

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 37, No. 310

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, AUGUST 6, 1981

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Commissioners hold up flood insurance approval

"The feds have got you between a rock and a hard place," the Perquimans county commissioners were told Monday when Keith Painter, state representative for flood insurance, returned to seek once more their acquiescence and approval for the federal flood insurance program based on a controversial map showing the county as a flood prone area. Surrounding counties have accepted the program "while not liking the map any more than you do."

"Why do you need our approval for a citizen to purchase flood insurance?" queried Lester Simpson, acting chairman in the absence of Joseph Nowell.

Tied into the program is the issuing of building permits, requiring a resolution by the board approving the program before permits may be issued and flood insurance obtained by the builder. Also, before building permits may be issued, the builder must be informed he is in a flood prone area and must elevate the structure above the 100 year flood level as

shown on the current and official flood map.

Citing the grip the "feds have placed on compliance," Painter further informed the commissioners that "no federal agency - not the Veterans Administration or FHA - can make a loan to a builder" without the formal approval of the local government. "Nor will any federal bank - any bank related to federal funds - make any home loans," he said.

"Farmers Home Administration has been making loans all over the place," Commissioner Marvin Caddy stated. "Not any more," Commissioner John Ward responded, later calling on the board to talk to local bankers to discover the serious consequences of failure by the board to go along with the insurance program. "What the feds are saying is 'we have you between a rock and a hard place.' If you are not going to make flood insurance available to people in your area, we are not going to make funds available to them," Painter said.

If a county is in the flood insurance program, individuals can appeal and be reimbursed his first year's flood insurance premium should he provide valid evidence.

The county also may appeal the controversial map, but it would be costly, requiring formal studies and surveys, Painter said and urged the board to accept the map to obtain the advantages for home builders. In Perquimans County flood zoning is based on storm surge, rather than precipitation, and it was conceded by Painter and the board there would be few revisions in a new map.

Board attorney John Matthews asked if it would be appropriate for a resolution indicating the willingness of the board to participate in the program and to go by the maps, but with a preliminary statement saying, "Although the commissioners feel the maps are flawed and

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County Commissioners, above, weigh the advantages and disadvantages of giving into the federal Tax Insurance Program,

based on a map showing the to be largely flood prone based on a 100 year history. Standing, left, to make his point is

Commissioner Lester Simpson, (moving right) W. W. White, Marvin Caddy, and Paul Ward.

Town board may protest Governor's liquor tax

Hertford and other municipalities will experience a decrease in revenue with "the governor's 28 percent tax increase" on alcoholic beverages sold in North Carolina, Cecil Winslow, local ABC board chairman, warned the Hertford town board Monday night.

Winslow, who attended the annual conference for the N.C. Association of ABC Boards in Asheville last weekend, told the councilmen that the tax bill would hurt local government revenue in spite of the amendment earmarking a three and a half percent cut for the county, and asked the board to schedule

a special meeting to consider making a formal protest.

"The bill was just about killed when they added the three and a half percent cut to go to the county to gain the support of the League of Municipalities and the Association of County Commissioners," which previously opposed the tax increase, he reported. "It sounds good, but when sales drop 10 to 15 percent, there will be no profit."

Winslow said "it was the consensus of the people representing ABC boards" from across the state that the 28 percent increase would hurt not only sales, but

the main business of the boards "to control alcoholic beverages in the state." Noting 41 counties bordering Virginia and South Carolina where "liquor is cheaper than in North Carolina, even now, without the tax," he said, "We will lose sales and control."

He said it is difficult to enforce the law prohibiting transport of more than one gallon of liquor in the state. "A man goes to Virginia or South Carolina and brings back a case and how are we going to control that?" he asked.

The board agreed to schedule a meeting at an early date for further

discussion and consideration of a meeting with area boards, and with area legislators.

Before leaving, Winslow reported total sales of \$33,540.20 for the year to date, an increase of \$995.65 over the same period last year, due to higher prices, reporting a decrease in bottle sales of 270 bottles.

Councilman Erie Haste, citing the frequency of high speeders on Grubb Street and the need for caution in the recreation area, called for opinions from the board on lowering the 35 mph speed limit on Grubb Street.

"People who drive 35 mph or 25 mph

are not the ones who drive 60 and 65," Councilman Jessie Harris responded. Councilman John Beers noted the need to keep traffic moving on Grubb Street, "It's the busiest thoroughfare we have," he said.

The board asked Police Chief Marshall Merritt to maintain a speed watch on Grubb Street and agreed to take action for installation of a traffic light at the intersection of the Parks and Recreation Center.

In other business the board received a police report for the month of July, noting twenty arrests, noting seven for assault and battery, two for

breaking and entering, one for first degree burglary, one larceny of a motor vehicle and nine miscellaneous. There were 26 reported violations, two accidents investigated, two fire calls, five funerals and 125 subpoenas served.

Heard a request by John W. Simmons of Elizabeth City to establish a franchise for a one car taxi service in Hertford. Simmons was asked to meet with Mayor Bill Cox and board attorney Bill Bentley to confirm proper procedure for establishing the service. The board noted the need for a taxi and generally favored the request.

Volunteers teach living skills

In addition to reinforcing skills in the language arts, math, health and physical education, 38 children, grades 1-6, now know how to solve simple home electrical problems, the proper way to clean a bathroom and kitchen, selective grocery shopping and ways they can help conserve electricity.

