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20 CENTS



The windows have arrived for the window replacement project at Perquimans Union

School and Principal Gary Stubbins is inspecting the work of installing the window

panels. The window replacement is expected to be

completed within several weeks. (Photo by Val Short)

Authority to offer small business loans

By VAL SHORT

If the Albemarle Development Authority receives certification from the Small Business Administration, loans could be available for small business in the area as soon as August 1.

According to Ray McClees, Assistant Director for the Albemarle Commission, the Authority was organized in February, under the sponsorship of the Albemarle Commission, and an application for certification has been submitted to the SBA.

McClees said the Authority would make loans in cooperation with local banks of up to \$500,000 for as long as 25 years on fixed assets.

The Certified Development Company program was created in 1980 by Congress, said McClees, "to close the credit gap for businesses needing capital in amounts of less than \$1 million but for periods longer than banks normally lend — ten or more years."

McClees said the program was part of an effort to get the SBA out of the direct loan business and put it in the hands of the local development companies.

The Albemarle Commission followed the lead of the Neuse River Council of Governments in forming the non-profit organization, which was incorporated last December.

Membership on the Authority consists of 32 people appointed from the ten county area of Region R, including one representative from each town and county in the region plus eight other appointees by the Albemarle Commission. Members on the ADA represent local governments, community organizations, local institutions as well as professionals and businessmen in the community.

Perquimans members if the ADA include William Ray Miller of Winfall, and Joseph T. White Jr. and Charles Ward, both of Hertford.

McClees said the Authority met in Hertford March 9 to elect a nine-member Board of Directors and officers.

Financing through the ADA will not be available to non-profit organizations, the print media, lending institutions, gambling

facilities, recreation facilities that are not open to the public and real estate investment.

Although agriculture is not specifically limited, according to McClees, loans for the construction of hog houses and chicken houses would not be allowed.

McClees explained the structures must be multipurpose, and one permanent job must be created for every \$15,000 the SBA puts into the loan.

He added that equipment purchased through the loans must have a 15 year life. The loans are not available for re-financing or for buying out another partner, he said.

The program is designed to create jobs in the community and to increase the tax base, said McClees.

At the recent meeting, McClees said the ADA directors approved a two-year contract, presented by Don C. Flowers, executive director of the Albemarle Commission, under which the Commission will provide management and fiscal services to the Authority. The Albemarle Commission is expected to approve the agreement at its upcoming meeting Thursday night.

McClees said the Authority will be paid an annual 1½ percent of the federal share, or debenture, of the loans, as a processing fee and will receive a monthly service fee of ½ percent on an annual rate.

Although McClees expects it will be at least four months before the Authority will be in the position to accept loan applications, he said he was already receiving some inquiries.

"I think it's conceivable that the Authority will get on sound footing in at least two years," said McClees.

Dwight H. Wheless, a Manteo attorney, has been elected president of the ADA. Other officers include William C. Harrell, Columbia town manager, vice president; John W. Halstead, Jr., a Camden attorney, secretary; and Walter E. Oakes of Columbia, vice president of East Carolina Bank, treasurer.

By Hertford Town Council

Town annexation postponed

No annexation bill for the Town of Hertford will be submitted to the General Assembly this year, according to Hertford Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox.

The Hertford Town Council voted during a special meeting last week to postpone making a decision on annexation until "1985 or sooner," said Cox, in order to allow more time to study the issue.

The Council was considering annexing area south and west of the Town of Hertford.

During the regular Monday night meeting, the Town Council discussed

the recent action of the local Board of Adjustments, in which the Board approved a conditional use permit for a tack and western wear business for Councilman Joseph T. White, Jr., to be located adjacent to his residence.

Town Council attorney William Bentley told the councilmen that the Board of Adjustments had no authority to act on the motion, and the Council could be held liable for the action.

Bentley said the matter could be settled legally in executive session, with council members and White's

attorney, Jimmy Singletary, present. Neither Bentley nor Cox could be reached for comments on the matter at presstime.

In other business the Council discussed the 10.8 percent increase in electrical cost, which the town will receive after April 1.

