

## County commissioner candidates discuss issues

Industry, clean water, and a reasonable tax rate are some of the key concerns of candidates for the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners.

With three seats to be decided, there are only four candidates on the ballot, and voters will make only one real choice on the local level.

Republican Wayne Winslow is challenging Democratic Primary winners Joseph W. (Joe) Nowell and Charles H. Ward for two seats in district two.

Democrat Lester Simpson is running unopposed for one open seat in district one.

All four candidates discussed their views on various issues in interviews with the PERQUIMANS WEEKLY recently.

### Winslow

Winslow said he was motivated to seek office because of a desire to help people. "I've served in almost every volunteer organization and having come up through them, I feel that I can better help the community," said Winslow. "I want to see Perquimans County grow and progress, and be made the best possible place it can be," he said.

Winslow has been chief of the Winfall Volunteer Fire Department for 13 years,

has served as president of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce and has served as president of the Perquimans County Jaycees. He estimates that he has dedicated 10,000 to 15,000 man hours to volunteer service.

"A lot of people run for office because they want something for themselves," he said. "I don't want anything for myself. I just want to help Perquimans County be a better place for my children to grow up."

Winslow sees new industry as one of the biggest needs of the county. "Good, desirable, screened industry that will

bring in new revenue and create new jobs," he said.

"We've been agricultural and we've depended on the farmer's dollars. But his income is dependent on the weather and we don't get good weather all the time," said Winslow.

Industry would also increase the county's property values and help keep taxes in line. "I think taxes are high enough," said Winslow.

He also feels that protecting the quality of area waters is extremely important.

The Republican supports the county recreation program, which has been the subject of recent controversy, but does



Nowell



Ward



Winslow



Simpson

not oppose a vote on whether or not the county should take on full funding of the program.

"You're elected to do one thing, to serve the majority of the people's needs." (Continued on page 2)

## Arson, gun-fire hit Belvidere

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department suspects arson in a fire that destroyed a farmhouse on State Road 1200 in Belvidere early Sunday morning.

Some 19 Belvidere volunteer firemen battled the blaze all night after getting the call at 1:19 a.m., but there was little hope of saving the structure.

"When we arrived on the scene the whole back portion of the house was involved and the fire had broken through the roof," said Jimmy Chappell, Belvidere fire chief.

The Belvidere department was aided by the county water truck, manned by four Hertford volunteers.

The farm had recently been sold at public auction to an Elizabeth City resident, Chappell said. A team of Hertford firemen had doubts about the cause of the fire when they investigated, and called in the sheriff's department.

"We know it's arson," said Sheriff Julian Broughton. But as of press time, the cause was still in the investigative stages and no suspect had been arrested.

In another matter, a Belvidere resident was charged with attempted



Little more than rubble was left after a deliberately-started fire raced through a

Belvidere farmhouse early Sunday morning.

murder Monday afternoon after several shotgun blasts were fired into a grocery store at close range.

Eugene Lamb is alleged to have fired into the Carson Winslow store in Belvidere in an attempt to kill his estranged wife Myrtle, who works as a clerk at the store, said Joe Lothian, Perquimans County deputy sheriff.

"We were called about a shooting and found that the right front plate glass window had been shot out, in a direct line

with the counter," Lothian said.

The suspect is alleged to have driven up to the store in his automobile, gotten out, fired a shot through the window from about 20 feet away, then fired two more shots into the door at point-blank range before driving away.

Lamb is currently being held in the Albemarle District Jail under \$25,000 bond on charges of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and shooting into an occupied store.

## 9 p.m.

## Halloween curfew urged

The Hertford Police Department is asking young spooks to get their trick-or-treating wound up early this year and be off the streets by 9 p.m. on Halloween night (Friday).

The request is in the interest of safety because of the number of activities scheduled in Hertford and the surrounding area Friday night.

Police chief Marshall Merritt said that the department has insufficient staff to patrol adequately, particularly with a home football game requiring the attentions of several officers.

There will also be a great deal of traffic in town when the football game is over, Merritt said.

The curfew request will be announced

at each of the Perquimans County Schools

Merritt also requests that trick-or-treaters wear bright costumes that are easily visible to motorists, and asks that parents check all treats their children bring home to insure that they are in the original wrapper.

## Major users will feel crunch of Hertford electrical rate hike

The Hertford Town Council's recent move to increase electrical rates by 15 percent, effective with the Dec. 1 billing, will have an effect on everybody's pocketbook.

It will generate an estimated \$95,886 for the town of Hertford, an amount that will do much to relieve a treasury suffering from budget deficits, over-spending, and a low cash flow.

Hertford Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox said the projected amount to be generated by the electrical rate increase was based on the amount of kilowatts sold in the town last year.

Although the 15 percent hike will have an impact on residential users and small businesses, the effect of the increase will be slight in comparison to that felt by the large users — businesses, the school system, and the county's lone factory, Don Juan Shirt Manufacturing Corporation.

