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Albemarle Commission rejects nutrition bids

By VALSHORT

The Albemarle Commission rejected all bids submitted for catering the Region R Nutrition program for fiscal year 1984, during the regular meeting held last week in Hertford.

With a vote of 19 to 2, the Commission rejected the recommendation of the Aging Advisory Council to accept the lowest bid for the project.

A total of four bids were submitted for the project, which serves 490 people in the 10 counties of Region R. Approximately 70 people in the region will receive home delivered meals and 410 will receive meals at nutrition sites next year.

The Washington County Department of Social Services submitted a bid of \$2.20 per plate for Tyrrell and Washington counties. Servomation of Rocky Mount submitted a bid of \$1.95 per plate, for all counties.

Other bids were \$2.24 and \$2.24 per plate. The Aging Council had recommended that the Commission accept the low bid from Servomation.

The Commission agreed to re-advertise the project for bids, making it clear that bids can be submitted for all 10 counties or for 8 counties and two counties.

Discussion erupted when representatives of Servomation announced that the Servomation bid

would only be in effect for all 10 counties and they would not accept part of the project.

Representing the Washington County DSS, Director Jerry Rhodes asked for equal consideration, explaining that the program was already established in Washington County and loss of the project would result in loss of jobs and revenue in the region.

Some Commission members expressed concern that if the contract

for the program was awarded outside the region, it would violate part of the purpose of the Albemarle Commission — to promote employment within the region.

The 1983-84 Albemarle Commission budget was reviewed and presented by Webb Fuller of the finance committee. Fuller said the budget includes a 10 percent increase in the aging program and in the Economic Development Association funds.

The finance committee recommended a three percent across the board salary increase and a two percent merit raise, according to Fuller.

The Commission authorized Director Don Flowers to set a date for a public hearing on the budget.

New members of the Emergency Medical Services Council were also accepted by the Commission during the meeting.



Counting sheep

Taking time out for a rest from the 38th annual Albemarle 4-H Livestock

Show is Daniel Fowler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Fowler of Hertford. Daniel was one of

over 50 participants from Perquimans who attended the show, held last week in

Elizabeth City. See page three for more on the show. (Photo by Val Short)

County school budget submitted to commissioners

By VALSHORT

A \$1,232,006 budget for the Perquimans County Schools was presented Monday night at a joint meeting of the Perquimans County Commissioners and the county Board of Education.

Representing a \$65,430 or 6.4 percent increase over last year, the budget calls for increased allocations in the capital improvements category.

The two boards met for about an hour, according to Superintendent Pat Harrell, who said they talked primarily about capital needs in the county.

Harrell said the Board of Education had also requested the establishment of a capital reserve fund of \$100,000 to be used for major renovation and construction of school facilities.

No action was taken on the budget request by the Board of Commissioners.

During the regular County Commissioners meeting Monday morning, the Commissioners selected three applications out of a total of 12 to be considered for the county forest

ranger position. The final selection will be made by the N.C. Forest Service.

A date for a revenue sharing hearing was set for May 10 at 8 p.m. at the Courthouse. Finance officer Durwood Reed told the board that revenue sharing officials would only guarantee funds through September. However, he said he thought the county would receive the same amount of funds received last year.

The Commissioners received a copy of a petition submitted to the Division of N.C. Marine Fisheries, requesting commercial fishing be prohibited from the Perquimans River between the business 17 bridge and the bypass bridge.

The petition, presented by J.P. Perry and Eldon Winslow, states that nets, traps and markers should be removed from the area to permit recreational activities.

The Commissioners reviewed design ideas for a county seal from the Perquimans High School art department. No action was taken.

Jim Mills reported on the condition of the heating systems in the library and other county buildings.

Perquimans 400th committee holds public forum Sunday

"We were not jailbirds who came here," Mrs. Lucille Winslow said of America's early settlers, as history would have us believe.

"I think we need to re-learn history. We of English heritage should be proud of it," she told the group of some 60 people who attended the public forum at the Perquimans Courthouse Sunday afternoon.

Re-learning history is part of what the 400th Anniversary celebration is all about. Scheduled to begin April 27, 1984 in England, and July 13, 1984 in America, America will celebrate the

400th anniversary of English colonization. The period of commemoration extends through August 18, 1987.

Mrs. Winslow, of Hertford, who is serving as the liaison chairman for the state 400th committee, was also instrumental in the organization of the outdoor drama "The Lost Colony" and helped organize the Dare County Tourist Bureau. She was among a panel of speakers who were featured at the kick-off meeting for the 400th celebration in Perquimans.

Mrs. Winslow said Perquimans is a land of many firsts, including the first rebellion against the English rule, which was Culpepper's Rebellion, and the first Quaker sermon, delivered at the Newbold-White House. The oldest deed was also recorded in Perquimans, Mrs. Winslow told the group.

