

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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20 CENTS



Several area children have a good time playing some mysterious form of tag during the Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Department's "Friday in the Park" program.

## County adopts 1981-82 budget

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners adopted the county's \$2.776 million budget for 1981-82 at a special meeting Wednesday of last week.

The Board passed the budget with one dissenting vote, that of Commissioner Lester Simpson, who explained later that he disagreed with the county's appropriation to the Parks and Recreation Department.

"I was a part of trying to get the budget reduced," he said. "We asked Social Services to cut back, we asked the schools to cut to the bare minimum. Then we raised the recreation department's funding by fifty percent."

"I just don't think we treated the other departments fairly. The county could have done away with it (recreation) if it had to. I don't think the people out in the county benefit from it. It's all centered in town."

Chairman Joe Nowell said after the meeting that he believed the county had made an obligation to increase its share of the recreation department's funding.

"Some months ago, we had made a verbal commitment to the town of Hertford. At one time, Hertford wasn't going to pay anything (as a contribution to the recreation department), and later

they agreed that they would give \$10,000 if we gave \$30,000.

The recreation department's \$51,000 budget is funded jointly by the county and the town of Hertford, along with fees generated by the department. Last year the two governments split the money equally.

The approved budget was essentially the same one tentatively agreed to earlier in June. It calls for a tax of \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed property value. This is the same tax rate as last year.

The tax will generate \$1,219,000 of the revenue needed, the rest coming largely from fees, interest on investments, and unencumbered balance forwarded from last year.

The county will get a bigger boost from revenues other than taxes this year. This year, about 56.09 percent of the county revenues will come from revenues other than taxes, up from 52.26 percent last year.

Several amendments added to the tentative budget would shuffle \$7700 in the general fund. Most of that money went to the Sheriff's Department for travel, repairs and supplies, and most of it came from money originally ap-

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## Hertford approves budget, raises tax ten cents

The Hertford Town Council adopted their 1981-82 budget, calling for a 13.3 percent increase in taxes, at a meeting held Wednesday of last week.

The increase is the town's first in 12 years, boosting the tax from 65 to 75 cents per \$100 of assessed property value.

The council passed the budget with one vote, Councilman Jesse Harris', in opposition. Harris shouted repeatedly during the meeting that the town's meter reader had resigned, suggesting that

those duties be taken up by others on the town payroll, without hiring a new meter reader. This, Harris believed, would save the town \$3,600.

Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox tried to explain to Harris that if the town didn't hire a meter reader, those duties would have to be performed by professional, higher-paid personnel. This not only would take time away from their duties, he said, but would cost the town more money.

Cox added that the town would be "hard-pressed to operate with it (the increase). It's almost impossible to cut the budget further with things as they are with inflation."

The approved budget is the same one tentatively approved earlier in the month. It calls for \$451,213 in anticipated revenues, down almost \$22,000 from last year. Increases in appropriations for administration, police, fire, sanitation and inspection departments are ac-

counted for largely by salary increases and higher fuel and supply costs.

Decreases are in the Powell Bill fund, the Cemetery Department, non-departmental costs and the contribution for recreation.

In other action, the council opened bids from four insurance companies for the contract to insure the town. The insurance will cover property and buildings, comprehensive liability, workmen's compensation, auto liability and

damage, and an umbrella coverage.

The four companies who entered bids were Johnson-White, Twiddy, Nationwide and Cliff-Ward. The council had also received a bid from the League of Municipalities that would cover only workmen's compensation.

In a special session Monday afternoon, the council voted to accept the League of Municipalities bid for the workmen's compensation coverage, and except

Johnson-White's bid for the other four coverages.

The League of Municipalities' bid was \$7,384, almost \$1,000 less than the other companies had offered. Johnson-White's bid was \$8,202 for the other four coverages.

Mayor Cox was pleased with the outcome of the bidding, saying that the town had better coverage this year for less money than in previous years.

## Jaycees throw a Fourth fest

The Perquimans County Jaycees invite residents to celebrate Independence Day at their annual Fourth of July Festival at Perquimans County High School.

The festivities begin at 1 p.m. with bingo, horseshoes, football throw, and a dunking booth. The program will end at 9 p.m. with a fireworks display entitled "Fourth of July in the Sky."

During the day, the program will alternate between activities for children beginning on the hour, and those for adults beginning on the half hour. At 2 p.m., there will be a balloon throw for the kids, followed at 2:30 by a mummy wrap for the grownup kids.

A crab walk race will start at 3, and at 3:30 there is a sack race. At 4 the kids will have a sack race, followed at 4:30 by a wheelbarrow race for older

crowd. The egg throw for tykes starts at 5, and the adults get into it at 5:30.

The Carolina Good Ole Boys have donated an hour and a half of their musical talents from 6 to 7:30. A pie and cake auction starts at 7:30, followed at 8 by a pie throwing auction.

At 8:30, there will be a drawing to determine the winner of the \$100, \$50 and \$25 prizes Jaycees raffle, the proceeds of which will go toward paying for the fireworks. Tickets are one dollar, and can be purchased from the Jaycees up until a half hour before the drawing.