Don Juan is the town's biggest general electric consumer. The plant's general manager, Stewart Anderson, estimated that the factory utilized 15 to 25 percent of the town's total electricity sales.

And while Anderson said the company would definitely feel the impact of the 15 percent increase in electrical rates, he also acknowledged that electricity was not one of the operation's major expenditures.

"Electricity is important, but it's not one of our major costs," said Anderson, adding that the bulk of their electric consumption went to heating and cooling. "The power needed to run the sewing

machines is not that great," he said, "but any cost increase doesn't make it easy."

If Don Juan's monthly usage were \$4,037.42 at the present rate, it would be \$4,641.28 with the 15 percent increase.

Anderson said the factory has already done much to conserve energy and would continue to implement conservation measures in the light of a 15 percent hike in electrical rates. "Naturally, you're going to stay at anything that costs more all the time," he said.

Citing some examples of Don Juan's energy-conserving tactics, Anderson pointed to the low-voltage control system installed on the factory's roof-top heating and cooling units, an addition that he said helped to monitor consumption. He said a trash room had also been built at the back of the building so that refuse could be emptied within the closed cubicle, thus eliminating the loss of heated or cooled air through open doors.

The increase in town electrical rates was a move Anderson said he felt the town had to take. "When running a business, it's got to be like any other business — you've got to make a profit," he said, "I feel it (the electrical increase) was the only thing they (the town council) could have done."

When asked whether or not he thought the electrical increase would discourage possible industrial development, Anderson said, "I don't think any one thing will discourage development, all things being equal."

"But there's no simple answer to that because a lot of things have to be looked

at. If you had an industry that relied heavily on electricity for operation, then I think it would discourage them," said Anderson.

Big Star Supermarket is another of the town's major electrical customers. Don Valencourt, Grand Union Vice President (the company which owns and operates all Big Star and Colonial Stores) in charge of corporate communication and consumer affairs, described the increase as "very dramatic."

"A 15 percent increase is very substantial," said Valencourt, adding "increases like that force the cost of utilities to become a cost of our business and ultimately the cost has to be passed on to the consumer."

Valencourt pointed out that grocery price increases were implemented "across the board," or absorbed by all Big Star Supermarkets, not carried by one particular store alone.

Utility rates, now a major cost concern for all consumers, have especially hit large grocery stores, according to Valencourt. "Within the last 18 months, we've seen a swing that shows electricity costs more than leasing our property," he said.

"It now costs us 1.5 percent of our total sales to pay for utilities," said Valencourt, "and renting our property only costs 1.3 percent of our total sales."

He said that as recently as three years ago, the company was only paying eight-tenths of 1 percent of total sales on electricity.

The Perquimans County School system

relies on the town for electricity in three of its four schools. Perquimans Union School, located just out of Winfall, is served directly by Virginia Electric and Power Company.

According to school superintendent Pat Harrell, only the newly-constructed high school addition utilizes electric heat, and added that it was zoned for heating and air conditioning. "All of our other buildings rely on fuel oil," he said.

Although Harrell indicated that he expected the school system's energy conservation measures to offset some of the electric rate increase, the actual effect of the rate hike could not be determined until after the first billing. "Once the increase is implemented and after the first month's operation, we may have to look at our budget," he said, adding that budgeted utility costs for the present year were based on projected cost estimates.

Of the \$108,000 in local money budgeted for the school system's use of utilities for the 1980-81 year, some \$35,000 is earmarked for electricity, according to Harrell, who added that state utility allocations totalled \$30,700, an amount which can be utilized for either fuel oil or electricity.

Harrell said that the only hope for further state allocations for utilities was "across the board."

"The only way to get additional state money (for utilities) is if they move to fund all school systems statewide," said Harrell.

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## 60 per cent turnout is expected for election

Some 60 per cent of Perquimans County's registered voters are expected to go to the polls Tuesday to cast their ballots in the 1980 Presidential Election, according to William Tilley, chairman of the Perquimans County Board of Elections.

Tilley said that because of the limited role of the Republican party in the county, interest is usually lower than in a primary election, which features more local races.

But because the President of the United States will be selected, it is expected that more county residents will exercise their franchise than would ordinarily be the case in a general election.

North Carolinians will be able to select from six different candidates and their running mates for President. The leading contenders are, of course, Democratic incumbent Jimmy Carter and his vice presidential candidate Walter Mondale, and Republican challenger Ronald Reagan and his running mate George Bush.

There are, however, a host of lesser-known candidates, including: Libertarian Ed Clark and his running mate David S. Koch; Citizens Party candidate Barry Commoner and his vice presidential candidate LaDonna Harris; Independent candidate John Anderson and his running mate Patrick J. Lucey; and Socialist Workers Party candidate Clifford DeBerry and his running mate Matilde Zimmerman.

