

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Final bell

Happy faces are shown by students at Perquimans High School as they leave school

after the final bell of the year.

Summer jobs, summer camp

and plenty of fun and relaxation will be on tap until

school convenes again in August. (Photo by Val Short)

## Water quality still a problem in county

By SUSAN HARRIS

Poor quality water is still one of the most pressing problems facing the county Board of Commissioners, as was evidenced by a county resident at the board meeting Monday morning.

After five years of operation, there is an undetermined problem at the water department. None of the commissioners, nor Ron Sessions of the engineering firm Rivers and Associates, can say where the problem lies.

Diane Riddick blasted the commissioners for their failure to have the water clean after such a long period of plant operation.

Riddick reminded the board of her April 18 appearance before them. At that time, she said that her water

was unclean on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Monday mornings, cleared by Monday afternoons, stayed clean through Thursdays, and the cycle began again.

She reported that her water stayed clean after her April complaint until May 28, when the old cycle resumed.

Riddick also noted that one commissioner had stated publicly several days after the meeting that he did not believe she had bad water.

The board was told by Riddick that they are elected officials and because of this "it's your job to know and care" about the dirty water customers are paying for.

Riddick also told the board that the problem is not only a nuisance, but is an expense when clothes are ruined or must be rewashed, and water must be gotten from another source.

"We're paying for water that's not even clean," Riddick said.

"It makes me so mad," she continued, after telling the commissioners that her daughter drank the water during the time it was dirty before Riddick could stop her. "The cup was filthy," Riddick said.

"Give me your opinion," Riddick charged board members after filing her complaint.

"There's no doubt in my mind that you've been getting dirty water," Commissioner Lester Simpson said.

"There's still a problem. We have done all I know to do to find out," Simpson added.

Commissioner Welly White told Riddick that an outside engineering firm was hired by the county to inspect the water plant, but could find no reason for the poor quality water.

Water department manager Russ Chappell and Keith Haskett have recorded names, dates and times of all complaints of bad water for the past few months.

Commissioner Charles Ward suggested that these logs be reviewed by the commissioners at their next regular meeting.

Ron Sessions updated the board on Phase II of the county water system. The well driller was scheduled to begin on June 7.

Sessions said if good weather prevails, the second plant should be operational by late fall.

Asked his opinion on the bad water from the Phase I plant, Sessions said, "I just don't know" what the problem is.

Sessions did say that the well is serving more households than it was designed to service.

The county's insurance contract was awarded to Business Insurance Management, the low bidder with a \$11,042 price.

The board voted 3-2 to subsidize a salary for an additional part time Farmer's Home Administration employee. Perquimans County will match Chowan County's appropriation of \$2200.

The program, which operates with 74 percent state and 26 percent local funding, will include several curriculum changes at the junior high and high school levels, in which vocational classes will be rotated, said Stalls.

"The program will broaden the number in the vocational program and will help the students have a better background in making vocational decisions," said Stalls.

Stalls reported that next year would be the second of the three-year program to establish a complete computer lab at the high school.

Four computers were purchased last year, according to Stalls. With the decrease in price of computers now, Stalls said six or seven computers could probably be purchased for the same amount of money used last year.

"These students are coming into a generation that they've either got to get on that (computer) wagon, or get lost," said Stalls.

"We've got an obligation to them."

he added.

Stalls said 15 percent of vocational education funds must be used for children with special needs. Most of that allocation is used in the junior high, Stalls told the board.

Stalls said that vocational funds for the county have not been cut "since I've been on this job." "I really don't feel they (the state) will cut programs that teach skills," Stalls commented.

The Board made no changes in the school attendance policy, which allows only 20 days of unexcused school absences per year.

Harrell told board members that one student will not graduate and others will not be promoted because of excessive unexcused absences.

Harrell told the board the school facilities plan update should be complete in several weeks. He said a team from the state office had recently inspected the county facilities, to update the long range plan for Perquimans.

They found, according to Harrell, several code violations, including paneling at the high school and several door locks.

Possible fire escape hazards were found in a high school classroom and in dressing rooms at the junior high, said Harrell.

In other business:

• Harrell announced the roof at the high school auditorium had been coated with an aluminum fiber compound. He also said gutter work had been completed at Perquimans Union and wood trim and gutters had been replaced at Central.

• Harrell announced that free lunch would be provided to anyone under age 18 this summer at sites located around the county. Harrell said no eligibility criteria was required for the program, which will be coordinated by LaClaire Rogerson.

• Board members voted to cancel their June 20 meeting.

• Tammy Lane, Elizabeth Towe, and the Perquimans Union language arts students were announced as winners of the Tar Heel Junior Historian state competition.

## Commissioners honored

The Perquimans Extension Service honored the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners at a luncheon at the county office building on Monday.

