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Tensions rise at Council over ABC profits

By SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Pat Harrell urged the Hertford Town Council at their meeting Monday night not to alleviate the school system's traditional share of ABC store profits.

Recent state legislation passed on behalf of the town allows the town board full control of ABC profits. Previous laws and tradition dictated that 50 percent of the ABC profits go to the county Board of Education.

Harrell told the council that the Board of Education has gone on record urging the council not to reduce the funding which at present amounts to around \$15,000 per year.

Mayor Bill Cox told Harrell, "I don't think that we intend to take that

money away unless we see that we need it."

In his explanation to Harrell outlining the town's position, Councilman Jessie Harris said, "The town is getting squeezed," adding that the town's people pay a disproportionate amount for the county school system's operation.

"That (ABC) money should have never gone to the Board of Education," Harris said.

The Hertford ABC store is owned and operated by the town as a source of revenue. In light of these facts, the town council felt that the town should, by right, control the store's profits.

"I don't think it's our desire to take it away," Councilman Billy Winslow said.

Councilmen Joe White and Billy Winslow expressed a desire to earmark funds the town gives the Board of Education.

Harrell thanked the council for its past support and asked that they continue to work with the county's educational system.

Bids for the town's gasoline and fuel oil were opened. Winslow Oil Company, the low bidder, was awarded the contract.

Winslow Oil's price was \$1.149 for regular leaded gasoline, \$1.179 for regular unleaded gasoline and \$.882 for number two fuel oil.

Other bidders were Hollowell Oil Company and Reed Oil Company. Councilman Billy Winslow abstained.

Cox read a letter from Hertford Baptist Church requesting that the

town fund repairs and maintenance on the church's parking lot.

The church asked that the town:

- grade and level the lot once per month.

- construct a driveway and bridge behind the medical center with a chain and lock to be controlled by the church.

- provide rock and other materials needed to maintain the lot at the church's request.

The council voted to construct the driveway and grade the lot as requested, but to negotiate with the church on all major repairs when they are needed.

Cox announced that the town's present health insurance coverage with The Travelers Insurance Co. will increase 37 percent next year.

The League of Municipalities will meet on Thursday to discuss a self-insurance plan.

Street repairs on Hilland Park, which has recently incurred an extensive sewer cave-in, were brought to the council's attention.

Other street and sewer repairs are underway on Edenton Road Street and Sunset Drive.

Because of unforeseen street repair, Town Clerk Marvin Hunter outlined several budget amendments, totaling \$16,500, which were approved by the board.

Cox reported that the town's small tractor needs a major overhaul, which is expected to cost between \$3200 and \$3500. As an alternative, Cox is looking for a good used tractor.

Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt presented the police department's monthly report which included 10 arrests and 19 reported violations.

Chief Merritt told the council that his department is making an attempt to wipe the overtime from the department's books.

Cecil Winslow reported on behalf of the ABC board that May sales were up \$121.15 from May 1982, with total sales of \$34,095.15.

An invitation was extended to the council to attend the June 26 Volunteer Recognition Day reception at Missing Mill Park.

With no further business, the town adjourned into executive session to interview a prospective police officer.



A capacity crowd looked on as 117 Perquimans County seniors were graduated during commencement exercises held last Wednesday night at the high school athletic field. Led by valedictorian Paige Hollowell, the graduates received diplomas from

Chairman of the county Board of Education Clifford Winslow. Dr. Parker Chesson, president of College of the Albemarle and also

Perquimans High School graduate, was the keynote speaker. (Photo by Val Short)

Perquimans High School graduate, was the keynote speaker. (Photo by Val Short)

County agencies will entertain youth in summer program

By VAL SHORT

Fun plus education equals adventure for Perquimans County youth this summer.

The Perquimans County Extension office and the Public Library are joining forces with the Perquimans Parks and Recreation Department to provide educational and entertaining activities for children during the summer months.

Beginning Friday, June 24, the "Adventures A to Z" library summer reading program will begin with Kate Shales leading "Adventures in Sign Language."

Films, music and handouts will help participants learn to talk and sing with their hands.

"You don't have to be a 4-H'er to participate," said Juanita Bailey, Extension 4-H agent. The 4-H activities may include anyone between the ages of 9 and 12. Some of the activities will require a fee.

Library events will be designed for students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. However, anyone older is welcome, according to Teri Bossley, librarian, and younger children must be accompanied by an adult. Library programs are free.

Bossley said she hopes to enroll at least 50 to 60 participants in the summer program. Approximately 80 participated in the summer reading program last year, she said.

Those who complete the required reading and who also participate in at least three of the 4-H events will be able to join the field trip to the Marine Resources Center in Manteo August 5.

The first 4-H activity will be held Monday, June 27 at the Extension Office with a macrame class from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Mrs. Emma Burke and her son Damion will lead the class.

The purpose of the combined program is to provide opportunities for activities for children during the summer and to generate interest in the library and 4-H programs. "We also hope to encourage the kids to practice their reading skills," said Bossley.

"We are really excited about this program and want to encourage everyone to come out and join us. We want them to share the wide variety of experiences that have been planned for them at their friendly public library," commented Bossley.

The Parks and Recreation Department is providing funding for the project through the Grassroots Arts program. "We want as many to

become involved in this outreach program as possible," commented Recreation Director Bobbi Veon.

Planned activities will be held each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at several locations. They include:

- "Adventures on Hooves" — horse riding and demonstrations, Friday, July 1 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the library with Holly Green.

