

**Barbee honored**  
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**Methodist plan celebration**  
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**COA holds registration**  
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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



## Welcome home!

A sign located on the courthouse green in downtown Hertford welcomed Jimmy Hunter and his family home this past week

following his induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday, July 26th in Cooperstown, New York.

## School board visits construction project

Members of the Perquimans County Board of Education got an opportunity Monday evening to tour the high school construction project prior to its final inspection.

Pat Harrell, Superintendent and Richard O'Neal who is head of school maintenance and facilities took members of the board on a guided tour through the new facility on Monday thus providing them with an opportunity to see the new facility, and to discuss some of the problems which still exist regarding construction of the project.

Although the project is approximately 95 percent completed, there are several problems which must be resolved before the board will accept the building as being complete from the contractor.

Harrell showed members of the board several places where defective tiles have been laid which will have to be replaced, the air conditioning system is still not in operation, the music facilities are yet to be completed, and several other minor things must be done before the building can be used to house students.

Harrell and O'Neil were instructed Monday evening by the board to identify all the problems which exist in the project and to make a punch list of those things for the general contractor so that they could be

taken care of quickly and efficiently. It is the hope of the board that the majority of the problems can be handled prior to the opening of school on August 24th.

The new facility will provide much needed additional space for the students including the remodeled auditorium, art and music facilities which will be the envy of everyone in the area, several large conference rooms which will be available for use by the community, and an art gallery which will be used to display students artwork throughout the school year.

The board hopes that by the end of this week some parts of the project will be released, and that furniture can be moved into some of the classrooms and other areas in preparation for school's opening.

Overall the project has gone well according to board members, and they seem very pleased with the results.

In addition to discussing the high school construction project members of the board also discussed the new office and warehouse facility construction project for the school system.

Earlier this summer members of the board learned that bids on the project were way over the allotted budget of \$200,000.00.

On Monday evening members of

the board decided to have new specs and drawings done to separate the facility into two projects in an effort to reduce the costs. The projects will be completed in phases, and at this time the board has indicated that the office complex would be completed as phase one of the project.

Originally the office building and warehouse complex were to be constructed as a metal building adjoining one to the other. Harrell told board members on Monday that the new design would probably be more residential in appearance with wood studs, and brick veneer walls.

The floor plan for the new facility will remain basically the same and it was originally designed.

The board also discussed the use of school vans for transportation of students. Harrell reviewed with the board a letter he received which states that school vans can not be used to transport students for activities because they do not meet school bus safety standards. The letter dated October, 1978 from the U.S. Department of Transportation was in response to a question regarding the use of vans for this purpose by the Director of Pupil Personnel of Glasgow, Kentucky. The letter states that any van which is older than 1977 can not be used for this purpose because it does not meet school bus safety

standards. The letter also states that any dealer who sells a van which does not meet these standards for this purpose is also in violation of the law.

Harrell stated Monday that the school system will discontinue use of their vans for this purpose, but he and members of the board strongly indicated they will fight this action as they deem necessary. The board feels that this letter and the action hold statewide significance, and will cause hardships statewide on school systems.

The board also adopted Youth Guard Insurance for the upcoming school year which will be made available for students and faculty to insure them if they choose against accidents. Information on the insurance, its premiums and benefits will be available at the opening of school for those who are interested in obtaining a policy. This company will also be providing football insurance for those players who are interested in additional accident insurance.

Under other business conducted by the board Monday: Four student releases were granted, and the resignation of Phil Barnes was accepted by the board.

## Dept. of Transportation announces its decision

RALEIGH—After nearly three months of study, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has announced it will set a speed limit of 65 miles per hour on 528 miles of rural interstate highway. The department's decision will increase the speed limit on about 60 percent of the states' interstate highway network, while maintaining a limit of 55 miles per hour on the remainder of the interstate system.

All North Carolina portions of Interstate 95 will be zoned for 65 miles per hour, along with sections of Interstate Highways 26, 40, 77 and 85. The speed limit changes are the result of an extensive study of the entire inter-

state system in the state. The study, which included consultation with the North Carolina Highway Patrol, focused on safety considerations.