Commissioner William Wray Chappell was the only board member at the annual luncheon. Board secretary Jeanne White and county finance officer Durwood Reed also attended.

Agricultural Agent Bill Jester welcomed the board representatives, Hertford mayor Bill Cox, extension committee members and other guests to the meal of fried fish, potato salad, cole slaw, hushpuppies and lemon pie.

Bill Jester and Jeff Copeland, Livestock Agent, presented slide shows depicting programs they had been involved in during the past year.

Both expressed great satisfaction in the accomplishments of county farmers and 4-Hers in recent months.

A written annual report which highlighted the activities of the Home Economics, Expanded Food and Nutrition and 4-H departments was distributed.

Extension committee chairman Ed Nixon relayed his appreciation on behalf of the Extension members to the Commission for their financial support.

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A six-year-old Hertford girl died Thursday after being struck by a car while she was attempting to cross Grubb Street near her home.

Patricia Rue of 315 Grubb Street in Hertford died at 10:45 p.m. from multiple trauma and head wounds, after being transported by Nightingale helicopter from Albemarle Hospital to Norfolk General.

According to Marshall Merritt, Hertford Chief of Police, the driver of the 1975 Toyota, Larry Abraham Honeyblue, 22, of Route 2, Box 68C, Edenton, was not charged.

"The accident was unavoidable,"

said Merritt.

Merritt said Honeyblue was travelling on Grubb Street in an Easterly direction when the child ran from Missing Mill Park into the path of Honeyblue's automobile.

Merritt said according to the investigating officer, Michael Jasielum, the vehicle was travelling approximately 20 miles per hour at the time of impact.

He said the driver had applied his brakes and attempted to swerve.

A native of Fort Jackson, S.C., she was the daughter of David and Sallie Ann Osteen Rue and was a first grade student at Hertford Grammar School.

Besides her parents she is survived by two brothers, David Lee Rue and Robert Charles Rue, both of the home; her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Osteen of Colerain; and her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Beatrice Rue of Hertford.

Funeral services were held Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Askewville Assembly of God Church, Bertie County, with Mrs. Ottis Denton and Rev. R. O. Denton, Jr. officiating.

Burial followed in the White Family Cemetery. Swindell Funeral Home, Hertford, was in charge of arrangements.

## Perquimans 400th scheduled

By VAL SHORT

Among the activities on the statewide schedule of events for America's 400th anniversary of English colonization, will be a Quaker homecoming at the Newbold-White House and a baseball camp, led by Jim "Catfish" Hunter.

The Perquimans 400th committee recently completed its agenda of activities for the first two years of the four-year celebration, which had to be submitted by June 1 for approval by the state committee.

Perquimans chairman Jeanne White said, "We're excited about our plans for the 400th in Perquimans. We hope the celebration will rekindle an interest and appreciation in our heritage and history, as well as bring visitors into our county."

The national celebration will begin July 11, 1984, the anniversary of the arrival of the English in America, Amadas and Barlowe, August 18,

1987 will mark the end of the event, which is the 400th anniversary of the birth of Virginia Dare on Roanoke Island, the first child of English parentage born in America.

The 400th will begin in Perquimans August 5, 1984 with a baseball camp, tentatively scheduled at Camp Cale.

Led by Perquimans' own Jimmy Hunter and other volunteers, the camp will follow the theme of history and baseball. The six-day camp will be held for boys ages nine through 14 for one week.

A special exhibit of the N.C. Baseball Hall of Fame, which includes Hunter, will be featured at the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City during the camp week.

The "Quaker Homecoming," set in October 1984, will commemorate the 1672 beginning of Quakerism in North Carolina.

Sponsored by the Eastern Quarterly Meeting, the three-day event

will take place primarily at the Newbold-White House in Hertford and will include religious services by well-known Quaker ministers and an old fashioned dinner.

A special Quaker exhibit will be on display at Museum of the Albemarle during that time.

Also slated in 1984 will be the design and construction of a quilt depicting local history by the Perquimans Quilters Club.

Education will be stressed during the 400th, according to Mrs. White, and the county schools will be asked to participate. The Yeopim Indians and other coastal tribes, as well as the Roanoke voyages will be studied in the schools. Students will also bury a time capsule, to be opened in the year 2000.

Four hundred years of music will be the theme of band concerts by the Perquimans High School band during

(Continued on page 2)



Running winner

Cecil Davis of Colerain, runner for the Tidewater Striders placed first in Saturday's Run for the Moon, sponsored by the Perquimans Parks and Recreation Department. The 5 kilometer, or 3.1 mile race, was part of the festivities during the "Carolina Moon" Band Festival. Recreation Director

Bobbi Veon greets Davis with his first place marker. For more on the band festival, please see page three. (Photo by Val Short)