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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 57, No.34 USPS 428-080 Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, August 20, 1987 30 CENTS



Staff photos by Anzie Wood

Morris Kornegay, principal of Central School, with upcoming kindergardener Robert Harrell.

## Area schools to open August 24

The Perquimans County schools will open this year on August 24th, and according to Superintendent Pat Harrell, students may just find a few changes this year.

First students at the high school can expect to be in the new building. The board of education has accepted conditional occupancy of the building, and if there are no further problems with the facilities they plan to

open school on time with those facilities in operation. An open house featuring the new facilities will be held later this fall, at this time no date has been decided.

Also this year all first grade and kindergarten students in the county will be using the IBM "Writing to Read" program. "Writing to Read" is a program which uses computers and other visuals to teaching reading

and writing skills to young children. The program has been expanded to include the first grade this year due to its' overwhelming success in the school system last year.

Perquimans Middle School will also see some changes. This year the school will have a full time guidance counselor to serve the needs of students, and it will house all 5th through 8th graders.

The high school will also introduce an in-school suspension program this year for the first time, and students will have an opportunity to take dance and drama classes this year for the first time.

In addition to an increase in offered programs for the coming school year, school officials are also predicting an increase in enrollment. The estimated enrollment for the 1987-88 school year is 1875 students which is up 15 students over the 1986-87 school year.

## Sewer bids exceed budget

The bids were open for the improvement to the Hertford Waste Treatment Plant Wednesday, Aug. 12th. Town officials were disappointed that the bids exceeded the projected estimates.

Estimated construction costs for the project were \$307,800 way short of the lowest bid of \$582,000.00 submitted by T. A. Loving Company of Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Two other bids by Roanoke Construction and George Raper and Sons were also over the mark with the companies bidding \$584,000.00 and \$648,950 respectively.

According to Mayor Bill Cox, and Leo Green, Engineer for the project the bids will now be evaluated. Green stated following the opening on

Wednesday that after the evaluations are made his firm would make a recommendation to the town. Green further stated that some negotiation make take place with T. A. Loving Company to see if their bid could be lowered. Greene also said that the possibility of re-advertising for bids has not been ruled out by the town at this time.

Mayor Cox stated on Wednesday that the town's next step will be to negotiate with the lowest bidder as allowed by law and possibly with the state to see if any more grant monies are available. "The project must be done," said Cox. "We will have to come up with the additional portion of the money needed," he added.

The bid opening on Wednesday fol-

lowed the approved authorization for the town of Hertford to issue a bond totaling \$200,000.00 which will be used to fund the town's share of the funds needed for the project.

The referendum passed on Tuesday by a large margin. 135 people voted and 126 voted in favor of the referendum with only nine against for a total of 135 voters, and 93 percent in favor of the referendum.

With the current problem facing the town regarding bids, Cox also stated Wednesday that construction may be delayed. Construction on the project is tentatively scheduled to begin in October, and will last approximately 180 days or six months as defined in the EPA grant.

The project will greatly increase the capacity of the current plant.

## Board of Education meets

By ANZIE L. WOOD

The Perquimans County Board of Education met Monday, August 17 at 8:00 p.m. School will begin the 1987-1988 fiscal year with a tentative allotment by State Board of Education, which was set back in March by the General Assembly. All final allotments will hopefully be received by next week.

Certain provisions were discussed by the Board which were set by the Legislative Committee concerning the number of students per classroom. School will be open as scheduled on August 24. Perquimans County High School Renovation Project has been approved and passed. Fire provisions have been approved by the Fire Safety Inspector.

There are two major problems concerning the final inspection of the Project, the cooling system and the

floor tile. Both have been scheduled to be taken care of by the contractors with the Board of Education's approval.

The Summer School Program of 1987 was a tremendous success due to the devotion and dedication of the teachers and the program provided.

Jeannie Umphlet gave a report on the state testing results. They were as follows:

Algebra I, State - 65.3 percent, Regional - 64.2 percent, Perquimans County - 73.4 percent.

Algebra II, State - 67.2 percent, Regional - 64.7 percent, Perquimans County - 75.8 percent.

Biology, State - 57.6 percent, Regional - 57.6 percent, Perquimans County - 65.6 percent.

Testing scores in Perquimans County were a higher scoring per-

centage compared with State and Region norms.

The cost of school lunches are:  
Breakfast - K-4-45 cents, 5-12-50 cents

Lunch - K-4-90 cents, 5-12-\$1.00  
Adult Breakfast - 75 cents  
Adult Lunch - \$1.60

Reduced Breakfast K-12-30 cents, Lunch-40 cents

Jake Boyce, Assistant Superintendent, stated in his report, that two new positions have been added to the teaching staff at the middle school. Ann Flippen will fill the full time position as Guidance Counselor and Lola Duers will be teaching the Vocational Homemaking.