Ray Winslow, local historian, was also among the panel members. He reported on the Perquimans County of 400 years ago. "This celebration is not just what happened 400 years

ago, but what has happened since then," he said.

Winslow said there was no Perquimans County 400 years ago, because the county was not formed until 1668. Winslow said that Perquimans' connection to the 400th anniversary and Dare County is simply the settlement of the Lost Colony and subsequent English colonies.

"The tide was set in motion by Walter Raleigh," he commented.

"We've got a lot to be proud of," Winslow told the group.

Other panel members included Jim "Catfish" Hunter, who discussed plans for a youth baseball camp, tentatively scheduled for August 1984, and Juanita Bailey, who reported involvement of the County Extension Service in the 400th.

Chairman of the Perquimans 400th committee told the group of plans for a Quaker meeting to be held at the Newbold-White House in 1984. "We hope to include Quakers from all over the country," she said.

Also discussed was a visit by the General Assembly to the Newbold-

White House, during which legislation will be enacted. Tentative plans for an outdoor drama in the park were also discussed.

Chairman of the Perquimans Board of Commissioners Joe Nowell said, "The 400th is an opportunity we just won't have again. The county commissioners wholeheartedly support this effort," he said.

Nowell added, "I think we can attract a lot of people and give Perquimans County a lot of publicity."

Pick-your-own crops look good

By VALSHORT

Record amounts of rainfall and a wet spring will have a definite effect on agriculture in Perquimans County.

According to Bill Jester, the foul weather could affect local pick-your-own operations, especially those with strawberries. The wet weather could be "devastating if it keeps on," Jester said, since the tart red fruit is susceptible to rotting.

T.R. Harrell, owner of a local pick-your-own strawberry operation near Hertford, expects to have a "real nice crop" this year.

He said the harvest would be hurt somewhat by the late freeze, but he expects a 95 percent crop this season.

"We will be a little bit later this year," he said, guessing that harvest time will come around May 12 and 15.

Mrs. Harrell commented that they

had never had snow on the berries before but they are anticipating a good year. She said the rain had damaged the spinach crop.

Jester said he didn't think blueberries would be affected by the bad weather this spring.

"We didn't have that much frost and it didn't stay around long enough to cause much damage," said Jester.

Jesse Parker Perry, owner of a county blueberry picking operation, said he had lost probably 20 percent of the early varieties due to the early frost.

"I think we'll still have a good crop," he commented. Perry expects the blueberries to ripen around the second week in July.

Jester said Perquimans may be one of the few areas in North Carolina to produce peaches. He said the late frosts probably had little effect on both the peach and apple

crops in the county.

"We will have some peaches," he said. Jester said Perquimans had three growers with apples and peaches or chards.

Jester said approximately 300 to 400 acres of corn had been planted in the county. But for those growers who are late planting corn, Jester said the Agricultural Extension Service is recommending using a medium season variety.

Jester said the concern with late-planted corn is its susceptibility to insect and heat damage.

He said also that the corn tends to be bigger, causing lodging, or falling down.

Jester recommends that growers plant corn thicker, to compensate for lower yields. He also said growers should have combines ready to harvest the crops before lodging occurs.



Flag show

Billy White and members of the Hertford Fife and Drum Corps presented a flag program at the Perquimans County 400th Anniversary

Committee public forum, held last Sunday at the Courthouse. The meeting was a kick-off to planning and

activities in Perquimans for the 400th anniversary of the English colonization of America.

County Social Services cheese, butter distribution scheduled May 13

By VALSHORT

More Perquimans residents than ever will benefit from the distribution of free cheese and butter by the Perquimans Department of Social Services to be held Friday, May 13 at the ice plant in Hertford.

Over 13,000 pounds of cheese, and 5,000 pounds of butter has been ordered for Perquimans residents for distribution, according to DSS Director Paul Gregory.

Free cheese and butter will be available for senior citizens over the

age of 60; disabled persons who are not receiving social security; food stamp, AFDC, and medicaid recipients; and to families under certain income levels.

According to Gregory, this is not a welfare program, but is designed to

eliminate surplus food that is now being stored at the taxpayer's expense.

Corameal, powdered milk, rice, honey and peanut butter may also be available for distribution in the coming months, according to

Gregory.

Those who are eligible, can receive from five to 20 pounds of cheese and from two to eight pounds of butter, depending upon family size.

Application forms are available at several locations in the county in-

cluding, the DSS office, the Health Department, the Extension office, Senior Citizens Center, the Nutrition site, Catholic Social Services and Open Door.

Applications must be turned in at the time of distribution.