

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 38, No. 13

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, APR. 1, 1982

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Kids ready for Special Olympics

By TOM OSTROSKY

Handicapped children in Perquimans County will have an opportunity to show their stuff next Thursday as the county presents this year's Special Olympics at Perquimans Central Grammar School beginning at 8:30 a.m.

About 85 of these special children will participate in three of five events. About fifty of them will represent Perquimans County on April 24 in the regional Special Olympics at Northeastern High School in Elizabeth City.

Kathy Ansink, county chairman for the event, has been training her kids at Perquimans High School for the Olympics since almost the beginning of the school year. "They look forward to it all year long," she said. "They ask me every day when it's going to be."

The purpose of the Special Olympics, held in this area for the last few years, is to give the children a chance to feel they belong and to give them a sense of pride in their achievements, following the prospectus of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, which started the program about 17 years ago.

The Special Olympics Oath, indicative of the program's purpose, is "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

The reciting of that oath, along with a parade of athletes, lighting of the Olympic torch, and sending off balloons, will be part of the opening ceremonies of the event.

Following that opening, the children will compete in three of the program's five events: 50-meter dash, 220-meter dash, softball throw, frisbee throw, and standing broad jump. Each participant will receive a ribbon.

Those who advance to the regional event will compete in two events against other children from 10 Albemarle counties, with a chance of advancing to the state Special Olympics to be held in Charlotte May 28-29.

Money, always a problem for such charitable programs, has been less a problem than it might have been. The Perquimans County Jaycees sponsored T-shirts for all county participants. Perquimans Central Grammar students collected \$220 for the Special Olympics from an aluminum can collection. The Coca-Cola Co. will donate drinks for 200

people on the day of the event. Other local businesses also contributed time, money and materials toward the cause.

In retrospect, Kathy Tant, fundraising chairwoman, said that the community and the school system have pulled together to support the Special Olympics Committee in planning the event. "A personal thanks to each of you that have helped in any way," she said. Because of their help, the county's Olympians will have enough money to attend the state Olympics.

Volunteers are another valuable commodity to such a project, and Tant mentioned county Parks and Recreation Department Director Mac Sligh, Field and Events Chairman Billy Stallings, Jeanie Umphlett, and the Perquimans High School Band — which will perform during the program — as particularly helpful in working on the Special Olympics.

All the kids need now is a crowd of enthusiastic spectators next Thursday, Ansink said. "Things are ready, students are excited, and we just hope lots of people will support these children and share in their enthusiasm."

KISKITANO SUN



Student publication on sale

Kiskitano Sun, a new book of county oral history written by students in the gifted and talented class at

Perquimans Union School, will go on sale today. Cost is \$3, and supplies are limited. Those interested in pur-

chasing the book can contact a student in the GT class, or Sid Eley at Perquimans Union School.

Three Perquimans County Special Olympics participants, from left, Judy Jones, Gaylene Walker and William Stallings, race each other during a training session at Perquimans High School.

Tri-County Career Center is seeking money for project

By SUSAN HARRIS

The Tri-County Career Center, the dream of school administrations from Perquimans, Gates, and Chowan counties for the past three years, may soon become a reality.

"We are encouraged by the response that we're getting," said Kenneth L. Stalls, Director of the program, who is presently seeking funding for the center.

The center has received the endorsement and support of Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. and Craig Phillips, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Both dignitaries praised the three counties' school boards, administrations, and superintendents for realizing the need to unite in order to provide their students with better educational opportunities.

The center, which will probably be located near the intersection of the three counties, will house facilities aimed at reaching those students who want to go beyond introductory vocational courses and who need advanced academic subjects.

"We've either got to do it together or keep plodding along not being able to do it," Stalls said of offering ex-

panded curriculum to students.

Not an alternative school, students would attend the center for one half of the day and their respective high school the other half. Transportation would be provided to and from the center.

The unique characteristic of the Tri-County Career Center is that it is a three county effort. "That hasn't been done in North Carolina," said Stalls of this the first center planned to serve a multi-county area.

Stalls quipped that if the center does become a reality, students could work

together on projects during the day and compete in the athletic arena that night.

The center concept is an outgrowth of Stalls' job of Director of Vocational Programs for the counties of Perquimans, Gates and Chowan.

In an effort to offer more vocational courses to those students who were interested, the boards of education in each individual county used all available funds to add teachers and courses. Soon there were no more funds available.

Stalls introduced the concept of the

three-county endeavor, and for three years has worked to reach that goal.

At present, a prospectus has been printed and is being sent to all state and federal funding agencies, as well as to private foundations for their review and action.

