

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Schools present local budget to commissioners

By MIKE McLAUGHLIN

School officials presented a 1981-1982 fiscal year budget calling for an 8.87 percent increase in spending from local tax dollars to the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners Monday night.

The budget actually calls for spending increases of some 13 percent, with the remainder coming from other sources of revenue.

"I think we've put together a good budget, one that is not exorbitant, and that the county can live with and we can live with," said school board chairman Clifford Winslow.

Following a presentation by school superintendent Pat Harrell, there was little comment from the commissioners. Noting the importance of children, board chairman Joe Nowell promised that the commissioners would "be very considerate" of the school board's request.

"We're really in a bad position," said commissioner Lester Simpson. "The federal government is cutting and the state is cutting and it looks like we're going to have to go up."

Harrell said there were no local replacement dollars in the budget for cuts made by the federal government, which total \$165,206 and include eight jobs.

From county property tax revenue, the schools are seeking \$601,200 on the current expense side of the budget, up from the present year's \$571,200, and \$85,400 in capital outlay expenditures, up

from the present year's \$71,400.

Total allocation from tax dollars would be \$699,600, up from the present year's \$642,600. The total local budget would be \$1,066,551.

Harrell has consistently labeled the current expense side of the ledger as "hold the line."

Energy costs will be up significantly, with electricity increasing from \$35,000 to \$52,000, and fuel oil rising from \$65,000 to \$81,000.

Gasoline costs will also be up.

In response to a question from a commissioner, Harrell said that salary increases included in the budget are 10 percent for professional personnel (5 percent step increase, 5 percent salary increase), and 5 percent for "non-certificated" personnel. Salary figures used in the budget were based on state recommendations.

Harrell produced figures that show the county's support for public education has been increasing over the past several years in relation to that of neighboring counties.

In comparison Chowan, Gates, and Pasquotank Counties, Perquimans was third in percentage of local resources expended for current expense, last in percentage of resources allocated for capital outlay, and last in percentage of local resources expended for education.

By 1979, the last year for which figures were available, Perquimans was third in current expense, but had climbed all the

way to first in capital outlay and local resources budgeted for education.

The capital outlay budget, which totals \$180,400, includes major renovations to buildings and facilities that require contract, and some equipment purchases.

Window replacement at Perquimans Union and Perquimans County High School, and extensive repairs to the King Street building at the high school are some of the major items included in the budget.

