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Perquimans to receive more cheese, butter

By VAL SHORT

Approximately 70 percent of Perquimans people may be eligible for free USDA cheese and butter, given away through the Department of Social Services, according to director Paul Gregory.

Gregory told the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners Monday night that "it looks like we're still going to stay in the cheese and butter business."

Gregory said that due to changes in the cheese and butter program, more people in Perquimans will become eligible to receive the products.

Formerly available to only Food Stamp recipients, the cheese and butter will now be available to senior citizens age 60 and over and also — families with one member with \$585 per month income; two members, \$778 per month income; three members, \$970 per month income;

and four, \$1,163 income per month.

Gregory said applications will be placed at locations around the county and may be presented at the time of distribution. Gregory said he hopes his request for a 50 percent increase in cheese and butter allotments will be accepted in time for the next distribution in May.

Telling the commissioners that his staff could handle the reporting, he said assistance will be necessary for distribution of the cheese and butter.

Gregory said the Perquimans Extension staff had already provided help with distribution and he hopes the Catholic Social Services, the Perquimans Health Department and other agencies and organizations will also get involved.

The Commissioners designated the Department of Social Services as lead organization for the cheese and butter distribution. They also passed

a resolution requesting county agencies and organizations to help with the cheese and butter distribution.

Gregory told the Board he plans to order about 5,000 pounds of cheese and about 1,000 pounds of butter for the May distribution. He said the Hertford Ice Plant has been used for storage, as well as for distribution.

Also at the Monday night meeting Board of Education members Clifford Winslow and Preston Stevenson appeared before the commissioners with county Superintendent Pat Harrell to discuss sale of the Board of Education peanut allotment to the county.

Stevenson told the Commissioners the peanut allotment included 4,548 pounds. He said two Perquimans farmers — William Ray Miller and George Roach, who rent county-owned farm land, would be in-

terested in renting the allotment.

The Commissioners took no action.

Keith Haskett, county tax supervisor and county water department bill collector, told the County Commissioners that complaints about the county water system were continually coming in.

Haskett said, "It's time we take a look at this and see if we can get it straightened out." He said he thought it was possible to get good water, but corrections need to be made.

Commissioner Charles Ward commented that probably "ten percent or more of what we make, we have to flush out."

In other business, the Commissioners approved a six lot subdivision on State Road 1317 in the Camp Perry area, submitted by Hanna Enterprises and recommended for approval by the Perquimans County Planning Board.

The approval was made subject to review of the county attorney.

Appearing with other members of the Planning Board, member Silas Whedbee suggested the commissioners appoint one person to instruct people in the proper procedures and subdivision regulations.

The Board designated County Attorney John Matthews as the contact person for subdivision information.

Archie Miller of Belvidere appeared before the Board on behalf of the Perquimans County Jaycees requesting financial assistance with the annual Fourth of July fireworks program.

Miller said this event, which attracted people from within and outside the county, had become a financial burden on the organization.

Miller said cost of the program last

year was \$2,000. No action was taken on the request.

Larry Wimberly, assistant forest ranger in Roper, and candidate for the Perquimans forest ranger position, vacated by John Hurdle, met with the Board to present his resume.

Wimberly told the Board he will complete his forestry technician training in two months.

In other Board business: •The Commissioners approved a petition from residents requesting state road maintenance, which will be sent to the Department of Transportation.

•County attorney John Matthews announced the hunting bill requested by the county will be introduced to the legislature this year.

•The Board agreed to advertise for bids for upkeep of the grounds around seven county buildings.

Block grant hearing draws no opposition

No opposition was expressed Monday night at the public hearing concerning the grant application for the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program held last night at the Municipal Building.

According to Hertford Mayor Bill Cox, approximately ten people attended the hearing, who indicated they would like for the town to re-submit the community block grant for the phase two of the King Street Redevelopment Project.

Cox said a final public hearing has been scheduled on the project April 11 at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

Cox said the grant application had been submitted before but rejected and the new application will be filed around the end of April.

The purpose of the Community Block Grant program is to prevent or eliminate slums by providing funds for public service facilities, housing rehabilitation, economic development activities, facilities for the elderly or handicapped and others.

The public hearings are being held to get information, feedback and suggestions from the public and Cox said anyone interested is invited to attend the public hearing.

Area storm brings heavy rainfall, flooding

Perquimans County residents woke to claps of thunder and flashes of lightning Monday morning, marking the beginning of Spring with still more rainfall.

The storm, which brought heavy rainfall and high winds throughout the Albemarle area, dropped around 2 1/4 inches of rain by 9 a.m. Monday at the Elizabeth City Flight Service Station.

According to Glenn Collins, air traffic controller and weather observer for the Federal Aviation Administration, 3.44 inches had been recorded at the station since last Friday.

Forecasters with the North Carolina Weather Service in Raleigh are predicting a chance of more rainfall in the area Friday with low

temperatures in the 40's and highs in the low 60's.

Bryan Eder, assistant state climatologist at North Carolina State University, reports that a the Elizabeth City weather station, the closest reporting station to Perquimans, the 7.21 inches of rainfall recorded in February set a new record for the area.

Eder said normal rainfall for the Elizabeth City area for February is 3.58 inches and the old record, set in 1964, was 5.95 inches.

