

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 CENTS

Council endorses "Meals on Wheels" program

The Winfall Town Council came out in support of having a meals on wheels program established for the Winfall area last week.

Mrs. Moore and Mr. Riddick of the Albemarle Commission, along with Executive Director Don Flowers, came before the Winfall Town Council last Monday and outlined the program and highlighted some of its benefits for both people receiving the meals, and meals on wheels volunteers.

The meals on wheels program is a state and federal program, which provides elderly and homebound citizens with a hot nutritious meal five days a week. The program comes under strict guidelines, but can often make a difference in the quality of life for many people.

According to Moore and Riddick, the current budget for the meals on wheels program will not allow establishment of the program in Winfall this year, but they expect funding will be available for the next fiscal year. According to Riddick, who heads up the program for the ten county Albemarle area, funds are currently being sought from many sources, but he hopes to have additional monies for expansion of the homebound meals program for next year.

Moore and Riddick both stated that they came before the council to seek support, so that if funding is in fact available for expansion of the program as they expect, everything will be in place to get started delivering meals in Winfall.

Mrs. Moore stated that they know a need is present in Winfall for the program, because they have had calls about it, but stated that many things must be in place before the program could begin.

In addition to additional funding, Moore and Riddick also stated that it must be determined that Winfall would have a group of volunteers established to deliver the meals to homebound residents. Moore stated that often the lack of volunteers willing to deliver meals in a certain area can pose many problems getting a program underway.

Following Mrs. Moore's and Mr. Riddick's presentation, the council restated their support for this program and urged the commission to

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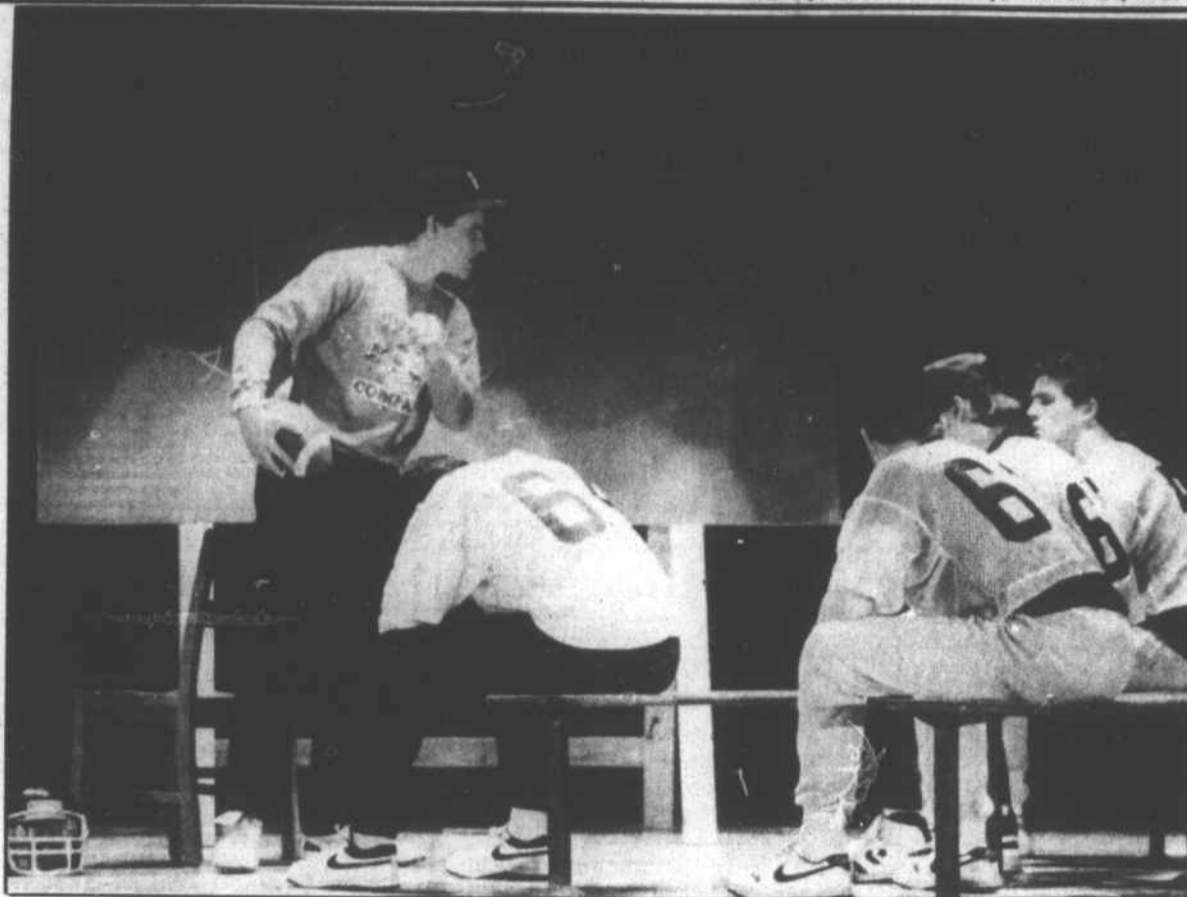
Leadership seminar scheduled

