

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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New business opens in Hertford!

On Monday Earl Owens opened his new business in Hertford next to Country Corner on Grubb Street, Owens Carpet and Tile, and Beech Springs Electrolux Outlet. Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held at 2:00 p.m.. Above Bill Cox cuts the ribbon as Lester Simpson, chairman of the county commissioners, Wayne Winslow, vice-chairman of the county commissioners, Shawn Owens, Earl's wife, Larry Swindell, pres-

ident of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, Earl Owens, and Marie Owens look on. Mr. Owens will offer a full line of carpet and tile as well as Electrolux products. The store will be open Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

County plans to build new park

The Perquimans County Commissioners are planning to build a new park in the county during the coming year. During last Tuesday's meeting, the commissioners announced plans to build a new park on county-owned property off of Winfall Road in Winfall just behind the North Carolina Department of Transportation Highway Maintenance Shop.

Plans for the park included two athletic fields with lights for evening games, restrooms, dressing room facilities, a concession stand, and a parking lot. The board of commissioners hope that the park will be equipped with bleachers this year, but if not, they will be added next year.

Paul Gregory, County Manager, stated he hopes construction on the park will begin as early as this winter with the completion date scheduled for spring, just in time for the recreation department's busy season. Funding for the project is expected to come from two sources, the county has budgeted \$20,000, and Gregory hopes that they will qualify for a matching grant from the state.

"Budgeted monies and the grant money should take care of a large portion of the project, and we hope to get some volunteer work. Help from volunteers will make this project a reality," said Gregory.

The land that the park will be built on is currently being leased by a local farmer, George Roach, but the board is optimistic that although two years still remain on Roach's lease he will give up the land so work on the park can begin.

The idea of building a new park came earlier this year when the lights at the Middle School athletic field had to be taken down due to rotting poles. This spring the adult teams have been playing night games in Edenton.

WATER LINES
 In other business, the board of commissioners are still continuing their efforts to obtain monies from the state to move four miles of water lines along U.S. Highway 17.

The board agreed on Tuesday to set up a meeting with area legislators to discuss the project.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is planning to four

lane the highway between Hertford and Elizabeth City, and before this work is completed the water lines will have to be moved. Estimated cost for moving the lines is \$189,000.

Under normal circumstances the state does not pay towns and cities and non-profit, private water systems for the cost of moving water lines in such instances as the one above, but at this time no other monies are provided to local governments to cover such cost.

RESCUE SQUAD
 Todd Tilley, Captain of the Perquimans County Rescue Squad, also came before the board to discuss the squads current staffing problems.

Tilley reported that the rescue squad is having a very difficult time covering day shifts during the week, due to recent retirements of members, and work schedules of others.

Tilley reported that the squad currently has 35 active members, and that members are working 12 hour shifts. Weekends and nights are no problem, but the squad is having a difficult time covering the day shifts according to Tilley. At the present time, one full day during the week is covered, but the others remain open.

Most of the members work other jobs and unless they are just allowed to leave their places of employment, it is difficult for them to pull a shift during the week.

The squad must have two state certified people, one ambulance attendant, and one emergency medical technician for each call, and that is becoming increasingly difficult to get. At the present time, the squad averages two calls daily, but Tilley says sometimes its more and sometimes the calls are less.

One alternative the county discussed during the meeting Tuesday is the possibility of hiring a full-time paid day crew, but according to county officials the money is not available for such a squad.

After much discussion, the board and Tilley agreed to consult the state emergency medical services office for help with this problem.

According to Paul Gregory, two men, L. Miner and Tim Kiell, both of Raleigh, one a State EMS Coordinator, and one a Regional EMS Coor-

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Two men injured in weekend accident

Wet pavement has been attributed as the cause of a weekend accident in the county.

Minor damages and injuries were reported by the North Carolina Highway Patrol in the two car accident which occurred on U.S. Highway 17 near Rural Road 1303 on Saturday morning.