Also being presented to funding agencies is a 15-minute slide/tape program which summarizes the operation of the Tri-County Career Center.

The prospectus estimates the cost of a 40-acre land acquisition and constructing and furnishing a 107,676

square foot building at \$5,790,104.

Faculty for the center would come from the high schools with little or no additional teachers required. This would save the state money in the long run as well as expand curriculum offerings.

A mock schedule survey will be done this spring in the high schools to determine what courses students would be interested in taking if the career center were to open next fall.

Stalls said he hoped to make an announcement in the near future on the opening of the center.

Hypnosis becomes an investigative tool for county deputy

By TOM OSTROSKY

A man is driving along a country road in North Carolina one day, and happens to pass by a van parked in the lane at one of the farms.

He glances at the van as he's going

by, not thinking anything of it. Later, he finds out that the cattle on that particular farm were stolen.

He presents himself to the police as a witness, and proceeds to tell them the license number of the van he only glanced at in the drive, and his information leads to the arrest of the cattle rustlers.

Sounds incredible? It's a true story. How could someone remember a license plate after only glancing at the vehicle while driving by? Actually, he couldn't, or at least not at first. The witness didn't remember a thing about the van until an investigator hypnotized him. Only then did he recall the license number.

Forensic hypnosis is an investigative technique that is only beginning to catch on outside large cities such as New York or Los Angeles, where it has been used as early as the 1930s.

A North Carolina Supreme Court

decision in 1978 allowed evidence gathered from witnesses under hypnosis to be used in court. Not all states allow such evidence; Virginia, for example, is one that doesn't.

North Carolina is ahead of the rest of the country in one aspect of this investigative technique. This is the only state in the country that offers publicly-funded courses in forensic hypnosis for qualified law enforcement officers.

After two of these courses in the last couple of years, there are now 32 trained forensic hypnotists in the state. One of them happens to be Joe Lothian, a deputy with the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department.

Lothian attended that course in hypnosis for two weeks early in March at Salomberg. He also attended the seminar given in 1980, both put on by the N.C. Justice Academy and paid for by the state Department of Justice.

As part of a 16-member class

Salemburg, Lothian was taught by some of the best forensic hypnotists in the country. One was Charles Digget, who used the technique on witnesses in the Son of Sam murders in New York, along with the terrorist bombing at LaGuardia Airport in New York couple of years ago.

Though Lothian doesn't expect to use it for anything so dramatic as what Digget has experienced, it is nevertheless a tool that could be used in more common crimes, particularly traumatic crimes in which the victims or witnesses are too shook up to remember anything, crimes such as robbery, rape, or assault.

"You don't think you could remember anything," Lothian said, "but when you're under hypnosis, you'd be surprised." Police don't expect detailed descriptions of the criminal, but often a witness can recall clues — as say, identifying marks, facial scars, the first three letters of a license plate — that can provide leads for the investigation.

According to Lothian, the police course is "more intensive than what a doctor would learn at Chapel Hill." The class first teaches the techniques, and then the students use them on themselves, to see what it's like.

Then back to the classroom to learn more techniques, the laws regarding it, and so forth. Then they try on others in possible investigation situations, the sessions video taped for reference and criticism.

Hypnotism has, to say the least, a bad rap. People think of hypnotist as, to use Lothian's term, "Svengalis." Weiridos, in other words. Lothian in fact saw a movie of Svengali on the late show one night not long before going to the course. He thought the thing was silly, but then he knew better.

The bad rap runs pretty deep. Lothian said the wife of one of his classmates wouldn't look her husband in the eye after he took the course. "She thought he was the work of the devil," he recalls.

Part of his job is to try to educate people about hypnotism, which is one reason why this article was written. "I wish people could see what goes on," he said. "We can't make anybody do anything they wouldn't normally do," he noted. "You remember everything that's going on while you're under." And the police want everything to be remembered, he added, and will tape the whole session. Otherwise, what evidence they obtain might not be admissible in court.

Witnesses must fill out medical forms before Lothian will do anything, and if there is any question about the person's health, the deputy won't try to hypnotize him. Not because it might hurt, but because if the witness does have a heart attack, for example, while under, hypnotism would be sure to be blamed for it.

And the technique doesn't need any more bad press than it has already had. "We're trying to get this off the ground floor," he said.

This week

Three Hertford residents publish cooking-gardening book. Turn to page three.

Weather

Fair and clear today and tomorrow, chance of showers Saturday. Highs in the 60s and low 70s, lows in the 40s and low 50s.