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20 CENTS

County students return to school

Perquimans County schools move into full swing when students report Monday, August 31, for the first day of the 180 day school term for 1981-82.

With the exception of kindergarten children, the first day will be a full day, including a regular schedule of classes beginning at 8:15 a.m. and ending 3 p.m., Supt. Pat Harrell advises. Buses will run, lunch will be served.

Only the Labor Day Holiday, Monday, Sept. 7, will interrupt the schedule. Before the first holiday, however, the school season will have initiated its sports season with Perquimans High Pirates meeting Gates County on August 28 and Camden County on Sept. 4.

Kindergarten Schedule

During the first week of school, kindergarten children may be picked up by their parents at noon. Buses will not run for the special half-day schedule and arrangements for car-pooling for pick-up is suggested by the superintendent. After the Labor Day holiday, the kindergarten classes will follow the regular school schedule.

Parents of kindergarten children are invited to accompany their child on the first day of school, giving them an opportunity to meet with the teacher in the classroom setting.

Parents of five-year-old children, who have not pre-registered for the public school kindergartens, are asked to contact the principals of Hertford Elementary School or Winfall Central School at the school office, taking immunization records and birth certificate at that time. Children must be five years of age by Oct. 16 to be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten.

Schools Continue Self-Study for Southern Accreditation

Teachers, who returned August 18, have participated in specialized regional workshops, but have been most involved in committee work for accreditation of Perquimans County schools by the Southern Association for Accreditation of Schools, Colleges and Universities.

With the beginning of the current school year, the county schools move into the second year of a two-year plan for gaining accreditation by the regional association, which includes an assessment or self-study by faculty, staff and student committees. The local school system also is working toward state accreditation.

"It is now optional to school systems to be accredited by the state under the new state guide-lines or by the regional association," Harrell said.

Following state guidelines for accreditation, each school develops a plan for self improvement, outlining steps each school in the school district will follow to implement the plan. The state works closely with the local schools in accomplishing the goals for accreditation.

Concerning efforts for regional accreditation, completion of the self-study is anticipated by Christmas vacation. "The winter and early spring will be spent compiling the data and preparing to meet with a visiting team in April," Harrell said.

Each school is accredited individually by the Southern Association, but the local schools are working on it as a school system, so all schools will be accredited. The state offers accreditation for the school district only.

"We don't expect to meet all the standards of the Southern association," Harrell said. "This seldom, if ever, happens, but we will have a plan to work toward achieving all standards after accreditation."



Better Than A Needle

Nathan Leonard opens wide for Diane Reeve, staff nurse at the county health department, to give him an oral dose of polio vaccine before entering the first grade next Monday.

● ARPDC rejects nutrition plan

A proposal which would have given ARPDC complete control of the commission's 10 county Aging Nutrition program was rejected Friday by a five man committee.

Don Flowers, ARPDC executive director, attributed the 3-2 negative vote to "a lack of time to get information to the board" before its first presentation to the commission at a regular monthly meeting Thursday. At that meeting the commission voted to allow Chairman Raleigh Carver to appoint a special committee to decide the issue due to a lack of information.

The proposal, prepared and presented by Nutrition Project Director Laurel Tierney, would have given ARPDC complete control of the program, from purchasing raw food items, until the meals were delivered to the regional serving sites. The plan called for all meals to be cooked at the Senior Citizens Center kitchen in Washington County, currently under contract serving two counties.

As projected in the proposal, all cooks at the site would have been ARPDC personnel and the space rented from Washington County at a cost \$5,000.

Three vans were proposed for purchase to deliver food in hot meal boxes to serving sites in the other nine counties.

The nutrition director told the board the purpose of the proposal was to provide a better meal and to guarantee the delivery time.

Problems with item substitutions, meals delivered late and food being served at improper temperatures were with the current plan of operation were cited by the nutrition director and Ray McClees, assistant executive director for the agency.

Opposing the proposal at the committee meeting Friday were Alphonso Nixon, Pasquotank representative, who did not think ARPDC should operate the full program, and Ed Duffie of Gates County, who said ARPDC would be in competition with private firms now providing the service.