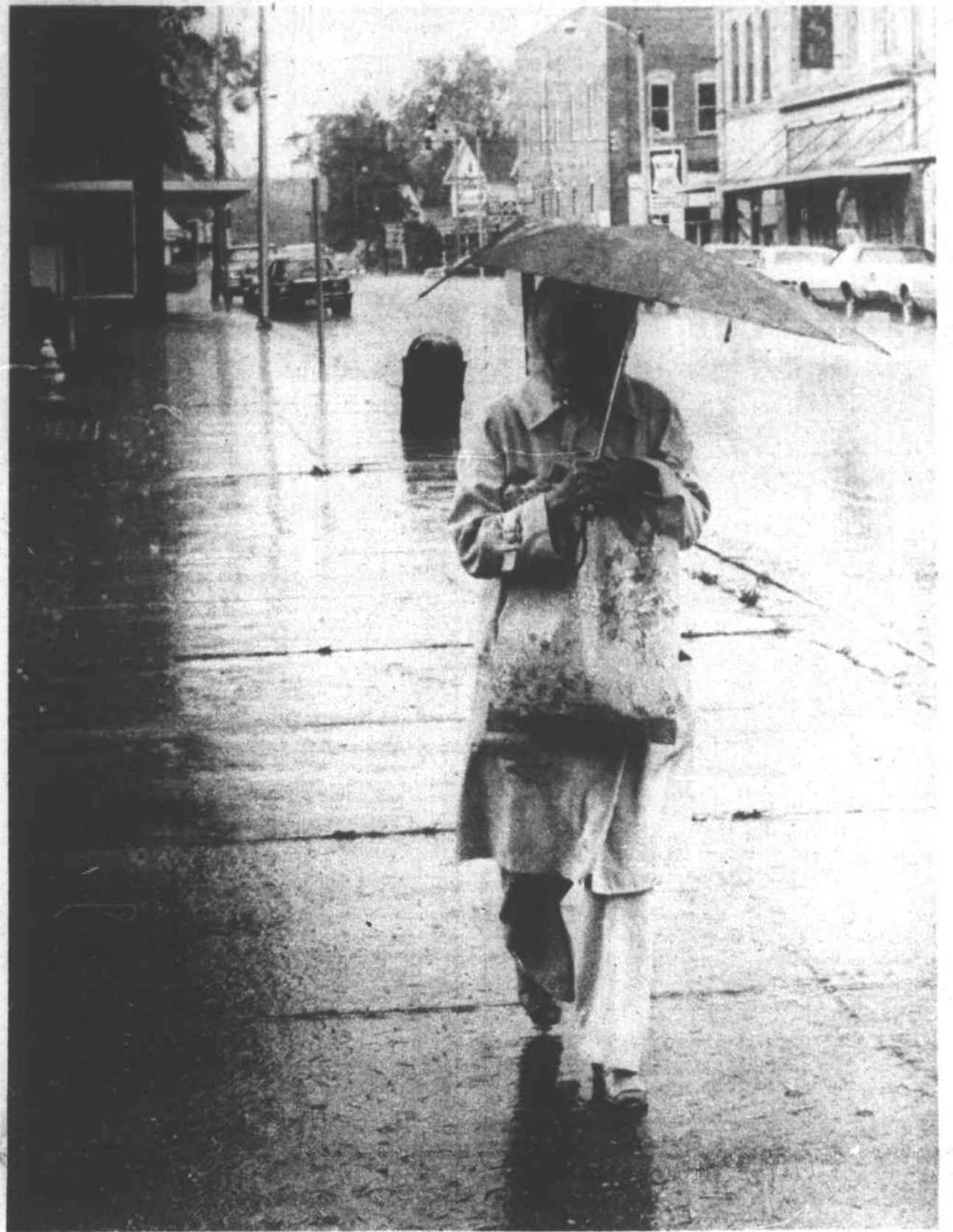
It also includes a \$22,000 allocation for a new bus, and \$6,500 for bleachers for the high school football field.

In a budget-related matter, Lloyd "Flutch" Dail sought a raise in per-meeting pay for school board members. "I think my time at night is just as valuable as yours," said Dail. "I don't think I'm begging for any of these board members for any more money, but it's just a matter of being treated fairly."

The board of education meets twice a month with an occasional special meeting, just as the commissioners do. Board of education members receive \$25 per meeting, whereas the commissioners receive \$30.

No action was taken on Dail's proposal.

The commissioners had begun the meeting with a public hearing on how to dispose of \$193,600 in revenue sharing funds, but no citizens were in attendance. The only request for revenue sharing funds came from the board of education.



### Rain!

Mrs. Hannah Holmes, of Hertford, was one of the few who ventured out during

one of Monday's several showers. Rain fell on and off throughout the day, much

to the relief of farmers and garden enthusiasts.

## Winfall water may cost more

Water rates in Winfall will more than likely increase with the next fiscal year, beginning July 1.

In a budget discussion at their regular monthly meeting Monday, Winfall councilmen agreed that water rates needed to increase. "Salt and chlorine and labor is up so high, we're going to have to go up," said Winfall Mayor Lloyd Ray Morgan, who suggested initiating an increase in July, and another one in six months.

The council moved to discuss the

measure further at a specially called meeting next Monday at 7 p.m. at the town water department. At that time, the council will hear from representatives of Compass Corporation, a cable television franchise seeking contract approval from the Town of Winfall. Town attorney Walter Edwards, Jr., is also expected to appear before the council next Monday night with a draft of revised city ordinances.