At 8:45, there will be a county-wide church service, followed at 9 by the fireworks. A concession stand will be open all day, and the proceeds from it will go toward the fireworks.

## Hertford adopts new land use policy

The Hertford Town Council approved Wednesday of last week a town land use plan which, among other things, showed that the town is in most respects ripe for future development.

The plan, conducted by planning consultant Howard T. Capps of Elizabeth City, was authorized in response to the state's Coastal Management Act, which established a cooperative program among coastal counties in North Carolina for proper development of coastal resources.

The plan explains that though Hertford's population has remained about the same since 1910 — about 2,000 people — the town has the capacity for increased industrial development in the years ahead.

In his summary of the plan, Capps said that there was excess capacity available in the town schools, roads and water treatment facilities. There is also land available with soil suitable for building, particularly along Grubb Street extended and just west of the town limits.

In addition, because of the opening of the Newbold-White house this week, the town will also have some historic heritage in which to attract tourism.

The only drawback to the town's growth potential is that the sewage treatment facilities are now running at capacity.

Capps went on to say that although the population of the county has increased and will in all likelihood continue to, Hertford's population will probably remain stable for the next ten years.

The land use plan also updates land use changes in the town since the last plan was presented in 1976. Those changes include redevelopment of blighted areas, and new residential areas on Gaston and Arctic Drives.

The plan recommended that the council continue to work with the county and the state to promote industrial development in the area, with the condition that proper zoning be used and fragile environments along the Perquimans River be protected.

## School Board holds workshop, meeting

The Perquimans County Board of Education held a workshop Monday with members of the North Carolina School Board Association.

After the workshop, a the Board held a meeting in which Ed Dunlop, assistant executive director of the NCSBA, gave a legislative update on what the state had done concerning school administration.

After the update, the Board gave student releases to two area students who wish to attend other county schools. Then the Board discussed diploma alternatives for 16 and 17 year olds which

is being considered by the State Board of Education.

The Board also approved two budget amendments to shift funds within the school budget, and approved the appointment of Deborah Coates to the art program at PCHS.

The Board also discussed the statewide teacher evaluation, and in another personnel move, approved a \$500 contract for artist Frans Van-Barrs to complete a mural at Perquimans Union.

In other action, the Board approved a motion to begin a survey of county

schools to see which are eligible for the state's new replacement Insurance Option, in which certain school buildings can now be insured for the replacement cost rather than their actual value.

Also discussed were the School Leader Liability insurance, funds for a new activities bus, and several capital outlay projects, including window replacement, energy conservation projects, and bathroom renovations.

The Board will not meet on July 6. Pat Harrell, school superintendent, will attend a Summer Superintendent's Conference in Wilmington.

## This week Weather word

Chance of showers or thundershowers Thursday, fair Friday, then a chance of showers again Saturday. Highs will average in the 60s.



## Avalanche kills former resident

A former Hertford resident was killed Sunday of last week in an avalanche in Washington state while mountain climbing.

Henry "Whit" Matthews, 39, of Auburn, Wash. died along with 10 others when an avalanche descended on his climbing party of 29 while resting on the slope of Mount Rainier in Washington.

Matthews, who worked for the state government in Auburn, was born in Hertford and lived here until he was in the sixth grade.

He attended the College of the Albemarle and transferred to Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., where he earned a degree in history education in 1967 and a master's degree in 1975.

He taught at Wilson and Churchill high schools in Portsmouth, Va. for six and a half years, then worked as a substitute teacher in Reston, Va. before moving to Auburn.

He married Linda Easie, a French teacher at Wilson, in March, 1970.

Matthews had attempted Mount Rainier on two previous occasions, but weather and altitude sickness forced him to turn back. He had planned a climbing trip in Peru later this year.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his mother, Cassie Matthews, of Portsmouth; a sister, Lillian Young, of Richmond, Va. and two aunts, Elma Leicester and Lucille Jackson, both of Hertford.

## Fire destroys New Hope home

It was a case of the best laid plans of mice and men. It seems as if when we try to take every precaution, it all backfires on us.

A fire destroyed a trailer in New Hope on Monday of last week. According to officials of the Durant's Neck fire department, the fire was started by, of all things, a smoke detector. As far as officials can reckon, a spark from the detector started the blaze.

The owner of the trailer, Leonard R. Garris, was away at the time. The fire

was reported by a passerby. Firemen from both the Durant's Neck department and the Inter-county department in Woodville responded to the call at about 6:10 that evening, but the call was too late to save the trailer.

Fire department officials estimate the cost of the damage to be roughly \$10,000 for the trailer plus an undetermined amount for the contents, which was believed to include some antiques. The officials added that Garris, fortunately, is insured.

## Area offices take a holiday for Fourth

All Perquimans County and Hertford town administrative offices will be closed Monday, July 6, to observe Independence Day. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday.

The Perquimans County Library will be closed July 4, and will be open

a half day, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on July 6.

The regular Monday meetings of the Hertford Town Council and the Perquimans Board of Commissioners, originally scheduled for July 6, will be held Tuesday, July 7, at their usual time.