"Creating A Successful Image" is the theme for Perquimans County's second Leadership Development Seminar for Rural Minority Women. This seminar will be held at the Perquimans County High School on Saturday, April 16, 1988, from 9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Dr. Brenda Allen, who heads the N. C. Agricultural Extension Services' Leadership Development Program for Rural Minority Women, will conduct the first session, "Creating A Successful Image Through Positive Self-Esteem." Dr. Allen comes with a wealth of knowledge on self-image as a result of her experiences with the National 4-H Foundation in Washington, D. C., as a 4-H Extension Agent in New York and as a teacher in the Seminary Extension Program at Shaw University.

Paige Underwood will present the second session "Dressing For Success-Your Clothing Image." She will be discussing how your clothing helps develop and project a positive image. The luncheon speaker, Mrs. Lillie Jones of Raleigh will talk about developing "Your Community Image". Mrs. Jones is a lecturer and presently teaches advanced and college level biology courses at Sanderson High School. She is an active organizer and leader of workshops and seminars in her community.

The last session during the seminar will be a panel discussion on "The Image of Aids and It's Affect on Families". The speakers for this session will be Clarie Mills, R.N. and Infection Control Nurse at Chowan Hospital and Dr. Candace Corson, M.D. and Family Practitioner in Chowan County. Mills and Corson will discuss aids from a medical aspect.

Call Juanita T. Bailey at 426-5428 or Estelle Felton at 426-7091 Now to obtain luncheon information and to register for this exciting opportunity. Registration deadline is - March 31, 1988. This seminar is being provided by the Perquimans County Agricultural Extension Service. Funding for this seminar is provided by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and R.J.R. Nabisco, Inc. in cooperation with the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.



Getting ready for showtime!

On Saturday evening the cast of "Funky Winkerbean's Homecoming" will open their musical comedy at Perquimans County High School. The group will be performing one show, and tickets are still available for their performance.

"Funky Winkerbean's Homecoming" opens Saturday night at high school

Fans of the nationally syndicated "Funky Winkerbean" comic strip will want to see Perquimans County High School Drama Club's production of "Funky Winkerbean's Homecoming", a new stage musical by Tom Batiuk and Andy Clark.

The musical, which features all the main characters from the comic strip as they try to cope with the many homecoming activities at the strip's fictional school, "Westview High", will be presented Saturday, March 26, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. at Perquimans County High School auditorium.

Perquimans County Dispatchers; Providing a vital link in emergency situations!



Homeria Jenette, chief dispatcher for Perquimans County provides a vital link for area residents during emergency situations. Here she discusses her daily activities with Sheriff Joe Lathan.

In emergency situations time is of the essence, and in many cases emergencies are life and death matters. Getting fire and or rescue help to the scene is essential, and one office in Perquimans County is charged with the duty of doing just that.

