

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## County Commissioners delay adoption of FY 85-86 budget

By SUSAN HARRIS and JANE B. WILLIAMS

"We presented to you a budget that we felt was fair and equitable..." This statement made by Board of Education Chairman Clifford Winslow reflected the feelings of all department heads gathered at a special budget meeting of the Perquimans County Commissioners on Tuesday night.

Facing an eight percent increase in the tax levy the commissioners called the meeting to discuss possible budget cuts with various department heads.

Commissioner Wayne Winslow said, "We're looking at this budget to see if there's any

way we can hold the tax rate down."

Proposed is a five-cents tax hike over the 1984-85 fiscal budget, which would raise the tax levy to 68-cents per \$1,000 property valuation. The increase would mean that a taxpayer with a property evaluation of \$50,000 who paid \$315 in fiscal 1984-85 would pay \$340 in 1985-86.

The Board of Education is requesting \$1,201,277 in the general school fund and \$227,750 in capital outlay. These funds constitute 38-percent of the total county budget. Approximately one out of every five county residents are either employed by

or enrolled in the county school system according to the 1980 census.

"We presented to you a budget that we felt was fair and equitable, and we feel that to cut it any further we would deny the children in this county the opportunity they so richly deserve," Clifford Winslow said.

The state legislature Tuesday mandated a five percent across the board salary increase for state employees, along with a 4.8-percent step increase.

Wallace McLendon, Regional Director of the Pettigrew Library System, addressed the needs of the library, substantiating the department's pro-

jected budget request of \$41,041. This year the library received \$37,000 in county funds.

McLendon, supported by library employees and residents, stressed the importance of a strong public library system. He further stated that cutting the request could put the library in jeopardy of losing state matching funds.

The \$3,700 increase would move the per capita rate from \$3.84 to \$4.23, falling short of the state's \$4.95 per capita outlay guidelines by 72-cents.

The library offers 17 outreach programs for children and 10 programs for senior citizens, which includes the bookmobile.

Other counties in the region have budgeted between \$3.65 and \$6.89 per capita.

Recreational Advisory Council member Terry Williams spoke to the board on behalf of the county recreation program. The department "is more than teaching kids to play baseball and football. It teaches values of good sportsmanship, and learning to get along with other people," he said.

Williams expressed concern over critical statements made by some commissioners about the recreation department at an earlier meeting.

After hearing comments from those in attendance, Commis-

sioner Winslow said, "I'd like to see two cents cut, but I can't see how we can do it. You've got to be fair to everybody."

Commissioner Thomas Nixon stated, "If you give me the voting power, I'll show you how to cut the budget. I went on vacation. I knew I couldn't do it by myself, so I didn't worry about it." However, Nixon offered no ideas or insights in regard to alleviating the county's financial situation.

The final budget is scheduled to be approved in regular session on Monday, July 1, at 10 a.m. The 1984-85 fiscal budget expires at midnight Sunday, June 30th.

## Two injured when car overtuned on Bear Swamp Road

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

Two local men were injured Thursday night when the car in which they were passengers flipped over into a ditch on Bear Swamp Road.

Doug Pickop, age 25 of Route 1, Hertford, and Bob Howard, age 22 of Chowan Beach, were transported to

Chowan Hospital by the Perquimans County Rescue Squad following the incident after rescue workers from the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department Special Rescue team freed them from the vehicle.