The D.O.T.'s action results from enabling legislation passed by the U.S. Congress and the N.C. General Assembly earlier this year. In March the Congress passed a highway funding bill that authorized 65 mile per hour limits on those portions of the nation's interstate system that are outside urban areas of greater than 50,000 population. In May, the General Assembly enacted a bill directing the department to conduct an engineering study and to raise the speed limit where it was determined

that a higher speed limit would be "reasonable and safe."

In announcing the department's decision, Secretary of Transportation James E. Harrington said strict guidelines had been developed and followed for higher speed limit areas. "North Carolina's speed limit study was probably more detailed than any other state's review of this issue," Harrington said. "Safety was our main concern. We approached the study with the idea that any error would be on the side of caution. Too much is at stake to do otherwise."

The department's study consisted of a number of principal factors, including:

Accident Rates: Sections with high accident rates were disqualified.

Traffic Density: Sections with high traffic counts during peak travel times were disqualified.

Construction: sections undergoing major repairs were disqualified.

Length: Sections other wise eligible but less than 10 miles long were disqualified.

All total, 150 miles were disqualified by the study. Another 170 miles of the interstate system was automatically disqualified because it is within urban area boundaries and is ineligible.

The 528 miles approved for a 65 mile per hour limit is 62 percent of the entire North Carolina interstate system, and is 78 percent of the rural interstate system that was eligible under federal standards for zoning at the higher speed.

The new speed limit will not be in effect until about 400 new 65 mile per hour signs are erected. The department hopes to have the signs up by mid-August.

In addition to the new 65 mile per hour signs, about 250 more 55 mile per hour signs are being made for areas remaining at that speed. Those signs are now needed because more signing is required when speed limit vary.

## Annoying callers increase

ELIZABETH CITY, NC—Noting that annoying telephone calls are becoming an ever-increasing problem for citizens of the area, Terry F. Daniels, district commercial manager for Carolina Telephone, today issued a list of several suggestions that usually discourage such callers.

Daniels said that a large number of such persistently annoying callers have been reported to telephone company officials in recent weeks and that special equipment has been utilized in an effort to pin down the callers.

He said that a cooperative effort between the law enforcement agents, the telephone company and the public has resulted in several cases where the callers have been identified.

Daniels' suggestions about means to discourage annoying callers are as follows:

1. "Always use the telephone on your terms, not those of the caller. Don't talk to anyone unless you so desire."
2. "Make the caller identify him-

self. When asked, "Who is this?" don't answer: ask instead "What number did you dial?" or "With whom would you like to speak?"

3. "Instruct children, babysitters or anyone else in the home not to talk to anyone they do not talk to anyone they do not positively recognize. An innocent remark like "Daddy's out of town" would be helpful to a burglar. Teach them to ask for a number to call later."

If a caller remains silent after you answer, hang up. Some callers like to listen to your reaction when they remain silent. They do not enjoy listening to a dead line."

Daniels pointed out that annoying telephone calls of any type are in violation of state law and punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. He reminded would-be violators that local law enforcement agencies work closely with the telephone company personnel to apprehend such callers.

"Just remember," he concluded, "If you get such a call and give the caller no satisfaction, they usually will give up after a few attempts."

## WEATHER

**Area weather forecasters are calling for warm, dry weather for the remainder of the week and the weekend.**

**Highs are expected to be in the 90s with lows in the upper 70s.**



## Commissioners discuss the county water system

Many Perquimans County residents may soon notice a change in their water as the result of improvements to the Bethel area water plant.

Wayne Floyd of Rivers and Associates, who has been serving as engineer for the county on this project told the commissioners Monday that renovations and repairs to the plant should be completed by the middle to the end of next week.

The project which was begun last year has been a problem since it's conception. County residents have complained about dirty, smelly water for some time, and county officials have had to deal with almost five months of delays caused by the contractor doing the work.

Originally the contract called for the work to be done on the plant during the slow season of January and February, but several delays have postponed doing the work until now, the peak season for water usage.

The work which is being done was considered necessary by county officials last year to repair the nine year old plant, and to employ several new and efficient engineering techniques.

Paul Gregory, Perquimans County Manager, stated Monday that the situation of the county's water is bad, and he hopes that the new renovations and improvements will bring to an end a bad situation.