The Perquimans County Dispatch Office is in charge of dispatching all emergency personnel whether it be fire, rescue, police, or the sheriff's department. The dispatch office also dispatches all emergency vehicles to scenes where they are needed, and they receive the utility calls for the county after working hours.

Monitoring four radio systems, and six phone lines can often be a difficult job, but it is one which must be done.

The chief dispatcher for Perquimans County is Homeria Jenette, and she along with Roberta Phillips, and Nancy Schiskie work full time for the department. They are assisted part-time by Ida Cory, Todd Tilley, Lillian Chappell, and Henry Spivey, and between the members of the department they have over 35 years experience.

The dispatch office operates four radios. They have motorola and areotron systems, which are two way motorband radios. The office has a separate system for the county fire departments, a separate radio for the police and sheriff's departments, a system for the Perquimans County

Rescue Squad, and the utility system has a separate radio.

All of the radio communication of the dispatch office is recorded on tape, and they keep extensive written records of all action handled by the office. According to Jenette, the tapes are kept for a period of 30 days, the written records are kept forever. Occasionally, it is necessary to review old records, and they provide valued information on the daily operation of the office.

Along with learning how to operate all the equipment and radios used in the dispatch office, Jenette says that the dispatchers must all learn all the state road numbers in the county, and they must learn to give directions everywhere from Hertford, because everything is dispatched from that general area.

The dispatcher's job is often difficult because they are dealing with people in emergency situations, and it is hard to get the necessary information needed to dispatch the necessary personnel and equipment.

The dispatch office would like to ask area residents to consider several things and keep them in mind, if they should ever have to call the office in an emergency.

First, people need to pick out a landmark near their home or business and remember it. Often these landmarks can be used in giving di-

rections or finding road numbers, which make it easier for the dispatcher to give good directions to emergency personnel. Route numbers and box numbers are of no help to the dispatcher. Second, learn your state road number. Third, learn which fire department serves the area of the county you live in. This is very important. Fourth, learn directions to your home or business from Hertford. Also, when calling to report a fire or emergency situation the dispatcher needs to know your name and telephone number, in addition to your area fire department and directions to your home. Knowing telephone numbers and names allows the dispatcher to call people back, if necessary for additional information or other directions.

Jenette says the dispatchers are not asking so many questions because they want to be difficult, but the more information they are provided with the better service area residents will receive.

Also when calling regarding a rescue call, the dispatcher will ask about a person's symptoms or the problem they are having. They must obtain this information for the rescue squad, so they know how many people, and what type of equipment they will need in assisting the person.

In addition to all of the above men-

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County commissioners meet with NAACP; Work to continue on new voting system

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met with representatives of the NAACP and their attorney, Ronald Penny, on Monday evening and learned that the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) will not seek an injunction to halt the upcoming November elections.

Penny, who serves as general counsel for the NAACP in eastern North Carolina and is president of the Pasquotank County Chapter of the NAACP, was hired by the Perquimans County Chapter of the NAACP recently to look into violations of the voting rights act, and more specifically violations of that act regarding the election of Perquimans County Commissioners.

Penny stated on Monday that prior to being contacted by the local chapter of the NAACP, the NAACP had looked into the system of electing public officials in Perquimans County for violations of the voting rights act, just as they had in many other counties throughout the state of North Carolina.

Upon being contacted by the local chapter of the NAACP regarding a lawsuit against the county, further investigations were done into the system of election, and he stated on Monday evening that he feels there are specific violations of the voting rights act under the present system used for election in Perquimans County, and that those violations fall under section 5 and section 2 of the act itself.

Penny stated on Monday that he would reserve comment at the present time on the county's section five violations of the voting rights act, but would comment on the section two violations.

He stated that section two of the voting rights act was amended in the mid 1980's and deals with the totality of circumstance regarding the system of election.

Mr. Penny said on Monday that he was not criticizing individual commissioners, and added that he does not feel that the present system was established intentionally to dilute the minority voting strength in the county, because it is similar to voting systems in other North Carolina counties, but added that the system does dilute minority voting strengths and must be changed.