Chairman Carver stated the word "operate" had been taken out of the by-laws for ARPDC last year and gave further support to Nixon's statement.

James Ryan of Tyrrell County made the motion for the committee to accept the proposal, saying it was a matter of "getting as many meals served for the funds allocated."

Lack of complete budget figures at the commission's Thursday meeting was one

of the reasons given for calling for a special committee study and decision.

Late arrival of bids involving equipment and contracts, only a few days prior to the commission meeting, prevented a detailed report to the board, the nutrition director reported.

Flowers reported bids for the trucks and equipment were not opened until Aug. 19 (the day before the board meeting).

A motion to approve Tierney's plan at the Thursday board meeting by Dorothy Lippert of Kill Devils Hill was refused by Chairman Carver, who said the plan should be approved item by item. A motion then was made to turn the matter over to a committee, which passed on a second try. The committee was appointed with power to act without consent from the full commission.

ARPDC has unallotted funds for this fiscal year which could have covered the estimated \$37,000 needed to purchase the equipment for the proposed program. The funds must be used by ARPDC by Sept. 30 or return them to the state.

Flowers said the commission will advertise for bids to provide the food services to the area sometime in the next week.

Hunter innocent in book suit

A Camden County Superior Court jury last week found Jimmy Hunter, renowned major league pitcher and local farmer, innocent of charges by an area biographer that Hunter had made his book worthless.

The suit, brought against Hunter by Milford Ballance, was first tried in Superior Court last year and initially

charged Hunter with fraud and breach of a 1973 exclusive biography contract. At that time it was ruled in a summary judgement by Superior Court Judge David Reid that the contract had not been broken.

Last week, a revised suit asked the jury to decide only if Ballance had been defrauded by Hunter in a way which

caused him to lose potential profits from publication of a biography he had prepared about the nationally known baseball figure.

Elizabeth City attorney Dewey Wells defended Hunter in the suit. Ballance was represented by Christopher Bean, an Edenton attorney.

Farming not only big business...it's the biggest

Agriculture is the nation's largest industry, a recent report by the U. S. Department of Agriculture discloses. Its assets, totaling a whopping \$927 billion, are equal to about 88 percent of the capital assets of all manufacturing corporation in the United States.

According to the report, agriculture is also the nation's biggest employer. Between 14 and 17 million people work in some phase-from growing food and fiber to selling it.

Other facts were noted by the new statistics.

The foods that pour into supermarkets come in 6,000 to 8,000 different forms, many of which did not even exist five years ago and may very well not exist five years from now. This is attributed to the fact that Americans are attracted to newer foods with more built-in conveniences, as well as to food in attractive

packages that preserve the quality. Despite recent rises in food prices, family income still buys considerably more food today than 30 years ago, partly because agriculture has become much more efficient and partly because consumer incomes have risen faster than food prices.

The U.S. has approximately 2.3 million farms. This number is less than previous years continuing a downward trend that started in 1936.

Of all farms in this country producing at least \$2,500 worth of products to market annually, 89 percent are family-owned.

On the typical family farm of today, the husband and wife are equal partners sharing in major decisions.

Because of the complexities of running a successful farming operation today, more and more farm families are tur-

ning to modern technology for assistance.

Farm management consultants now provide all kinds of data, from how much feed to buy for livestock to marketing and economic expertise.

The kitchen table is no longer an adequate office for a farm business. Office areas with office conveniences are being set up in farm homes.

Other statistics reported by USDA show American farmers now producing over 76 percent more crop output on the same number of acres than their fathers did, and one farm worker supplying enough food and fiber for 68 people.

The report continues to show the U.S. exporting more farm products than anyone else in the world-one cropland acre in 3 going overseas.

Schools set reduced meal policies

Policies for free and reduced price meals for children served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast program were announced this week by the Perquimans County Board of Education.