- Tour of Don Juan — view the complete garment-making process, Wednesday, July 6 from 10 a.m. to 12. Group will meet at the visitors entrance.

- "Sweet corn — from start to finish" — Tour of Tommy Harrell farm in Bear Swamp, Thursday, July 7 from 10 a.m. to 12. Participants are asked to meet at the farm. Harrell and Bill Jester will lead the tour.

- "Adventures with Storytelling" — songs, stories, films and puppet shows, Friday, July 8 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the library with Evelyn Neptune.

- Reed baskets and placemats, Monday, July 11 and Wednesday, July 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 at the Extension Office with Lynn Hilborn.

- "Adventures with Birds and the Bees" — local birdwatching and beekeeping, Friday, July 22 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the library with Edward McGinnis and Sally Knight.

- Punched tin craft — learn to make tree ornaments and wall hangings, Monday, July 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 at the Extension office with Paige Underwood.

- "Adventures on the Potter's Wheel" — learn about making pots from clay using the wheel, Friday, July 15 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the library with Sonny Fletcher.

- Miscellaneous crafts — learn to make felt, pom-poms and other quickie crafts, Monday, July 18 and Wednesday, July 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 at the Extension office with Nancy Madre.

- Outdoor cooking — learn to plan and prepare foods cooked outdoor style, Monday, August 1 from 9 a.m. to 12 with Juanita Bailey.

- Cross stitch — learn to make simple cross stitch designs, Wednesday, July 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the library with Mary Corprew.

- "Adventures with snakes and reptiles" — view reptiles in person and in films, Friday, July 29 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the library with Gary Woodyard.

Anyone interested in the program is asked to register at the library or the Extension office by June 23. The program will offer plenty to fill the summer days ahead for local youth.

School graduates 117

Perquimans holds 58th commencement

By VAL SHORT

College of the Albemarle President Dr. Parker Chesson urged the Perquimans High School class of 1983 during graduation last Wednesday to strive for excellence and to get involved during the years to come.

Speaking to 117 graduating seniors and a capacity crowd at the 58th Perquimans High School commencement exercises, Chesson said, "Each of us will pass this way but one time... I urge you to use your talents."

Chesson said success is determined by many factors, including — ability, luck and especially persistence.

"The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve problems," he continued.

Chesson reflected on his own graduation from Perquimans. He quoted the speaker on that occasion who said, "Look at each other. This is probably the last time you'll all be together." Chesson said the speaker was correct.

Chesson told the graduates the

skills they received in high school will not get them through a lifetime of work or a career. "You'll have to continue your education and you will have to practice lifelong learning," he said.

Chesson said jobs in the future will revolve around services and information, rather than industry.

"Society has changed very rapidly and that's going to continue," he said.

"The improvement of the quality of life has improved dramatically."

"By the year 2003, the changes we will see will exceed what we have already seen," he said.

Led by class valedictorian Paige Hollowell and salutatorian Sheila Perry, the graduates were awarded their diplomas by Chairman of the Board of Education Clifford Winslow.

The Rev. W.L. Leigh gave the invocation and benediction. Music was presented by the Perquimans Band and Chorus. Also on the program were William E. Byrum, school principal and Superintendent Pat Harrell.

County tax rate to remain the same

By VAL SHORT

There will be no tax increase for Perquimans residents next year, county finance officer Durwood Reed told the county commissioners last Tuesday night.

During the public budget hearing held at the courthouse, Reed told the group that the tax levy would remain the same — at \$1.20.

The hearing on the proposed \$3.27 million budget and revenue sharing funds for 1983-84 drew a meager crowd of two, due to bad weather and conflicting meetings.

Representing the Committee of 100, Ed Nixon met with the commissioners to discuss the employment of an industrial consultant.

Nixon said a consultant would assist in contacting and securing industries for Perquimans. For a fee of \$12,000 per year, the consultant would work one day per week for the

county providing these services, according to Nixon.

Commission chairman Joe Nowell said he had been in favor of hiring a county manager in the past. "Instead of spending this much on one person one day a week, I think we should spend it on someone we would have all the time," said Nowell.

The consultant would "put together a package" for potential industries coming into the county, said Nixon, securing options on land and developing brochures and maps to encourage industrial development.

Also at the hearing was Hertford fireman Sid Eley, who asked if the board had decided to purchase a water tanker for the Hertford Fire Department.

Eley told the commission the tank the fire department currently uses is functioning, but is "top-heavy" and

could be hazardous when traveling to fires around the county.

Board member Welly White told Eley the county would not be able to purchase a tanker at the present time.

From Staff Reports
A representative from the state's commerce office told members of the Perquimans Committee of 100 that it will take money and dedication to bring industry into this county.

Talking to a group of about 30 at Angler's Cove last Tuesday night, Alva Ward, director of the Division of Industrial Development, shared some of his own observations about industrial development in North

Carolina, the northeast, in particular.

Ward told the group that 240 other organizations in the 100 counties were attempting what the Committee of 100 was trying to accomplish — vying for the attention of industry and "looking for ways to attract industrial development."

"This is a very competitive business," Ward said. "Without

interstate (highways,) centers of population and other such drawing factors, the job is tougher," he continued.

"Money, if handled wisely, will in all probability bring you back into the area of competition," Ward said.

Trends and requirements in industrial development have changed, almost daily, according to Ward.

"No other place in the U.S. has

seen as much change in the last two years as North Carolina," he continued.

Ward told the committee that industries are looking for things that are in the best interest of their companies — such as, making money, recruiting and making employees happy. He said the attitude of government toward business is also a factor.

Ward speaks on industrial development

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