Keith Hasket, Perquimans County Tax Supervisor, and the one who is responsible for collection of water bills came before the board Monday and urged the commissioners to make a commitment to water quality. Hasket stated that recently the water department has received daily phone calls from residents who are extremely upset by the quality of their water. Hasket stated that many of the callers have had clothes ruined from use of the water, and he added that he felt the commissioners used extremely poor judgement in closing the water plant down at this time of the year.

Gregory and the commissioners stated Monday that many of the problems with the water have been caused by a reverse in the flow the water through the county's waterlines causing rust which has built up in the pipes to break free, the county has also been getting water from Chowan County during the last six weeks or so that the Bethel plant has been down.

The board stated Monday that when the renovations are complete the problems with the water should be corrected, and hopefully the renovations and maintenance will eliminate future problems with the system.

The commissioners also discussed delays in installation of water meters by the water department. Russ Chappell, Supervisor of the water department stated on Monday that due to the current schedule of the department they had fallen behind in getting those meters in, and stated that when the plant at Bethel reopens hopefully they will be able to get caught up on meter installations.

Commissioners also voted Monday to add a position to the water department in the hopes of improving their working situation. The new position will employ someone to do general maintenance in the water department, and was included in the 1987-88 budget. The position will be advertised and applications will be accepted for the next two weeks.

Under other business the board also voted to adopt a new form which will be used when registering deeds. The form is designed to provide the tax office with addition information about the property being registered.

The commissioners received and opened bids for propane gas and fuel oil at Monday's meeting. The board will further review the bids at their next meeting before accepting any.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

## New social services director is named

The Perquimans County Department of Social Services has announced that Crystal Towe will be the new Director of Social Services for the county.

Towe joined the department of Social Services in 1975 as an Eligibility Specialist, and was promoted to Supervisor of Social Services when

Blanche Campen retired from the department. Towe has been serving as the Acting Director of Social Services since July 1st when N. Paul Gregory, Jr., former Director, became the new Perquimans County Manager.

Towe is married to Cliff Towe, and they make their home in Winfall, North Carolina.

## Revitalization viewing set

Downtown Hertford may soon have a new look thanks to the work of the Hertford Downtown Revitalization Committee.

As a continuing part of the Hertford Horizons project, the revitalization committee will hold a viewing of the facade improvement proposal on August 13th, 1987 from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon at the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce office.

The new facade improvement proposal was drafted by the commercial art department of East Carolina University under the direction of Dr. F. F. Haddi, and outlines in detail improvements for buildings in

downtown Hertford. The proposal is in full color, and describes step by step improvements which can be completed gradually.

The revitalization committee would like to invite all merchants, property owners and interested persons to attend the viewing.

Refreshments will be served compliments of Darden Department Store.

For more information on the revitalization project or the viewing of the facade improvement proposal contact the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce at 426-5657.

## Jaycees to host car wash on Saturday

The Perquimans County Jaycees will sponsor a car wash on Saturday, August 8th from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon at NCNB in the Harris Village Shopping Center in

Hertford. For more information on the car wash contact any Perquimans County Jaycee.

## Breakins reported by Hertford police

The Hertford Police department has reported several incidents which occurred over the past week.

On July 24th, G and S Seafood received a bomb threat at approximately 9:17 p.m.. Mr. Hare of G and S Seafood received a phone call from someone stating that a bomb was located in the building. After conducting a search the police were notified. Officer Bouchard of the department responded and he and Mr. Hare conducted a joint search. The search did not uncover a bomb in the building. An investigation into the matter is continuing.

Several breakins have occurred in the area recently. On July 28th, Patti White, Director of the Senior Center reported someone had broken into the building located on Grubb Street and stolen a stereo from one of the rooms. The police department reports that they obtained several good

fingerprints at the scene, and they are investigating.

On Saturday, August 1, 1987, Reed Oil Company reported that they had been broken into. Two calculators and a few other minor things were taken from the building. An investigation is actively continuing.

Senior Patrolman, Timothy Spence also reported on Tuesday morning that Darden's Department Store was broken into on Sunday, August 2nd.

The breakin was discovered by an employee of Darden's. Entry into the building was obtained through a back window. According to police several items were taken along with a small amount of money. An investigation is continuing into this and other breakins.