Add to that list the use of a vacuum cleaner and a sewing machine, so-called gourmet cooking (or how to cook a hamburger) and the curriculum will be complete for the Home Survival Skills class, which Miss Gay Howell initiated for the four week summer school for migrant children.

The summer program ended Friday. There was no diploma, no certificate, but each child had something of far more value than a paper document to account for their time and educational experience. Boys, as well as girls, had made a yellow cotton robe, begun in the sewing class with Paige Underwood of the County Extension Service and completed during extra sessions with Miss Howell.

Begun four years ago, the program first dealt with math, music, art, the language arts, physical education and health. "This spring," Miss Howell said, "Morris Kornegay, migrant director, decided other needs should be met, among them life survival skills. He wrote it into the program, including use of appliances, cooking, sewing, house cleaning, simple household repairs and nutrition."

It was Miss Howell's job to address those needs. She went into the business community and found volunteers to go into the classroom and work with the

children. Allen Lassiter, a 26-year-old Hertford vacuum cleaner salesman who had not been in a classroom since he was a student at the College of the Albemarle, was a responding volunteer.

Visiting the classroom last week, he was found encircled by the children as he demonstrated his Electrolux vacuum cleaner, answering questions and preparing the class for the hands-on experience for each child-for each of the many attachments for the machine.

From 8 a.m. to noon, Lassiter talked with the children and assisted them with cleaning household furniture, which had been brought into the classroom. By noon, when the lunch bell had rung, he was exhausted...but also overflowing with the experience.

"It's a big kick just to talk with the kids, to see what they pick up and how quickly. It's something kids aren't actually aware of until allowing them to do it themselves, hands-on experiences," he said.

"I learned just as much as they did," the volunteer stated, also indicating it was his first involvement with the schools in that capacity. "It's clear to me that something like this will keep them more involved than simply telling them about it or showing a film. One picture is worth a thousand words, but hands on like this goes farther."

Lassiter turned to Miss Gay and admitted it was tiring. "I gained more respect for teachers by doing this," he said.

Also dropping in on the class during Lassiter's morning with the students was Arch Manning, a consultant for the State

Migrant Education Division of the State Department of Public Instruction. While Lassiter held the attention of his group, other students were taking turns at the sewing machine with Miss Howell, completing their robes.

"I like the kind of thing Gay is doing, the emphasis on communication with the children, relevance to living. It's down to earth, learning for living. I'd say," the consultant volunteered. "With this kind of involvement and person to person communication, the student is not just a number of just another child. It becomes the 'I'm somebody' concept."

Sharing a similar experience to Lassiter's were James Wilder of Hertford Hardware, teaching the children how to repair electrical cords; Vernon Lane of Big Star on comparison shopping for groceries; Clayton Gentry of VEPCO with practical points on using electricity; Mrs. Carolyn Lawson, a parent, demonstrating how to clean bathrooms and kitchens; Paige Underwood of the extension service and her staff of volunteers for teaching sewing-Estelle Felton, Lenora Brothers, Rachel Lewis and Carolyn Lawson; Bill Tice, Hertford grammar school principal for household carpentry; and Juanita Bailey, also of the extension service, for nutrition.

Evaluating the total experience, Miss Howell said many of the children have "demonstrated more self control and patience in dealing with frustrating situations. I haven't had one child to fuss about ripping out...and they are supportive of one another."

But the high point? "Their involvement with so many adult volunteers," she said.

Local youth win awards at 4-H congress

Approximately 1,000 4-H Youth, Volunteer Leaders, and Extension Agents from across North Carolina registered for the 1981 N.C. State 4-H Congress.

At 4-H Congress, 4-ers from all over the state compete with one another in demonstrations, attend workshops and seminars designed to encourage leadership, develop individual talents, and provide a basic understanding of political activities through 4-H.

There were delegates from Georgia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Virginia, England, West Germany, Switzerland, and of course, Perquimans County. Winners and participants from

Perquimans county included Scottie Winslow, son of Mrs. Judy Winslow of Belvidere, who won first place in the 4-H state Tractor Driving Contest; Torrence Mack, grandson of Rev. and Mrs. Wright Demery of Belvidere, who was invited to share a piano solo at one of the Delegate Assemblies; Nickie Nixon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Nixon of Hertford, who placed second in the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. Other contestants in the Livestock Judging along with Nixon were, Rebecca Rayburn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walker Rayburn, Jimmy Twine, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Twine, and Eric Skinner, son of Mr. and Mrs. William I. Skinner of the Harvey Point Community. Skinner was the

Perquimans County 4-H State Council Representative.

Mrs. Williams, a teacher and volunteer leader, states that Congress was well organized, with highly competitive demonstrations; career-oriented seminars; recreational activities, district and state meetings, and lots of socializing with new and old friends. Some of the most exciting events of the Congress were: 1) presentation of State Project and Demonstration Awards; 2) the daily appearance of Dr. "Z" which was a slide presentation of the previous day's activities; 3) election of State Officers; 4) an address by Governor Hunt; and 5) a Pig Pickin'.



Sewing is fun and a new skill for this young student in the Migrant Summer School program, shown above being assisted by his teacher, Miss Gay Howell.