In other business, the council agreed to purchase a door for \$125 and brick the

end of the meeting room for a price of \$125. At present, there is a garage-type door at one end of the room.

The council also agreed to mow vacant lots in the town at a cost of \$20 per hour, with a \$10 minimum charge.

It was announced that the town was now in business to sell raw water to area farmers in bulk quantities at a price of \$1 per 1,000 gallons. Morgan asked that those intending to buy water first call the water department to make sure someone was there to operate the pumps.

## The Civil War as seen by a Confederate private

A handful of Perquimans County residents got caught in a time warp Friday morning and wound up talking with a private fighting in the Civil War.

Some of what he said was a little bit surprising, out of step with the popular notions of the war that have marched down through the ages.

What actually transpired was a first person account of a Civil War private as portrayed by Mike Johnson, living history consultant for the state of North Carolina and director of the Edenton Recreation Department.

Speaking in a southern drawl that may not have been affected, Johnson began his presentation at the Perquimans County Senior Center with a foot soldier's reflections on how the war effort was going in 1864.

He depicted a private in Company M, known as the Chowan Dixie Rebels and composed mostly of Chowan and Perquimans County residents.

The volunteer was tickled about the

rammer C.S.S. Albemarle's role in recapturing Plymouth, and marveled at the little Yankee "Cheesebox" the Monitor and its efforts against the Confederate ironclad Merrimac.

Johnson didn't wear a stitch of gray, and said that his garb was authentic. "War is not as glorious and glamorous as it starts off to be," he said. Parading off to war to the accompaniment of big bands, some soldiers carried as much as 175 pounds of equipment on their backs. Folding chairs and camp lights were among the items they toted with them when they set out to serve the cause.

But soon they honed their personal effects down to the essentials of fighting... and surviving, Johnson said. Manufactured supplies dwindled early in the war effort, and fancy uniform frills were among the first to go.

Everything became functional and much was homemade, Johnson said.

For instance, Johnson wore no tiny little Confederate cap. Soldiers found the

caps virtually useless because they wouldn't keep the rain from running down a soldier's back, he said.

The rimmed brown hat Johnson wore was called a slouch hat, and looked a little more on the western side. It could be used for watering a horse, drinking, or even as a pillow.

His homespun wool jacket was so prevalent among Confederate soldiers that it earned them the title, "Butternuts," because of its color, Johnson said.

Wives and mothers made the jackets and dyed them in walnut hulls, and though it was unintended, the color of the jackets provided good camouflage. Johnson recalled reading in one Union soldier's diary, "Them Rebs ain't playing fair. They get in the woods and start shooting at us and we can't see who's killing us."

Johnson had his powder blue pants tucked in his wool socks for a very practical reason, to keep the red bugs

out. His black brogans had horseshoes on the heels to keep them from wearing out with the incessant walking.

Soldiers did carry Bibles in their breast pockets and there is indeed a Bible in the Gettysburg Museum that has a bullet imbedded in it, but the books weren't carried as chest protectors. The soldiers read them. There were mass revivals, and the soldier was probably more religious than the average person, Johnson said. "After he'd been in battle if he didn't already have religion he'd get it pretty quick," he said.

A small white haversack held the soldier's more personal items. It included a deck of cards with no numbers on it, because many Confederate soldiers weren't educated enough to know Arabic numbers. They recognized the cards by their symbols.

The sack also contained a reproduction of a Civil War newspaper. "A lot of the Confederate soldiers could not read," Johnson said. "I'm fortunate. I

graduated clean through the third grade so I could make a lot of that out."

A wallet containing 12 Confederate dollars was part of the haversack's stash, pay for an entire month's work.

The haversack would also carry the soldier's daily ration, which Johnson said consisted of four hard-tack biscuits and a little salt pork. The Confederate troops did not eat nearly so well as the Union soldiers and were often hungry. Foraging was less an option for them because most of the fighting was done on their home soil, Johnson said.