According to Craig Garriss of the North Carolina Highway Patrol the two were

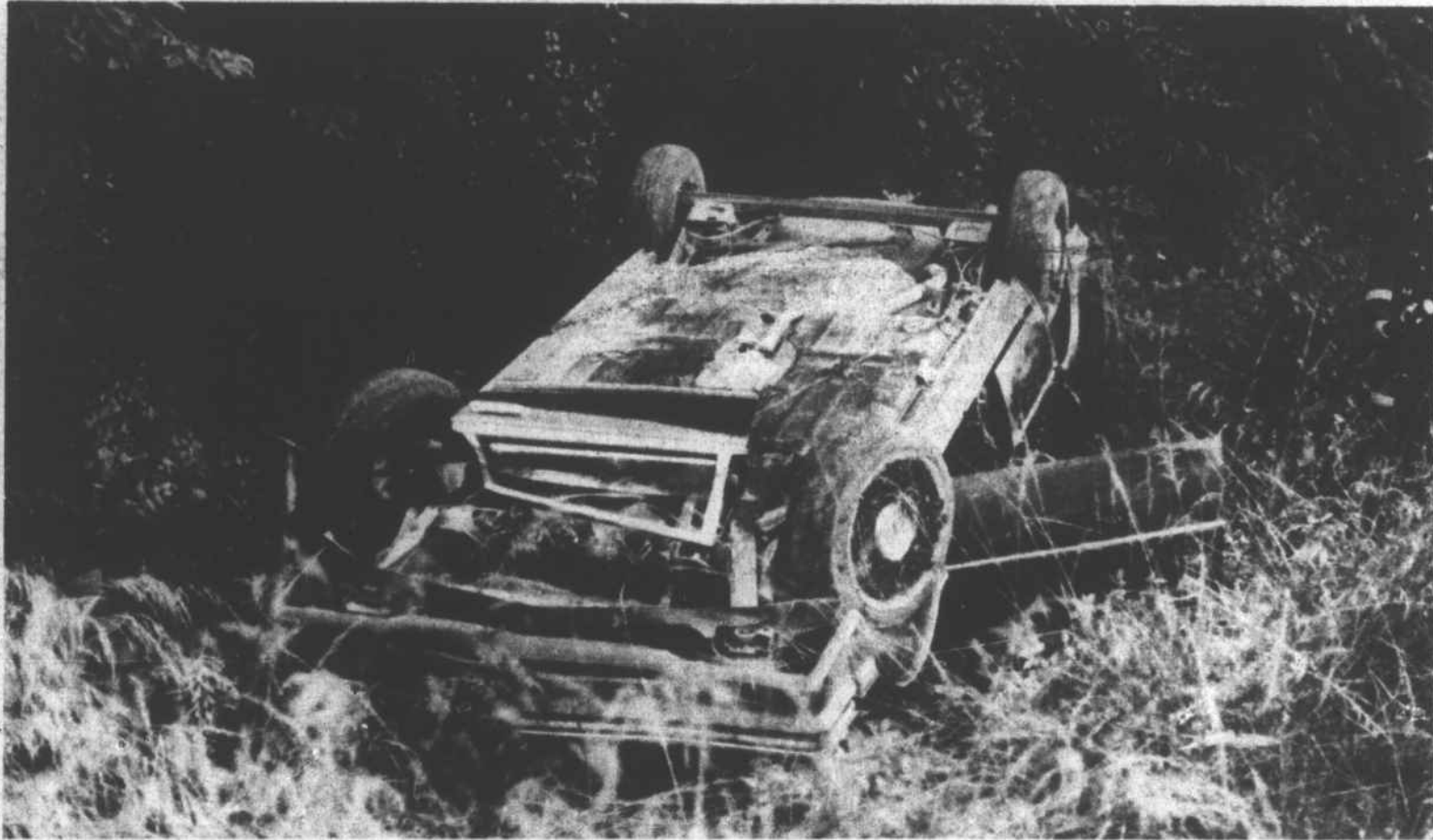
passengers in the backseat of the 1980 Pontiac Phoenix when the car came out of a curve on the non-paved road and overturned. The door had to be cut-off to enable rescue workers to remove the victims from the car.

Pickop was treated and released for cuts and abrasions. Howard was admitted

to the hospital for treatment of fractured ribs, cuts and abrasions. Where he is listed in satisfactory condition.

The other occupants of the car, Michael John McAtte and David Barnes, were uninjured.

McAtte, age 22, of Route 1, Hertford, was charged with wreckless driving.



Two people were injured Thursday night when the driver of a car apparently lost control of the vehicle on Bear Swamp Road and the car overturned into a ditch. The

accident victims were transported to Chowan Hospital in Edenton by the Perquimans County Rescue Squad. (Photo by Jane B. Williams.)

## FBI agents arrest robbery suspect

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

An anonymous phone call to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt led to the Thursday night arrest of a suspected bank robber who has eluded federal agents since early April.

Johnny Myers was arrested in a hotel room in Raleigh after a phone call to Merritt stating his whereabouts was reported to Mark Gass, senior FBI agent in Elizabeth City.

Myers, age 53, was wanted in connection with the robbery of the West Branch of Peoples Bank and Trust in Hertford last April.

According to Merritt, he received a phone call at his home on Thursday evening around 7:00 p.m. The caller stated that Myers was staying at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Raleigh in room 509 under an assumed name. Merritt then called Agent Gass, who reported the information to agents in Raleigh.

According to Merritt, FBI agents in Raleigh along with two Raleigh detectives went to the hotel and arrested Myers without incident around midnight.

Robert Pence, agent in charge of state FBI operations, confirmed Merritt's report adding that Myers, a Perquimans County native, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Craven County in May for the Hertford robbery.

According to Pence, agents recovered an undisclosed amount of money and a handgun at the time of arrest.

Pence also stated that Myers is a suspect in at least two other bank robberies in eastern North Carolina that have occurred since the Hertford robbery.

In May a man fitting Myers'

description was the culprit of an armed robbery at Planters Bank and Trust in Rocky Mount; and in June a man, also fitting Myers' description held up First Citizens Bank and Trust in Kinston. Each time the suspect fled in what was thought to be a stolen car.