Pat Harrell stated that if there is any early dismissals due to hot weather, it will be at 1:15 and announced on WBXB Edenton and WGAI and WCNC Elizabeth City.

## Basketball coach named

The Perquimans County Board of Education announced this week that Roger Burgess has been hired to fill the position of varsity basketball

coach at Perquimans High School vacated earlier this year by Mr. Webster.

Mr. Burgess' new coaching duties

will include in addition to varsity basketball, J. V. basketball, track and assisting with the football program. Mr. Burgess will also be teaching elementary physical education.

Pat Harrell, Superintendent of the Perquimans County Schools stated that Mr. Burgess has a strong basketball background, and that he is looking forward to putting together a strong program for the coming year.

Mr. Burgess is a graduate of East Carolina University and Lees McCrae Junior College where he played basketball. His past basketball honors include all-conference player in high school and he was a member of the all-western North Carolina basketball team in high school.

He is a native of Lenoir, North Carolina, and is currently teaching and serving as basketball coach at Wilkes High School, Wilkes County, North Carolina.

## Revitalization efforts of Hertford

On Thursday of last week downtown property owners, local officials, and interested citizens got to glimpse into the future as they viewed Hertford's downtown facade improvement proposal.

The proposal which was done in full color was developed by Nancy Cherry, Julie Magnotti, and Laurie Vandiford, three students of Dr. Abdul Shakoor Farhadi at East Carolina University's school of Environmental Design and outlined step by step phase improvements for the facades of downtown buildings. The proposal was done in conjunction with Hertford Horizons.

Hertford Horizons is the title of Hertford's downtown revitalization efforts which are currently underway, and is part of a larger project being sponsored by Community Strategies for Economic Progress (STEP). STEP is designed to help small communities like Hertford carry out revitalization efforts and achieve economic prosperity.

At the viewing on Thursday, John Christenson, Chairman of the steering committee for Hertford Horizons stated that the proposal would induce people to improve their buildings downtown. He also hopes that if one property owner will get revitalization efforts of their building started it might result in the "domino effect" with other property owners following suite.

For more information on the facade proposal or the revitalization efforts of downtown Hertford contact the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce at 426-5657.

## County commissioners bombed with complaints

The Perquimans County Commissioners continue to be bombarded with complaints about poor water quality. At their Monday night session, all the Commissioners reported receiving calls and visits from irate county water system customers - Commissioner Thomas Nixon summed up the problem, saying, "It's just a genuine mess."

Ben Chambers, who runs an ice-making business from his home in the New Hope Community appeared before the Commissioners requesting that his water bill for approximately the past 30 days be forgiven.

According to Chambers, the water quality has been so poor that he has been forced to dump thousands of pounds of ice. "I cannot sell the stuff," he said. "It has cost me...somewhere around 30,000 pounds of ice, and I'll tell you, that ain't cheap."

Although Chambers' equipment has filtering systems, the systems have been unable to remove the contaminants from the water pumped by the county. He told the Commissioners that the water is generally of poorer quality from 11 p.m. until 9 a.m.

Chambers said his monthly water bill is usually between \$100 and \$130. "Gentlemen, I don't feel like I ought to have to pay it (this month's bill)," Chambers said.

"Well, I don't feel like you should either," answered Commissioner Lester Simpson.

The Board voted to void Chambers' upcoming water bill. In defense of the decision, Chairman W. W. "Welly" White stated, "I don't believe we have many businesses like Ben's on the system."

Water Department spokesman Keith Haskett said that his office has received numbers of complaints about water quality, as well as calls from people who have paid the \$300 hook-up fee as long ago as four months and still have no meters.

"We have about 40 meters that need to be put in bad," Haskett said. The Board responded that with the Bethel plant shut-down, poor water quality, and low manpower facing the water department at present,

those customers will be forced to wait at least another week, probably longer.

County Manager Paul Gregory reported that work on the Bethel plant was scheduled for completion on August 14th. He said that repairs to the inside of the plant were complete except for painting, and that the outside was finished to the point that the facility can be used.

Water samples taken from the three lines at the Bethel plant last week did not pass the state tests. After re-chlorination, two of the three lines tested positive. The third line has again been re-chlorinated. Gregory said that pumping could begin as early as Wednesday, although state health department officials are scheduled to inspect the plant Friday.

The firm performing the repairs may be penalized by the county for each day after August 14 the plant continues to be defunct.