His rifled musket was a "deadly weapon," accurate from 600 yards, but it had its drawbacks. The rifle required nine motions of the hand to load and prime, he said, and the soldier had to stand upright while preparing his gun to shoot.

"The manual said a good soldier could get off three shots a minute," Johnson said.

But that was under ideal conditions, he

said, and the soldier loading his gun made an excellent target. Some comfort could be taken, though, in the fact that, "both sides were at an equal disadvantage."

Johnson described camp sanitation as "disgraceful," saying that an encampment of 40 to 50 thousand soldiers would foul one area, then move on to another.

The lack of sanitation was evidenced by the fact that more soldiers died of disease than of wounds, he said.

A member of the First North Carolina Volunteers, Johnson said his interest in the Civil War was planted by a great great-grandfather who watched from a Union prison on the Rip Raps as the Monitor and the Merrimac battled. Stories were handed down and a passion for Civil War history developed.

The Volunteers will garrison at Fort Macon near Atlantic Beach June 5 and 6 in a living demonstration of how the soldiers lived.

## Firemen get a lesson in safe driving

Some 95 persons feasted on a fish fry prepared by county firemen in a quar-

terly meeting of the Albemarle Firemen's Association held last Tuesday night at the Hertford fire station.

Sergeant Glen Swanson of the North Carolina Highway Patrol was the featured speaker for the evening. Swanson spoke on various laws relating to emergency vehicle operation, as well as on the safe operation of a firetruck in an emergency situation.

The patrolman warned officers that even though they were legally allowed to disregard traffic laws when responding to an emergency situation, they could not do so in careless and reckless fashion. He said the driver should see that no cars are coming before running through a red light or disregarding a stop sign.

"Don't go through a red light unless you see you can make it," said Swanson.

In another legal matter, Swanson said that North Carolina's "Good Samaritan law," which protects those who help accident victims or others in emergency situations, does not apply to volunteer or professional firemen.

He said the N.C. Attorney General's office has ruled that because the volunteer or professional has asked to be in the position he is in and has received

training, he is excluded from protection by the law.

Swanson also said that the fire department chief and an assistant chief could have sirens on their personal cars, and that these cars become emergency vehicles when lights and sirens are in use.

(Continued on page 2)

## Lots for sale in redevelopment area

The Town of Hertford is presently advertising the sale of lots within the King Street community development area.

Ranging in price from \$3,300 to \$6,300, some 3 lots are presently for sale; with the sale of two remaining lots pending situation of a mobile home.

The Bradford Corporation, a construction firm out of Elizabeth City, has already purchased three lots and intends

to build a 10-unit apartment complex. Hertford Mayor and Manager Bill Cox said the firm has built units in Elizabeth City out of natural wood, and that rent will more than likely be subsidized or adjusted to income level.

The redevelopment area is zoned residential-4, which requires each lot to be at least 6,000 square feet, and allows multiple and single family dwellings, as well as mobile homes.

Road layout and site improvement have yet to be completed, according to Cox, who said that street layout and site preparation (drainage, and water and sewer lines) would be completed with proceeds from lot sales.

One remaining structure, located on Brace Street, has yet to be demolished. Initiated some three years ago, the some \$450,000 redevelopment project was funded under the Community Block

Grant program of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The area involves the south side of Gum Street, properties facing Covent Gardens, and all of Brace Street.

Although the town had hoped to extend rehabilitation within the King Street area, funding was refused because present efforts were incomplete. The town plans to re-apply for grant monies next year.

### This week

Elmer and Ibbie Lamb were married 65 years ago and they're still going strong — see page 3.

The Perquimans County High School track team got behind in the field events, but came back to run away with the Albemarle 2-A conference meet last Wednesday, and they did it with only 13 team members — see page 7.

Resource Conservation and Development helps counties like ours to help themselves — see page 8.

### Weather word

Chance of showers Thursday, ending late Friday, then fair weather Saturday. Highs in the low 70s, lows in the 50s.

