County eyes alternative ed project

The Perquimans County School System, in conjunction with Gates County and Edenton-Chowan Schools, is seeking \$358,879 in federal funding for a two-year project designed to aid students who are prone to failure in regular academic settings.

The proposal, entitled "Tri-County Project CONCERNS," (an acronym for Cooperative Organization to meet the Needs of Children Educationally and Render Necessary Services), seeks to offer a combination of the alternative approaches that presently exist in each school system, in addition to providing complimentary services.

According to Morris Kornegay, Perquimans County

CONCERNS contact person, the three-county cooperation is necessary in order to realize a comprehensive program that would otherwise be economically unfeasible within one small school system.

At present, each county offers a different program geared toward motivating potential failures or drop-outs. Under Project CONCERNS, each of these programs would be available to students between the ages of 12 and 18, and implemented in all three counties.

One of these programs, presently in operation in Perquimans County, is Positive Growth Counseling, which provides assistance in self-understanding, com-

munication and social skills, and improved academic performance for grades six through nine. The counseling seeks to foster positive personal, social, and academic growth before the experience of prolonged failure leads to a crisis situation.

Another program, presently in operation in Gates County, is called Shaping Positive Attitudes Challenges Everyone (for grades 8 through 12). SPACE is essentially an in-school suspension designed to minimize non-productive social behavior through the provision of an alternative environment for temporary placement. Its purpose is not to punish, but to help those with behavioral difficulties

that could possibly result in suspensions.

Another program, presently underway in Chowan County, is an Alternative School for 7 through 12th graders who are current or potential failures not only academically, but socially as well. This program is designed for those who have been determined as unsuitable for the traditional educational process, and for which an alternative setting is the only appropriate means for mainstreaming them into society. An alternative approach would include the creation of a night school for those students who find it necessary to work during traditional school hours.

In addition to the implementation of these existing programs in all three counties, Project CONCERNS would provide School Psychological Services, Staff Development and Retraining Services, and Business-Industry Coordination, which would assist working-age pupils in securing employment and on-the-job training.

A goals statement prepared by the Project CONCERNS committee proposes that 24 months after implementation in the three counties, a 25 percent reduction would occur in the following areas: underachievement, negative attitudes, lack of career preparation, number of absenteeism and truancy, number of suspension, number of expulsions, number

of non-promotions, and the number of juvenile court cases.

Kornegay admitted that such goals may be considered "lofty," but he added that an implementation of such alternatives was a very necessary addition to the present school system.

"There are many kids who have problems at home, are forced to work, and that find for many reasons it is difficult to attend a structured school," said Kornegay, "and so one of the things we're striving for is a program to decrease drop-outs, truancy, expulsion, and things of this nature."

The grant was submitted to the Law Enforcement (Continued on page 2)

## Bike-a-thon

### Pedal power rides again

The Perquimans County Jaycees' second annual Bike-A-Thon for cystic fibrosis will get rolling on Sunday, June 1, with registration beginning at 1 p.m. at Harris Shopping Center in Hertford.

Registration forms are now available at all Perquimans County schools, the Bank of N.C., and Peoples Bank.

Prizes for the event will include a ten-speed bicycle for whoever nets the most money; a 9-inch black and white television for second place; a watch for third; and cash for

fourth and fifth places.

All entrants riding at least \$25 worth will receive a free t-shirt.

Last year's Bike-A-Thon netted more money per capita than any other county in the state.

Proceeds from the funding effort will go not only toward helping to eliminate cystic fibrosis, but also toward the Heart Fund, the Cancer Society, and the March of Dimes.

A rain date is set for June 22.