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Festival chairman excited about the turnout

After months of hard work and preparation, the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce celebrated life in Perquimans County with its Indian Summer Festival last week.

The three day program, which included farm exhibits, craft booths, games, music, dancing, and historical reenactments was a superb success, according to Mary Harrell, chairwoman of the Chamber's festival committee.

"My phone is still ringing," from people calling to compliment her on her work, she said Tuesday. "The comments have all been favorable," she said.

"People have been telling me to start right now and plan for next year," she added.

"I thought the whole three days was beyond anything I'd expected."

The festival program attracted enormous crowds on Saturday, which was Fun Day, to see the food and crafts booths along the closed-off Church Street. The crowds lasted well into the night, which ended with a street dance at Missing Mill Park.

Entertainment by both local and out-of-county singers and musicians attracted folks both downtown and at the fish and barbecue suppers on Friday and Saturday.

"People from out of town said they want to come back again next year," Harrell said. "They couldn't believe the number of people who came, and the friendliness of the people."

Once some people got there Saturday, they just couldn't pull themselves away. "I had one lady tell me that once she got here she



It's not exactly the Old West, but Sheriff Julian Broughton stills stands tall

didn't want to leave," said Harrell.

Harrell will be the first to admit that not everything came out perfectly. "If I had to do it again, I do some things differently," she said. "There were some things wrong, but I don't think many people saw them. But I saw them."

Harrell was quick to add that she received a lot of help from other local people in organizing the program. "So many people were ready to help," she said,

dressed as an old sheriff during the Indian Summer

"and some of the people who were a little hesitant in helping said that they want to be sure we got them to help next year."

When help ran short, they even asked people on the street to help out. "They were ready to help," she said. "They wanted to get involved."

And it appears that the original purpose of the event — to attract out-of-towners and potential business to the county — was also achieved. Though there are no figures on how many people

Festival. For more pictures, see page eight.

showed, or how many from out of the area, Harrell and others noticed a lot of unfamiliar faces in the crowd. "We had one from Ohio, and some from Edenton and Bertie County, and all over the place," she said.

"A lot of them were families who came back to visit and see the festival."

"The whole thing was wonderful, as far as I was concerned. Everyone seemed to have a good time."

Accident kills county woman

A one-car traffic accident on U.S. Highway 17 south of Elizabeth City left one Perquimans County woman dead and one in stable condition at Albemarle Hospital.

Carrie Mallory Coston, 39, died Monday morning when the car she was driving ran off the road and struck a telephone pole near the Whistling Pines Motel.

Frances Turner, a passenger in the car, was injured and admitted to the surgical intensive care unit at Albemarle Hospital.

According to Highway Patrol reports, Coston was traveling north on Highway 17 at around 6:30 a.m. when she approached a car moving slowly in the right lane of the four-lane road.

Coston apparently turned on her blinker and started to pass when a car from behind blew its horn. She apparently lost control while trying

to get back into the right lane and skidded off the road striking the telephone pole.

Funeral services for Coston were conducted Wednesday at 3 p.m. at Porter Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church by the Rev. Anthony Hathaway. Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery.

She was a native and lifetime resident of Perquimans County. The daughter of the late Tom Wiggins and Reva Mallory White, Coston is survived by her husband, Melton Coston; three children, Arthur Coston of Edenton, Deborah Coston and Melvin Coston, both of the home.

Other survivors include three sisters, Mrs. Joanna Pettaway of Hertford, Mrs. Elsie Brothers and Mrs. Sara Green, both of Elizabeth City; one brother, William White of Elizabeth City; stepfather William White; and stepgrandmother, Josephine Mallory.

No serious injuries in truck-car wrecks

Two truck-automobile accidents occurred on U.S. 17 last week, and close-calls in both instances left the victims with only minor injuries.

A wreck involving a loaded log truck and a car occurred Friday morning at the intersection of U.S. 17 and Okisco Road, just outside of the county border.

The driver of the truck, Herbert Williams, 60, of Elizabeth City, was driving south on U.S. 17 when he fell asleep at the wheel, according to the report made by State Highway Patrol Officer Ray Potts.

The truck veered off the right side of the road and over a median strip on Okisco Road, where it hit the rear left side of a station wagon driven by Ricky Powers, 23, of Route 1 Hertford. The impact spun the car around, but Powers and his passenger, Carl Perry, 68, of Elizabeth City, were unhurt.

The truck then continued into a ditch, where it turned over on its side, throwing logs into the cab of the truck as well as along the shoulder of

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Changes in reassessment schedule may affect some tax payments

By TOM OSTROSKY

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners adopted a property assessment schedule for the 1984 tax year at their regular meeting Monday night, with a change in the schedule that will reduce the proposed assessment for cropland fronting a state road.

In an attempt to reduce the effect road frontage has on the taxable value of cropland, the commissioners moved that only the land within 420 feet of the road would be assessed at the road frontage value. Land beyond 420 feet would be assessed at the rear, or no road frontage, value.

For example, for a tract of land deemed to be of good soil condition

along a paved state road, only the land within 420 feet of the road would be assessed at the road frontage value for good soil, which is \$1,200. Land in that tract more than 420 feet away from the road will be assessed at the rear value for good land, which is \$900.

The original proposal by the county's contracted assessor, Pearson's Appraisal Service, Inc., would have assessed the entire tract of land along a state road at the \$1,200 road frontage value.

Besides reducing the originally proposed value of road frontage land, the board's decision will, in effect, reduce the value of cropland with road frontage in proportion to other

types of land and property.