Rainfall recorded in Elizabeth City through March 19 totalled 4.02 inches — already over the normal 3.35 inches for the area for March, reported Eder.

He said the Elizabeth City statistics should be representative of the area for this time of year.

Perquimans students win science fair honors

Perquimans County High School students took 11 of 20 possible awards at the area science fair held last week at Northeastern High School.

In the second annual Perquimans-Pasquotank Science Fair, Perquimans claimed four first place prizes and two second place slots. The fair feature four scientific categories — technological, earth, physical and biological.

Eric Skinner placed first in the earth science division for grades 10-12. Chris Mansfield claimed first in the technological science category for grades 10-12.

In the seventh through ninth grade categories, Amanda Kornegay won first place in the biological science division and Tammy Lane placed first in the technological division.

Winning second place in the Physical science category for grades 10-12 were Tim Morgan and Sheila Perry.

Randy Lassiter of Perquimans Union placed second in the earth science division.

Other Perquimans High School

winner included: Scott Dixon and James Winslow, third place, physical science; Paul Chappell, honorable mention, technological science; Ann Forbes, Michelle Cox and Paul Whedbee, honorable mention, physical science; Kathy Smith, Mario Howell, Richard Skinner and Carol Madre, honorable mention, biological science.

In grade 7-9 Lee Cooper won honorable mention in the biological science division.

NNCT banquet hosts Secretary Faircloth

D.M. (Lauch) Faircloth, N.C. Sec. of Commerce, will provide the keynote address at the banquet held during the Northeastern N.C. Tomorrow Annual Meeting on April 21 at Elizabeth City State University. Faircloth was appointed Secretary in 1977 by Gov. Jim Hunt and was reappointed in 1981.

As Sec. of Commerce, Faircloth oversees a variety of programs,



Perquimans County residents have seen heavy rainfall during the last few weeks, causing some flooding in areas such as the canal pictured above next to Larry's Drive In in Win-

fall. Forecasters are predicting a chance of more rain for the area sometime Friday. (Photo by Val Short)

State cuts local school funds \$35,000

By VAL SHORT

The Perquimans County Schools have been notified that state allocations of funds for the county will be reduced \$35,000 to \$40,000 through the end of the fiscal year, Superintendent Pat Harrell told members of the Board of Education at the Monday night regular meeting.

As a result, Harrell said all expenditures have been frozen, with priorities being given to school bus transportation and fuel for facilities.

Harrell said salaries would be exempt from the reduction, but no other purchases would be made. Harrell said he expects a majority of the funds will be used for school buses.

The Board went on record in opposition to legislation that has been introduced in the General Assembly

which states that the first day of school would be no earlier than the first Wednesday after Labor Day.

Harrell said the Board feels this decision should be left up to the local school boards.

Board members also went on record opposing legislation making school librarians registrars for the Board of Elections.

The Board officially took action to request the Division of School Planning of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to carry out a letter review and follow-up to the school facility survey developed for the county high school ten years ago.

Harrell said the follow-up will include the changes that have already been made at the high school

as well as recommendations for future changes.

Harrell reported that Raleigh architect Sam Ashford will attend a board meeting in April to discuss the Perquimans High School facilities.

In other Board business:

•The Board denied a request for school buses to enter Holiday Island and turn around at the clubhouse. Harrell said the bus currently, the bus stops at the Holiday Island gate, which is the end of the state maintained road.

•No asbestos was found in any of the school classrooms, according to lab results received this week, Harrell told the Board. State engineers will be working with the county in the removal of asbestos from boilers and pipes in the schools, Harrell said.

•The Board discussed changes in the law regarding education of children with special needs.

•Harrell reported to the Board that in the examination and report of immunization records for county kindergarten and first grade students, only two students had incomplete records.

•The Board accepted the ESEA Chapter I audit. Harrell said no problems or recommendations were given with the report.

•The Board adopted a resolution supporting the 400th Anniversary celebration beginning in 1984.

•Harrell announced that the window replacement project at Perquimans Union School had been completed. He also announced improvements made by the Athletic Boosters Club to the baseball field.

Commission accepts ADA contract

Five Clearinghouse Committee projects were approved by the Albemarle Commission at its quarterly dinner meeting held last

Thursday night at Soundview Restaurant.

Among the approved projects were — the loan request of the Southern

Shores Fire Department for improvements to the fire station, and an environment questionnaire for the Oakum Street Community Revitalization Project in Edenton.

The Commission also approved the contract with the Albemarle Development Authority, in which the Commission will provide staff services for the Authority.

The ADA was recently established through the Commission to provide small business loans for people in the 10 counties of Region R.

The Authority, upon approval of the Small Business Administration, should begin accepting loan applications by August 1, according to Ray McClees, assistant Albemarle

Commission director. In other business, the Commission voted to change the fiscal year for the Albemarle Commission to coincide with the state's fiscal year.

According to Don Flowers, executive director of the Albemarle Commission, the beginning of the fiscal year will change from October 1 to July 1, effective in 1984. Flowers said this action would shorten the fiscal year 1984 to nine months for the Commission.

The Commission approved the Emergency Medical Service bylaws.

Guest speaker for the meeting was Hobart Truesdale, president of First Colony Farms, who presented a program about peat, one of Region R's natural resources.