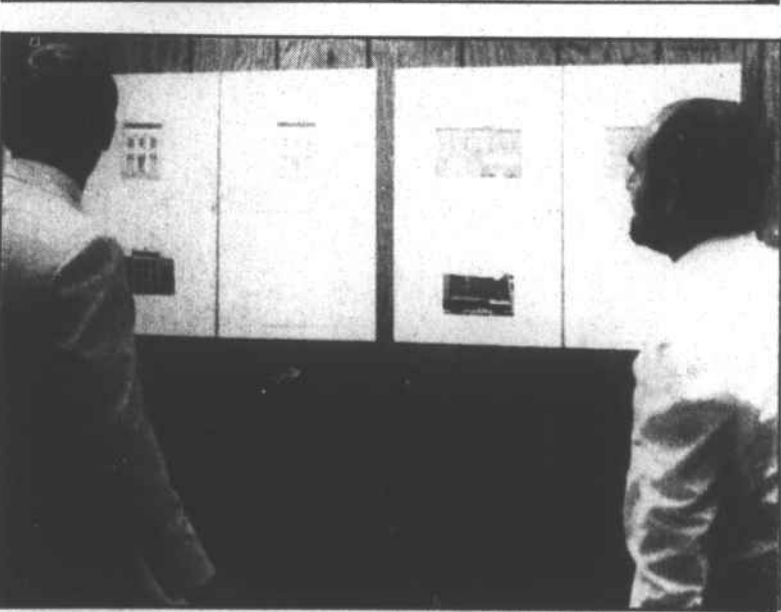
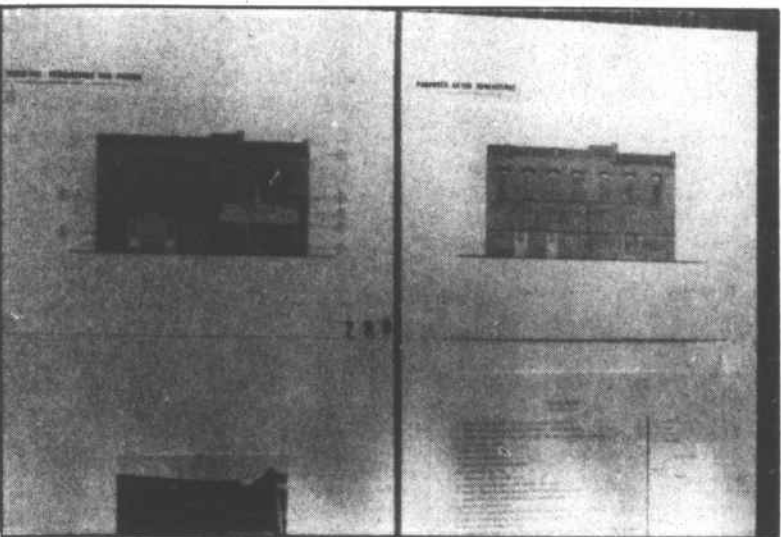
Gregory also presented a new theory on the water quality problem to the Board. Gregory feels that because of the location in which bad water has historically been a problem, the culprit could be rust in the White Hat and Belvidere holding tanks.

Once the Bethel station is fully operational and the back-log of water meter installations is caught up, the Board agreed to look into the possibility of cleaning the tanks.

"It's time to get something done," said Thomas Nixon.

In other business, the Board: voted to give public notice of its intent to enforce local and state laws regarding street paving in subdivisions as requested by the Planning Board; agreed to negotiate with the Town of Hertford on making needed repairs to the town-owned building adjacent to Missing Mill Park presently being used by the Recreation Department. awarded contracts to Petrolane for gas and Hollowell Oil Company for fuel oil to be provided to county-maintained buildings.

The companies submitted the low bids of 40.9 cents per gallon for propane and 61.05 cents per gallon for fuel oil.



John Christensen and Dr. Farhadi discuss Hertford facade proposal.

## Festival quickly approaching

The Indian Summer Festival which is scheduled for September 11th and 12th is fast approaching and the Chamber of Commerce needs everyone's help in once again making this a successful event for the county.

Sidewalk sales and displays will be set up in downtown Hertford on Friday, and local businesses will be offering something new this year on Friday, ping pong ball discounts. Ping pong discounts will feature ping pong balls decorated in different colors indicating discounts will be hidden around the downtown area, and will be redeemable at participating merchants.

In addition to the sidewalk sales



and ping pong ball discounts entertainment and other events will also be taking place throughout the day Friday. Merchants are once again being asked to participate fully in the festival by taking part in all planned activities.

Saturday will once again offer events at Missing Mill Park. Entertainment as well as a variety of arts and crafts booths and food booths will line the park perimeters, and should provide hours of fun and enjoyment for festival visitors.

For more information on the festival or if you would like to purchase a booth contact the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce at 426-5657.

### WEATHER

#### WEATHER REPORT



#### Weekend Forecast

Forecasters are expecting mostly sunny skies. Highs in the middle to upper 80s. Lows in the mid-60s to low 70s.