Perquimans County currently has a district voting system in place and according to Penny that is one of the worst systems for diluting minority voting strengths.

In further outlining the NAACP's position, Penny stated that in changing a system or in considering changes for a voting system several things are considered by the courts and the U. S. Justice Department.

Penny stated that the factors considered in forcing a county to change it's voting system, include the extent of discrimination throughout history. Penny stated that both Perquimans County and North Carolina unfortunately have a long history of discrimination, but he was quick to point out that this county is not much different than many other counties in our area and state.

Library gets funding from county for new expansion project

The Perquimans County board of commissioners voted on Monday evening to tentatively pledge \$25,000 dollars this year and \$25,000 next year to the library expansion project.

Jean Umphlett, member of the Perquimans County Library Board, and Maria Hoffman, local librarian, came before the board on Monday to make the request for funds. They told board members on Monday that a figure was needed from them so that the library could submit a grant application for state matching funds by March 31st. These funds, plus additional funds raised by the library,

VITA offers free tax help for residents

Members of the Future Business Leaders of America Club (FBLA) are offering free tax assistance to taxpayers through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. until April 13 at Perquimans County High School, Occupational Building on King Street.

VITA helps taxpayers fill out Form 1040EZ, 1040A, and state. Volunteers

He added that Perquimans County has racially polarized voting and it is very easy to predict the outcome of an election.

Other factors, which also would face consideration by the U.S. Justice Department, are employment, education, and income of minorities, and opportunity of minority citizens to participate in the political process. Based on figures from the 1980 census, Penny stated that minority citizens in Perquimans County make .66 cents to every \$1.00 earned by white citizens, and three times as many blacks as whites live below the poverty level in this county, and in this century no person of a minority race has been elected to an office of leadership in the county. He went to say that all these factors would be considered in making an assessment regarding change for the present voting system. "The totality of the circumstances would be considered," said Penny.

To remedy these section two violations of the voting rights act, Penny stated that a new system must be designed, which does not dilute minority voting strength in Perquimans County.

That does not mean to say that because 38 percent of the citizens in Perquimans County are minorities that 38 percent of the board would be made-up of minority representation, but a system must be developed that gives minorities equal access to be elected.

Penny stated that he is happy to see that the county board of commissioners has established a commission, which is currently looking into possible alternative voting systems, and stated that he would like to sit down and work out a new voting system for the county, which everyone concerned can live with.

He went on to say that he feels the people of Perquimans County can work out a system that would be better for the county than, representing the needs of the county better than could come through litigation.

He added that he feels working this problem out would be better both system wise and tax dollar wise.

In speaking for Perquimans County, Lester Simpson, chairman of the county commissioners stated on Monday that the county has set up a committee and they are working on developing a new system and will be making a recommendation at some point to the board regarding this issue. He added however, that the board and the committee would welcome any suggestions that Penny had to offer to them.

John Matthews, Perquimans County's attorney told Penny on Monday that the board of commissioners recognizes that there is a problem with the voting system, and have been talking about it for over a year. He added that the county is also looking into voting rights act violations with regard to election of school board members.

Matthews, who is serving on the committee looking into changing the voting system, stated on Monday that he feels and he has told the board that

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will be used to complete the expansion and renovation project planned for the library.

The expansion project will hopefully begin within the next year and will give the library additional working space as well as allowing them to add additional programs for residents, particularly children's programs.

The library will be holding it's first fund raising meeting this week on Thursday evening, and everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. It will be held at the Perquimans County Library at 7:30 p.m..

also alert taxpayers to the special credits and deductions for which they may be eligible, such as child care and earned income credits.

Taxpayers coming to PCHS should bring this year's tax package, usually received through the mail, wage and earnings statements (Form W-2) from all employers, the interest statement received from banks (Form 1099), a copy of last year's return, if available, and any other relevant information concerning income and expenses.