Myers appeared before a state superior court judge in Wake County on Friday where he was held over without bond. He was taken to Wake County jail after his arrest, but has since been turned over to federal marshalls awaiting an appearance before a federal judge or magistrate.

## Durants Neck Post Office temporarily closed

Hertford Postmaster Ricky Wilkinson reported this week that the Durants Neck Post Office has been closed temporarily.

According to Wilkinson postal customers that have previously been served by the Durants Neck Post Office can either have their mail delivered on a rural route or they have their mail held in General Delivery at the Hertford Post Office until arrangements can be made to re-open the Durants Neck branch.

He pointed out that the closing is only temporary, and that service in Durants Neck would again be provided as soon as a new contractor can be found to house the facility.

## Four arrested for use of stolen credit card

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

An SBI agent enroute to Elizabeth City Friday heard a call over the Highway Patrol frequency alerting patrolmen to be on the lookout for a black Trans Am with three white males and one white female occupant heading north on U.S. 17 near Hertford, and then looked up and realized that the car was directly in front of him.

According to Hertford Police

Chief Marshall Merritt the agent then followed the car into town where it turned into the lot at Ace Hardware. The agent then called for assistance from the Hertford Police Department.

The foursome were wanted in connection with the use of a stolen state fisheries credit card.

Merritt stated that the agent realized that the car was not displaying a license plate, and

after stopping at the store an occupant of the car went inside and purchased some tape. After buying the tape the man came back and taped a 20-day temporary Florida tag in the rear window of the car.

Members of the HPD, the N.C. Highway Patrol and the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene where a search of the ve-

hicle and its passengers turned up a state telephone credit card, a state fisheries gas credit card and other state employees credit cards, along with the employees checkbook.

It was determined that a vehicle in New Bern had been broken into the night before and the occupants of the car were placed under arrest and turned over to the New Bern Police Department.

According to Merritt a small amount of marijuana was also discovered in the vehicle.

The four arrested were: Roger Allen Merrill, age 18 of Gainesville, Florida; Robert Willard Cody, age 20 of New Smyrna Beach, Florida; Shelly Sue Hines, age 18, of High Springs, Florida; and Donald William Hurst, age 17, of Gainesville.

It was also determined that Cody was wanted in several states for breaking and entering, but the states that were contacted by the HPD refused to extradite.

The four were arrested and charged by the New Bern Police Dept. with breaking and entering and larceny of a motor vehicle, forging and uttering checks, and use of stolen government property; to wit: credit cards.

## Felton named to state advisory board

Estelle M. Felton of Rt. 2, Hertford has been selected to serve as an advisor to a new, statewide North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service leadership program.

Mrs. Felton was appointed to the advisory council of the Leadership Development Program for Rural Minority Women on May 22.

The program will help black and Indian women, aged 20 to 40, to develop their leadership skills. Those selected will participate in learning experiences and seminars over the course of three years.

Mrs. Felton said her goal is to "make life better for our women."

"We have chosen Mrs. Felton to be among the 12 advisors for this new program because of her high interests in the development of rural minority women. Her knowledge of resources and strategies will help the extension service to help rural minority women develop their leadership abilities," said Dr. Brenda Foster Allen, pro-

gram director, North Carolina State University, Raleigh.

Mrs. Felton is vice-president of the Democratic Party of Perquimans County, vice-president of the NAACP for the county, and is very active in her church. She has seven children, ages 17-38, and 12 grandchildren.



ESTELLE FELTON

## Flippen named to fill position

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

The Perquimans County Board of Education named William Stephen (Bill) Flippen to fill the post of football coach for the upcoming school year at Perquimans County High School during a special called meeting on Monday night.

Flippen will take over the reigns left by Pat Morgan who recently resigned this position to take on a coaching position with the Rockingham County School District.

Flippen, a native of Amelia County, Virginia, has been em-

ployed by the Perquimans County School system for the past year where he has worked with the physical education programs at Perquimans Central School and Perquimans Union School. He also coached girls softball and was an assistant football coach.

Prior to locating in Hertford, Flippen worked for the Amelia County High School where he was employed as head football coach for 12 years. While at Amelia, Flippen also served as athletic director, head basketball coach and head baseball coach.

Comments gathered from school personnel after the announcement on Monday night were positive, with Superintendent Pat Harrell stating, "I am pleased that the Board of Education approved Flippen as the new coach for our high school." Perquimans County High School Principal William Byrum added that, "I look forward to working with him. We're glad to have him with us."

Flippen and his wife, Ann, reside with their two children, Steve and Todd, on Gaston Drive in Hertford. Ann is also employed at PCHS as a math teacher.