Based on the February bill, this increase will represent approximately \$7,200, according to Cox. The Councilmen agreed to set a date for a special meeting regarding electrical rate increases.

The Council authorized Cox to seek proposals for curbing and guttering

certain areas of King Street.

Cox said the Town was obligated under the terms of the sale of lots on King Street to complete the work on the street.

The Council made no decision on a request by Jimmy Winslow to extend water and sewer services to his property. Members agreed that guidelines for extending service need to be set up before action could be taken.

Hertford Chief of Police Marshall Merritt presented the monthly police

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Local vandalism reported

Vandalism was reported at the Hertford Bus Station Monday, but law enforcement officers are puzzled about how the building was entered.

According to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt, all of the bus station doors and windows were secure at 4:45 a.m. when they were checked by Officer Robert Harvey.

Sheriff Julian Broughton, owner of the local bus station and grill, reported the building was locked when he opened the business Monday morning, but he said he left hurriedly the night before and could have left the door unlocked.

Broughton said a six-pack of beer was stolen and a \$375 cash register was damaged, but no money was

taken.

Broughton said fingerprints were lifted from the premises and sent to the lab in Raleigh, but no arrests have been made.

A break-in was also reported at the Perquimans County High School, but no arrests have been made, according to Merritt.

Nothing was reported missing, but glass was broken out of several doors and an attempt had been made to break into a drink machine in the teachers lounge, said Merritt.

Suspects apparently entered the reception area of the high school sometime between the closing of school March 7 and the opening the next morning, according to Merritt.

He said fingerprints had been lifted from the areas and have been sent to Raleigh for examination.

An investigation is continuing in the March 10 shooting of a gas pump at the Harris Shopping Center in Hertford.

Merritt said the pump was shot four times with a 22 caliber weapon, causing about \$500 in damages to the computerized machine.

Three spent 22 cartridge shells were found at the scene.

Jewel Spellman, who listed his address as 406 Cox Avenue, Hertford, was arrested and charged with trespassing, according to the Police Chief.

Pirates proceed to regionals

By ERIC SKINNER

George Long, a senior for the Pirates was rated right up there with Superman, the Lone Ranger and many other heroes, after his last second shot that gave the Pirates not only another win, but a chance to play in the regional playoffs.

The Pirates trailed the entire game with Murfreesboro leading by 15 points during some parts of the game.

The first quarter was a game of catching-up for the Pirates, as the Raiders took an early lead of 27-16 and continued to lead the entire game.

During the second quarter the crowd watched for one of those awesome come-backs the Pirates had been delivering, but the Raiders stole the show and scored 15 points, leaving the court with a score of 42-33 lead at the half.

Murfreesboro's own Williams scored 31 points by the third period,

destroying all of the Pirates' hopes of catching up.

Pirate Dennis Hunter commented after the game, "After looking at the clock and feeling that tear roll down

my face I knew we had to beat them."

The fans having a major impact on

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Plant trees for Arbor Day

North Carolina will celebrate Arbor Day this Saturday and this year the celebration will focus upon the value of "urban" and "rural" forests.

Hertford Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox says the town will gladly accept donations of trees and beautification projects from citizens and community organizations.

"We reserve the right to place it (the tree) to be in keeping with the design of the park," said Cox. He suggests that trees be suitable to the area soil and weather and that they provide shade.

Missing Mill Park has already

received a donation of a tree of sorts. Edward McGinnis of Winfall recently constructed a wood Martin house which was erected in the park.

Cox suggested the sidewalk area between Grubb Street and the tennis courts as another possible site for a beautification project. He said this improvement of this area could be enjoyed from both sides of the road.

The National Arbor Day Foundation has announced a program for March, in which 10 trees will be given to each new foundation member.

The N.C. Forest Service has similar programs to promote tree planting throughout the year.



A martin house, designed and constructed by Edward McGinnis, was recently donated to the Town of

Hertford and erected in Missing Mill Park. Hertford Mayor Bill Cox says the town appreciates the interest in

Hertford's public areas, shown through donations and beautification projects. (Photo by Val Short)