

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Title I funding slashed

The Perquimans County Board of Education officially acknowledged reductions in a federal program when it approved a \$55,000 cut in funding for remediation in county schools.

The \$285,587 budget the board adopted reflects an 18 percent cut in grant money for the county's Elementary and Secondary Education Act—Title I program, which is funded entirely by the federal government.

Budget reductions include: the closing of a reading lab at Hertford Grammar School (the school currently has two reading labs), saving \$25,238; the reduction of a lab teacher at Perquimans High School to 50 per cent funding, saving \$9,840; and; cutbacks in the working year for aides employed through the program from 10 months to nine months, a move that will save \$10,008.

Two support positions were trimmed, including a 50 per cent reduction in Title I funding for a coordinator-evaluator, and the reduction of the working year for a community service aide/parent advisory committee coordinator to 10 months. The board, however, hopes to pick up cuts in those two positions from other sources.

County Title I director Morris Kornegay acknowledged that the funding cuts would hurt. "Any time you have to cut back on good people it's going to have an effect," said Kornegay.

Students in grades one through 10 who score in the 49th percentile and below on standardized testing in reading and math are eligible for the program, but the cutbacks will mean that students in the upper ranges, who are near average, will no longer be served, Kornegay said.

"We will no longer be able to serve the kids who need a little boost to really take

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## Checking out the winners

Walter Edwards (left) and Michael Jasielum check out the winning entries in an art contest sponsored by the

Perquimans County Recreation Department. The portrait of Jimmy Hendrix won first place in the seventh,

through ninth grades category, and the contest drew more than 90 entries from county youths.

## King Street rehabilitation project rejected

The town of Hertford's plans to extend revitalization efforts in the King Street area have been postponed.

Hertford Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox told councilmen at their monthly meeting Monday that an application for some \$1 million dollars in grant money had been turned down by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, which also funded the initial rehabilitation efforts under the Community Block Grant program.

Cox said that the present project had not been completed at the time of pre-

application, and that HUD officials had since told him that completion of any previous work was a prerequisite to additional funding. The town will apply for the grant again next January.

In other business, council members were offered another option to the as yet unsolved dilemma at the town ice plant, which has been closed since the first of the year due to a faulty compressor. Repair of the existing machinery is estimated at some \$8,000.

Hertford resident Jim Rose appeared before the group with a \$5,600 proposal to

get the ice plant back into operation. His proposal included the purchase of two used compressors at \$800, freight, installation, and a \$1,000 finder's fee. Rose said he would promise a 10-day guarantee that the compressors would work.

Although the council has also been considering converting the plant into a crushed-ice only operation at a cost of between \$18,000 and \$40,000, Rose argued that block ice was actually a better selling point.

"Selling block ice brings people into

## Cash questions stall budget

Uncertainties over federal and state contributions are holding up the local budget making process, and are almost certain to sting local programs, according to comments made at a Monday morning meeting of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners.

County social services director Paul Gregory said he is playing wait and see with his department's budget, pending final decisions on the federal level.

Finance officer D.F. Reed, Jr., who actually prepares the county's budget document, said he too is being held up by uncertainties over just how much money is going to be available for some programs the county participates in.

He said that figures such as maintenance and energy costs would not be affected. "On the other things I'm just going to kind of wait until the last minute," Reed said.

Some figures are known already, though. The county's share of a landfill operated jointly with Chowan County will be \$90,000, up \$10,000 over last year, according to commissioner Lester

Simpson. The increase is needed for a new truck, he said.

Simpson also acknowledged that the district health department has been able to hold the line on its budget through a moratorium on replacing employees who have either retired or quit. "Their budget comes through hurting in some categories," said Simpson. "They're losing five employees."

Reed recommended establishing budgeting priorities, and holding off on expanding, or initiating new programs. "Don't get in such a close bind that you can't maneuver out of it," Reed said.

One area in which the county is moving ahead, though, is in its water system. Reed said the system is doing well financially, and a lengthy discussion was dedicated to gearing up for Phase II.