A pick-up truck driven by Jimmy Chappelle, 38, Route 1, South Mills, was stopped in the southbound lane of U.S. 17, waiting to make a left turn onto Road 1303. Another pick-up, driven by Kenneth Banks Jr. of Belvidere, was also traveling south on U.S. 17. Banks was unable to stop his pick-up due to wet pavement, lost control of his truck, hit Chappelle's

truck, hit a traffic sign, and landed in a nearby ditch. Bank's speed was estimated at 35mph by the Highway Patrol.

Chappelle and another passenger, Joseph Crane, 23, also of South Mills, both suffered minor injuries in the accident. Mr. Banks was reportedly unharmed.

Damages to Mr. Chappelle's truck has been estimated at \$2,000 by the Highway Patrol, and Bank's truck reportedly received \$1,500 worth of damage.

The investigating officer for the accident was Trooper Y. Z. Newberry. Newberry charged Banks with failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Long urged to make use of drought programs

Farm Bureau has urged Agricultural Secretary Richard Long to make maximum use of existing programs to provide drought relief to farmers instead of "creating new programs that will continue after the drought is over."

W.B. Jenkins, president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, said that by utilizing authorized programs provisions already available, especially for livestock and poultry producers, the Secretary has the flexibility to provide needed relief when conditions warrant. "Although North Carolina has so far been spared the disaster conditions existing in some parts of the country," Jenkins stated, "the western part of the state is suffering and the drought is beginning to move eastward."

"Farmers don't necessarily need additional loans and an increase in their debt load," Jenkins said. "Disaster loans don't solve the problem. In fact, eventually they can become the problem, so it's best not to rush into these types of programs."

Among drought-relief recommendations, Farm Bureau has urged that Long:

Consider forgiving repayment of advance deficiency payments by farmers in designated disaster and adjoining counties.

Make available uncommitted government-owned grain that can be bought with generic certificates in order to help livestock producers who need to purchase feed and to allow export commitments to be met.

Make maximum use of the existing 0-92 program by extending it to farmers who were prevented from planting and farmers who cannot produce a crop. Under 0-92, farmers who agree to forgo planting feed grain crops can receive 92 percent of their expected deficiency payments.

"Hopefully, there will be some widespread relief from the drought soon," Jenkins said. "However, the appropriate agencies of government are urged to monitor the situation closely and be prepared to act swiftly when necessary."

Nelson retires

For the past 40 years Kathleen Nelson has strolled down Church Street to work at Eagles, but on July 16th she will make her last official trip to Eagles as the store's manager.

Mrs. Nelson came to the store in Hertford on February 9th, 1948, and she has been there ever since. Many things have changed over her 40 years including the company she works for. In 1964, the store which was a Roses was sold to Variety Wholesalers of Raleigh becoming an Eagles Store, but through it all Mrs. Nelson has remained a faithful employee.

Does Kathleen Nelson like her job? "I must like it to have stayed here so long," says Nelson when you ask her.

Nelson started with the Roses Company in 1940. She began working as a saleslady in Williamston her hometown, and in 1943 she went to Plymouth as the store manager. In 1943, Nelson was only Roses' third lady store manager.

Five years later she came to Hertford. When Nelson began her career she worked 48 hours a week, and made 15¢ an hour. That's changed, but many aspects of the retailing business are the same.

The whole bookkeeping system is different, many things have been put on computer, and the store has changed from a traditional store to self-service. When Nelson first arrived at the store there were five employees, but today there are only three besides herself.

Years ago Nelson bought many things for the store, and she remembers when candy bars were a nickel. Today Nelson buys the basics for the store, but seasonal items and clothing are bought at the home office.

When Nelson arrived in Hertford



Kathleen Nelson has worked at Eagles in Hertford for 40 years. On July 16th she will retire.

she was only supposed to stay one year, but on November 16th, 1948, she married Wesley Nelson, and they decided to stay here.

The Nelson's have two children, Wallace and Kathy, and two grandchildren, Lauren and Ethan. Wallace lives in Hertford, and Kathy makes her home in Elizabeth City.

Nelson says she doesn't know what she will do when she retires, but she's sure it will be quite an adjustment. "I am going to take one day at

a time, and maybe travel a little," said Nelson.