Last year 78 percent of the student enrollment qualified for free or reduced meals, according to Child Nutrition Director La Claire Rogerson. This year the federal support program has reduced the cut-off point to 60 percent, which places the county "way above the cut-off figures," but Mrs. Rogerson said all children receiving free or reduced lunches last year will be eligible again.

School officials have adopted the following family size and income stan-

dards for determining eligibility:

To be eligible for free meals or free milk, a family of one may have an income of \$5,600 per year, \$467 per month, \$108 per week; a family of two, \$7,400 per year, \$617 per month, \$142 per week; a family of three, \$9,190 per year, \$766 per month, \$177 per week; a family of four, \$10,990 per year, \$916 per month, \$211 per week; a family of five \$12,780 per year, \$1,065 per month, \$246 per week; family of six, \$14,570 per year, \$1,214 per month, \$280 per week; family of seven, \$16,370 per year, \$1,364 per month, \$315 per week; family of eight, \$18,160 per year, \$1,513 per month, \$349 per week; each additional family member \$1,790 per year, \$149 per month, \$34 per week.

To be eligible for reduced price meals, a family of one may have an income of \$7,970 per year, \$664 per month, \$153 per week; a family of two, \$10,530 per year, \$878 per month, 203 per week; a family of three, \$13,090 per year, \$1,090 per month, \$252 per week; a family of four, \$15,630 per year, \$1,303 per month, \$301 per week; a family of five \$18,190 per year, \$1,516 per month, \$350 per week; a family of six, \$20,740 per year, \$1,728 per month, \$399 per week; a family of seven, \$23,290 per year, \$1,941 per month, \$448 per week; a family of eight, \$25,840 per year, \$2,153 per month, \$497 per week; each additional family member, \$2,550 per year, \$213 per month, \$49 per week.

How To Apply

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Application forms are being sent to all homes in a letter to parents. Additional copies are available at the office in each school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility.

Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. A statement of income and family size is required, plus a signed certificate by the parent, guardian, or other adult household member that the information provided is correct.

Under the provision of the policy the school principals will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the decision, he may discuss it informally with the official. Formal appeals may be made orally or in writing to James P. Harrell, P. O. Box 337, Hertford, N. C. 27944, telephone 438-5741 for a hearing to appeal the decision. The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

COA enrollment growing

Prospects for another record Fall Quarter enrollment at College of The Albemarle look Good, according to Dear of Student Development G. John Simons, Jr. The dean bases his projections on a nine percent increase in the number of

applications already processed by his division.

"From present indications," Simons said, "This fall, we should exceed the previous year's total of 1,253 curriculum

students." He said there has been a 33 percent increase in applicants for college transfer programs, while those enrolling in technical and vocational curricula have decreased by approximately five and two percent, respectively.

Perquimans Weekly announces new leadership

Mildred B. Allen and Jane B. Williams have assumed the news and advertising responsibilities at the Perquimans Weekly, it has been announced.

The two women replace Mike and Noel McLaughlin who left the newspaper recently to work in Chapel Hill.

Allen, 57, has been hired as editor of the publication. She is a former employee of Elizabeth City State University where she worked in the public relations department. A native of Gastonia, Allen has lived in Elizabeth City since 1978.

Her news-related employment includes reporting for the New Bern Sun Journal from Jan. 1977 until March 1978. She was also a reporter for The Pilot in Southern Pines from Aug. 1974 through Dec. 1976.

As advertising manager, Williams, 24, will be responsible for retail advertising at the Perquimans Weekly.

A native and life-long resident of Chowan County, she was advertising manager for the Chowan Herald from August 1979 through January of this year. She was employed also as an ac-

count representative for WCDJ Radio in Edenton from February until June of this year.

She and her husband Terry live in Edenton with their two children, Michael 6, and Jennifer, 3.



Mildred Allen



Jane Williams

Downed by Dennis

This large umbrella tree was uprooted at the Winfall residence of Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt, falling on this town-owned car and breaking the rear window. The car, used only for trans-

portation and used from work by Chief Merritt, had been left in the yard due to a dead battery. The heavy rain and high wind found the shallow roots easy prey during the storm last Wednesday.