The board discussed locating three wells and a treatment plant on county property near Winfall, a move that could save a considerable sum in land cost.

Wayne Floyd, a technician with Rivers and Associate, engineers for the water system, will look the land over to see if it

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## County residents lobby legislature on schools

North Carolina legislators got a schooling in the needs of public education on a special rallying day in Raleigh last Thursday.

Some 1,400 educators and concerned citizens from every school district in the state poured into the state capital in an expression of support for public education, which is facing massive cuts on the federal level, and has been threatened with substantial cuts on the state level.

Among them was a contingent of 13 from Perquimans County.

The group received assurances from lawmakers and Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. that education is a top priority in the state and that any cuts would be minor.

The rally, called "Public Education Day," was organized by the Alliance for Public Education, a recently formed lobbying coalition made up of four statewide professional associations.

A morning agenda included remarks from Clifford Winslow, chairman of the Perquimans County Board of Education.

Winslow, who is also past president of the N.C. School Boards Association, offered a statement of purpose for the alliance, which also includes the N.C. Congress of Parents and Teachers, the N.C. Association of School Administrators, and the N.C. Association of School Office Personnel.

Winslow said the alliance has a short

history but is off to a "fine start." He said that joining together for a common cause is, "a tried and true concept and the underlying principle of citizen government in our country."

The common concern of the alliance is, "the interests of children," Winslow said.

Governor Hunt was the key speaker in the morning session at the Raleigh Civic Center. Hunt said that as governor he has seen the need for local lay leadership, in addition to salaried professionals, to press for whatever is needed to provide the best public education possible for children.

"I believe the General Assembly will respect the advice and recommendations coming from this kind of group," Hunt said.

The alliance had prepared a 10-point legislative program and Hunt said that many items were the same recommendations he had made to the General Assembly.

He said that he considered spending for education as an investment in the future. "I'm convinced that our greatest needs are good jobs and good schools," Hunt said, maintaining that good jobs cannot be provided in the state without a well educated workforce.

Hunt found his strongest area of mutual agreement with the alliance in reducing class size.

The governor's, "new great goal in

education in the state is helping every single child in the state to graduate from a public high school."

He said his current focus is on reducing class size in the middle grades and in junior high and high school.

In grades four through six, Hunt wants to reduce class size from 30 to 26 over the next two years. He also wants to reduce the daily contacts for teachers of math and reading and language arts from 150 students to 140 students.

Hunt accused Tar Heel newspaper editors of "picking at" his administration because many of them have maintained that the size of reductions he is backing are not sufficient to have an impact on student performance.

"The way you get there is by starting somewhere," said Hunt.

He said the class-size reductions would, "give more individual attention to helping every single child learn."

Hunt said he hopes to be able to characterize the coming year's budget for education as, "lean and progressive."

Legislators from education budgeting committees of both the N.C. House and the N.C. Senate assured the group that state cuts to education would be minimal.

The group was given handouts that had education budget cuts broken down into three categories, according to priority.

First priority items included .11 per-

cent of the total state budget for education in 1981-1982, and .115 percent in 1982-1983. Representative G. Malcom Fulcher told the group that cuts would probably not go past category one.

Total potential cuts in all three categories, however, came to about six percent for each of the two years.

Joe Webb, special assistant for federal relations at the Department of Public Instruction, provided a less optimistic federal budget picture.

Though federal aid represents only 12 percent of total expenditures for education in North Carolina, Webb said the largest total reductions will come from the federal level.

Besides future cuts, the president is attempting to rescind funds already approved, said Webb. He said that 4,000 positions in North Carolina are threatened, mostly teachers and aids, but also guidance counselors, social workers and others.

Webb said the proposed cuts would, in fact, hurt the "truly needy," and would hit the school lunch program, the disadvantaged, and destroy the planning process.

He said he wasn't sure that a Reagan administration "block grant" proposal would really provide more local control.