The paper ballot for state officers, United States Senator and Congressman (First Congressional District) includes four gubernatorial candidates. They are: Democrat James B. Hunt, Jr.; Republican Beverly Lake; Libertarian Bobby Yates Emory, and; Socialists

Workers Party candidate Douglas A. Cooper.

Candidates for lieutenant governor are: Democrat James C. (Jimmy) Green; Republican William (Bill) Cobey, Jr., and; Libertarian Craig Franklin.

Candidates for secretary of state include Democrat Thad Eure and Republican David Flaherty, while Harlan E. Boyles faces no opposition in his quest for state treasurer.

The state auditor's race pits Edward Renfrow against James F. (Jim) McIntyre, and Democrat Rufus Edmisten is challenged by Republican Keith S. Snyder in the attorney general race.

James A. (Jim) Graham, a Democrat, is the sole candidate for commissioner of agriculture, but Democrat John Ingram faces competition from Edwin W. Tenney, Jr. in his bid for re-election as insurance commissioner.

John C. Brooks is running unopposed for re-election as commissioner of labor, and incumbent Craig Phillips is also unopposed in his bid for superintendent of public instruction.

Democrat Robert Morgan lines up against Republican John P. East, Libertarian F.W. (Rick) Pasotto and Socialist Workers Party candidate Rebecca Finch in his bid for re-election to the United States Senate.

But First District Congressional Candidate Walter B. Jones faces no obstacle in his bid for re-election to that long-held post.

Only one Republican is listed on the official ballot for state judicial officers. Robert R. Browning is matched against Democrat Willis P. Whichard, Jr. for judge of the N.C. Court of Appeals.

Other judicial candidates, running unopposed on the Democratic side of the ticket, include: Joseph Branch for chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court; J.P. (Phil) Carlton for associate justice of the N.C. Supreme Court; Cecil

J. Hill for judge of N.C. Court of Appeals; Hugh A. Wells for judge of N.C. Court of Appeals; James D. (Lew) Llewellyn for judge of Superior Court, eighth judicial district; Robert H. Hobgood for judge of Superior Court, ninth judicial district; James H. (Pou) Bailey for judge of Superior Court, tenth judicial district; William H. Helms for judge of Superior Court, twentieth judicial district; J.D. (Dave) DeRamus, Jr. for judge of Superior Court, twenty-first judicial district; Claude S. Sitton for judge of Superior Court, twenty-fifth judicial district; Robert E. Gaines for judge of Superior Court, twenty-seven A judicial district, and; Hollis M. Owens, Jr. for judge of Superior Court, twenty-ninth judicial district.

### Local races

The ballot for state senate, state house and county officials lists Democrats Melvin R. Daniels and J.J. (Monk) Harrington as unopposed candidates for state senate seats. Vernon G. James and Charles Douglas Evans are the Democratic candidates for two state house seats, and Walter W. Tucker is the Republican candidate.

Democrat Lester Simpson faces no opposition in his bid for re-election to a first district seat on the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners, but second district Democrats J.W. (Joe) Nowell and Charles H. Ward are challenged by Republican Wayne Winslow in a race for two seats.

Democrat Jeanne C. White is running unopposed in her bid for county register of deeds, and Elmer C. Lassiter is the only name on the ballot for soil and water conservation district supervisor.

Voters will also consider an amendment to the North Carolina Constitution that would require justices and judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Superior Court and District Court to be duly authorized to practice law prior to election or appointment.

## Recreation to benefit from haunted house

The American Legion Building will be converted into a spook house on Thursday (tonight) and Friday nights in a benefit for the Perquimans County Recreation Department.

The Perquimans County Jaycees recently elected to turn over all profits from their second annual haunted house as a show of support for recreation.

Admission to the haunted house is \$1 per person, and last year the project generated \$300. The money will be set aside for upgrading tennis courts in the town of Hertford, a project which will cost about \$1,500 according to recreation director Mac Sligh.

"We will gladly accept the money and will put it on hold while we try to contact other civic groups or any group or individual who would like to donate money for the upgrading of the tennis courts," said Sligh.

Court improvements are a high priority for the recreation department, Sligh said. He said that the courts are not paved beyond the

baseline, where much of the game of tennis is played.

Tennis players must slip and slide in the sand to go after longer shots, said Sligh.

"I see it as a high priority because the people do utilize them very much, year 'round," said Sligh.

He noted that many players go to Elizabeth City and Edenton to play because the courts in Hertford are inadequate, and that upgrading the courts will also contribute to the development of a tennis program in Perquimans County.

The twin courts are some 80 feet wide and must be extended some 15 feet on each end with two-inch-thick concrete, Sligh said.

He said that he is optimistic that funds will be found to begin the project by next spring. "I'm confident that we will be able to find money to improve the courts by the time tennis season rolls around again," said Sligh.