This could mean that farmers with a large amount of land fronting state roads may see their taxes decrease, and those not owning cropland along a road — farmers with rear land, homeowners, and those with no real estate at all — may see an increase.

This is because in past assessments all cropland fronting a road — not just the first 420 feet back — was assessed at the road frontage value, just as Pearson's originally proposed for this reassessment.

The board's decision will mean that cropland fronting a state road will increase in taxable value at a lesser rate than other types of property.

For example, the entire track of good soil along a paved state road is now assessed at \$450. In this new assessment, land beyond 420 feet of the road will be reassessed at \$900 — a 200 percent increase.

Since values of most other kinds of property will increase at an average of 245-250 percent, farmers with land fronting a road but more than 420 feet from the road will find their reassessed values to proportionately less than those with other kinds of property.

The board made this change because it felt that land beyond 420 feet doesn't have the same access —

and so the same value — as land closer to a road.

In effect, cropland along a road will be assessed in the same manner as land deemed commercially desirable for development, that is, the land that is a certain distance from the road is assessed at a higher value.

This same issue was recently brought up by farmers in Camden County, who complained to their commissioners that land beyond a state road was being assessed too high.

One major reason for the change here is that Commissioner Marshall

Caddy said that he and residents in New Hope Township, which he represents, had been led to believe, apparently through a misunderstanding with Pearson's appraiser Fred Pearson, that cropland would be assessed in the manner as commercially desirable land. Pearson spoke to a group of New Hope residents at a recent Ruritans meeting.

Caddy said that "a lot of people are going to be very upset" if entire tracts were assessed at the road frontage value, and he and Commissioner Charles Ward pushed for the change in the property assessment schedule.

Band requests money from school board

By VAL SHORT

A delegation of Band Boosters led by Pete Perry appeared before the Perquimans County Board of Education Monday night requesting funds for the band.

Perry, the Band Boosters president, reported the Boosters were paying \$3 per hour to majorette and flag instructors. Perry also requested that the board consider hiring an assistant band master.

The delegation of eight representatives included Band

Master David Ziemba, who said he had 40 new band students this year and anticipated the same next year. The total number of students in the band is now 210 with 85 in marching band.

Board Chairman Clifford Winslow said, "There's no question that the band has been a real asset to the county. We appreciate all that David and everyone have done to make it possible."

Winslow added, "What we can do for the future I don't know... As you all know dollars are the bottom line."

Superintendent Pat Harrell announced to the board that school enrollment had increased to a total of 1695 and that he had requested additional teacher allotments from the state. The state's projected enrollment for Perquimans County was 1621.

Harrell also announced to the board that the two visiting accreditation teams will recommend to the state committee that both Perquimans Union and Perquimans High School be accredited. "We had some good visits and some good feedback," he said.

In other action, the board: Discussed the N.C. Cash Management Trust Investment Program, a program for public groups only which is approved by the Local Government Commission.

School officials optimistic after evaluation

Completing two long years of quiet work, and with the hope of a replay of last May's success, the Perquimans County school system hosted a visitation last week of two of their schools by evaluating teams from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

If all went well, and school officials here have reason to believe it did, the teams will recommend that Perquimans Union School and Perquimans High School be accredited by the SACS.

If this occurs, School Superintendent Pat Harrell expects to have four school principals accompany him to the SACS accreditation ceremonies in Atlanta this December. Previous teams have already recommended to the state SACS committee that Perquimans Central Grammar, Hertford Grammar, and the school's central office be accredited.

Though the evaluation teams indicated last week that they were pleased with what they saw, Harrell won't know for sure until each team submits its report to the state committee in October.

"I was excited as I walked through the front door, and I saw that you are excited as well," said School Board Chairman Clifford Winslow to the group of teachers, school administrators and team members at last Wednesday's accreditation banquet at Union

School. "That's what our school system needs, that's what public education needs — excitement."

"The Board of Education set a goal two years ago that was almost impossible," he added, referring to their plan to accredit the entire school system at one time. "But you did it."

The compliments also came from the school system's accreditation consultant Hatha Hayes. "You've made a miracle happen here," she told the group. "You've marshaled some forces, dollars, energy, time, and commitment to make this a wonderful place for boys and girls to learn."

Just how much the school system has improved — particularly the physical plant — as a result of the accreditation drive was made plain in a few caustic comments by SACS consultant Madeline Tripp — who has a reputation for saying exactly what she thinks.

Before the recent renovations, the lavatories at Union School "were not fit for human habitation," she said, and "you needed a seeing eye dog" to negotiate the torn carpet in the hallways. Now, she said, "Everything looks great."

School officials and teachers agree that until they encountered Mrs. Tripp's "tell it like it is" attitude several months ago, they didn't really understand just how

poor was the condition of Union School.

"The faculty, the students and the maintenance people have all worked together," to prepare the schools for the evaluation, said Harrell. When the renovation work became more than the maintenance crew could handle, teachers worked on their own time to paint classrooms.

Though the high school also received some renovation, the age of the old wing of the building made further work futile. Harrell believes the condition of the old wing will not preclude ac-

creditation of the high school. "They understand our situation there," he said.

One evaluation team visited the high school Tuesday, sitting in on classes and talking with teachers and administrators. Part of their job is to see that the school is following the self-study report its employees drew up. The self-study sites the strengths and weaknesses of the school, and lists plans for improvement.

In addition, the evaluators check to see that the school meets

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This week

The Perquimans Pirates play with heart during last week's loss. See page 11.

Weather

Some chance of rain through the weekend, highs in the high 70s, lows in the low 60s.



Evaluator Helen Harrell, right, sits in on Les

Abbott's geography class at Perquimans Union.