Although, Reagan's proposed cuts to education represent only 10 percent of total federal allocations, they would cut the federal contribution to North

Carolina by 34 percent. "Does education in North Carolina deserve a 34 percent cut from the federal level?," Webb asked.

The administration has also backed tuition tax credits for enrolling students in private schools, and Webb expressed confusion over that move. "It would reduce treasury dollars more than the proposed cuts in education," he said.

Lieutenant governor Jimmy C. Green was a post-luncheon speaker, and again stressed the high priority of education in state government. Green also promised a simplified allocation process and more local autonomy for school boards.

The final speaker was Dr. Craig Phillips, state superintendent of the schools. "Never has there been a more important moment in the history of public education in this state," said Phillips.

He stressed the importance of meeting budget restrictions in a positive fashion, calling the process "retrenchment."

From there, delegations from several Eastern counties crowded into room 1229 of the state legislature building to meet with legislators from their home districts.

Senators Charles Evans and Melvin Daniels, as well as representative Vernon James were among those who fielded questions on education.

All of the elected officials expressed support for a statewide school facilities bond referendum, and James was the only representative who espoused the possibility of a six percent state budget cut for education.

Evans countered that, "Only if it gets real bad will we go beyond priority one."

David Green, superintendent of the Hertford County Schools, asked why legislators had outlined six percent in total cuts for education in the state in the first place. "If it's to protect the highways of this state I wish someone would have the guts to say so," said Green, in reference to a rumor that other agencies and departments would be cut to create more funds for the financially strapped Department of Transportation.

Finding more funds from other areas would prevent an increase in the state gasoline tax.

But both Evans and James assured the group that outlining the budget cuts was done not because of highways, but because of the uncertainties of federal contributions to the state in several areas.

One Perquimans County delegate seemed to express the concerns of the entire group, and drew a round of applause when he said, "Any cut in education is beginning to eat our seed-corn."

### This week

•The senior center is looking for participants to help put on a spring extravaganza — see page 5

•A play depicting an Albemarle resident's pioneering westward migration with the ill-fated Donner Party is coming to Elizabeth City — see page 5

•A trackless bunch of athletes keep making strides — see page 6

### Weather word

Scattered showers Thursday and Friday, fair Saturday. Highs upper 60s to low 70s, lows mid-40s to low 50s

## Special Olympics set Wednesday, April 15

Weeks of training and hard work will culminate Wednesday, April 15, when some 100 of Perquimans County's exceptional children participate in the annual Special Olympics, set at Central Grammar School in Winfall.

Students 6 to 19 years of age will compete in levels divided by age, sex, and ability in such events as the softball and frisbee toss, standing broad jump, and 50 and 200 meter runs.

While ribbons will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners, nobody actually loses in the local competition. "Everybody comes out a winner," said Kathy Tant, county coordinator of the local Olympics, who serves as an EMH and LD resource teacher at Central Grammar.

The feeling of being a winner is especially needed by many exceptional children, according to Mrs. Tant. "A lot of the time, these students hear 'you can't do it Johnny.' But this is a time when Johnny sees that he actually can," she said.

Kathy Ansink, a TMH teacher at Perquimans County High School, also considers the event a way to give students a feeling of self worth. "These kids are often left out in the regular physical education classes, but the Special Olympics shows them that they can excel," said Ms. Ansink, who added, "It makes them feel like they are special."

Volunteers from throughout the community are expected to be on hand to help with the field events, which will be

directed by Billy Stallings, to serve as "huggers," and also serve refreshments.

Former Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Johnny Walton, who is presently athletic director at Elizabeth City State University, is expected to serve as master of ceremonies.

Winners of the local event will go to the regional competition May 2 at Northeastern High School in Elizabeth City. The state-level event will be in Charlotte.

One of the largest sports training and sports competition events held in the United States, the Special Olympics serve approximately 18,000 students in North Carolina and over 1 million in the nation.

The games were created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation in 1968.

My name is Carlton Mallory.  
I am 13 years old.  
I am going to be in  
the Special Olympics.  
Please come see me with love, Carlton