A retirement dinner was held on Monday to honor Nelson, and many of her former employees were on hand to honor her for her many years of service.

Nelson attributes her success over the years to good employees, good customers, and the lord.

Kathleen Nelson will be missed, but she says she'll be helping out every so often. Nelson will be replaced by Lois Bryant.

School board updated on voting rights

In addition to discussing the budget cuts for the coming school year, the Perquimans County Board of Education dealt with the following issues on Tuesday, July 5th, in their regular meeting rescheduled from Monday, July 4th.

VOTING RIGHTS

Board members learned Tuesday that a joint committee, established by the county commissioners to serve both the Board of Education

and the county in studying the possibility of changing the election system for both boards, met recently, and that the group is working to develop a solution and gathering data.

Harrell, a member of the committee, told Board of Education members Tuesday that Charlie Skinner, hired by the committee to conduct a house to house census in the county, will begin taking the census very soon. Skinner with the help of volun-

teers will be responsible for collecting data, and producing a map which will identify each and every house in the county and whether they are occupied by white or black families.

Harrell also reported that at the last meeting, the committee met with representatives from the Regional Development Institute in Greenville, who will take the data gathered and

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School board makes cuts in 1988-89 budget

The Perquimans County Board of Education took action last Tuesday to deal with a \$96,000 slashing of county funds.

After reviewing the proposed budget, Superintendent Pat Harrell presented an amended budget to the school board, which reflected the cuts. "It's going to be a tight year," said Harrell adding that if an emergency came up the board would be in trouble.

Tuesday's actions became necessary when the Perquimans County Board of County Commissioners cut the school budget, in an effort to prevent a tax increase this year for county residents.

County commissioners stated last month that the county could not afford a \$103,000 increase in the school's budget due to other obligations, such as a new jail expansion project and landfill, and cut \$96,000 off of last years appropriation for the coming school year.

During the county's recent budget hearing, Commissioner Wayne Winslow was the only commissioner who favored a two-cent tax increase, which would have provided the school system with an additional \$50,000.

Next year's school budget was cut by the county to \$248,000 for capital expenses, and 1.38 million for the school's operating expenses.

\$88,000 was the largest cut made in the school board's requested budget. The board of education had requested the \$88,000 be set aside in a fund to be used at a later time for facility needs, but now that the county has cut the budget, no funds have been reserved for future school facility construction.

Harrell stated during the meeting that the only other major cuts made in the budget include vocational education monies cut from \$66,000 to \$33,000 and funds needed to adhere to updated federal guidelines regarding

asbestos were cut from \$25,000 to \$12,500.

Harrell stated that he is hoping the general assembly will appropriate monies for vocational education programs. "I am hoping that the general assembly will approve 25 percent more funding for vocational education programs next year," said Harrell. "But if not, more cuts will have to be made," he added.

The superintendent also stated that the school system hopes to enter into an agreement with other area school systems to have the required asbestos inspection and management plans developed, and under those arrangements the inspection fees will be cheaper and in line with the budget cut.

Under present federal guidelines, the school board will be required to have each of the schools inspected for various kinds of asbestos, and during the next school year a management plan must be implemented. Con-safe, a federally approved company from Pennsylvania, is currently negotiating a contract with the county, and if the contract is accepted, the inspections will begin soon according to Harrell.

Other budget cuts are fairly minor according to Harrell. In capital outlay, monies were cut from buildings and grounds and furniture, but Harrell stated that he tried very hard to cut the budget without cutting personnel and programs from the system.

Only one locally funded aide's position has been cut from the budget, and new programs planned for next year, such as guidance programs in grades K-4 still remain.

The other budget cuts were made a nickel here and a dime there according to Harrell. "Several hundred dollars were cut from various other line items," said Harrell, adding that he just had to cut any extras in the budget.

Hertford reviews fishing tournament ordinance

The town of Hertford may soon pass an ordinance regulating the use of public ramps and parking facilities in the town for sport fishing tournaments.

Walter Edwards, Town Attorney, presented members of the Town

Council on Monday a proposed ordinance for their review and discussion.

According to Edwards, the proposed ordinance is basically what several residents requested they

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