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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Board of education hires police officers as security guards

The Perquimans County Board of Education was informed at their regular meeting Monday night that Schools Superintendent Mary Jo Martin has hired security guards to patrol the schools during the Holiday break.

Martin said that off-duty officers with the Hertford Police Department will be working in the schools to offer extra protection to school property.

This action comes on the heels of a break-in at the high school when thieves stole two computers and a

typewriter. Dr. Martin stated that the expense incurred by hiring the officers was much less than the cost of replacing stolen equipment.

The Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates have been invited to participate in the presidential inaugural festivities in January. The band would be lined up in a specific place along the inaugural parade route, and would play when the President-elect passed by.

Dr. Martin said that funds for the trip are a cause of concern because it would mean spending at least one night in Washington, D.C. She stated that there are limited funds

available in the cultural arts budget and from a band benefactor. The Board asked that the Band Boosters be contacted to see if they can contribute.

There was concern expressed over proper chaperoning for the group in light of past incidents involving school field trips. Board member Mack Nixon said that he felt every effort must be made to get qualified persons to accompany the band on the trip.

The Board will make final decisions concerning the trip on January 9 after all details are available.

Dr. Martin presented to the Board a plan for an Intensive Assistance Team. The program is designed to improve the quality of teacher performance, thus improving the quality of education.

A teacher would be placed on Intensive Assistance as a result of poor summative evaluations. On the team would be the principal, central office staff and peer teachers. These personnel would offer assistance in lesson plans and other areas of weakness. This would allow a teacher who may otherwise be dismissed an opportunity to improve skills.

The Board members will review

the program and will make implementation decisions in January. The Board voted to implement a Tuition Reimbursement Scholarship Program. Limited funds are available to assist with educational expenses.

A Graduation Requirements-Curriculum Review Committee has been formed under the direction of Dr. Martin and Assistant Superintendent Jake Boyce. This committee will begin functioning during the second semester.

In other business, the Board:
• Voted to release the last funds due to Gardner Construction on the

new administration building upon completion of punch list items.

- Released Jeffrey S. Forehand to attend Chowan Jr. High School.
- Appointed Nancy Harrell teacher assistant at Central School.
- Approved the appointment of Nancy Carswell as interim Social Studies teacher at Perquimans High.
- Granted maternity leave to Donna Harris until the end of January.
- Rescheduled its next regular meeting to January 9.
- Adjourned into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Hoover named HVFD firefighter of the year

Vance Hoover was named Firefighter of the Year at the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department's annual banquet on Thursday, December 15. A member of the HVFD for three years, Hoover was chosen by his fellow firefighters to receive the award due to his outstanding service to the department.

Guest speaker for the banquet was Barry Oliver of the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Pension Fund. Oliver spoke briefly on the benefits available through the pro-

gram.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by the Rocky Hock Quartet. The Perquimans County School Food Service Association catered the buffet dinner.

New officers for the coming year were installed by retired fire chief Pete Riddick. They are: Chief-Edgar Roberson; Assistant Chief-Sid Eley; Captains-Larry Chappell and Edward Leicester; Lieutenants-Donald Hurdle and Billy Layden;

Secretary-Treasurer-Walter Edwards, Jr.; Chaplain-Edna Wolverton; Trustees-Mary White and Edna Wolverton; Response Team First Sergeant-Vance Hoover; Response Team Second Sergeant-Bill Glover; and Albemarle Fireman Director-Vance Hoover.

The newly elected Ladies' Auxiliary officers are: President-Cindy Leicester; Vice President-Dina Hurdle; and Secretary-Treasurer-LuRee Sawyer. They were also installed by Riddick. end HVFD banquet

Tests show county water not tainted as rumored

Tests show Perquimans County water is not dangerous, as has been rumored, County Manager Paul Gregory announced Monday night.

Gregory said tests of water samples conducted by the Division of Health Services prove the water is safe to drink.

"Our plant stood up to the state standards," he said. "There has been some suggestions out in the county that there may be something dangerous in our water. There is nothing dangerous, and this test conducted at the request of our water customers proves that."

The request was made at the request of Snug Harbor residents, and water was tested at a residence in Snug Harbor, at the Bethel Water Plant and at the well site before the water is treated at the plant. The test measured levels of four chemicals; iron, manganese, fluoride and mercury.

The results showed that water coming from the well far exceeded the state standards in iron and manganese content, but after the water had been treated at the Bethel Water Plant, levels for all four chemicals were within the state standards. The same was true for water taken from a Snug Harbor residence.

A letter was sent to commissioners from the Snug Harbor Property Owners Association in appreciation for the efforts the county has made to improve the water quality. The letter stated that the quality of water at Snug Harbor has improved in the recent past.

Gregory said the county still has a long way to go, "but I feel very confident that we are heading in the right direction. We must produce the very best water possible."

He attributed the improvement

of the water quality to testing which is now being conducted on a daily basis at the water supply plants. Gregory said plans in the future to continue improving water quality include flushing supply lines and making changes in the filter system at the Bethel plant.

Prison bus

Commissioner Thomas Nixon, who represents Perquimans County on the Tri-County Jail Commission, informed the board that the N.C. Department of Corrections proposes to no longer drive its bus to the Tri-County Jail to pick up prisoners to be transferred to the state system.

Beginning in January, the DOC plans to stop at the Chowan County Jail and then go to Winton by way of N.C. Highway 32, bypassing the Tri-County Jail in Pasquotank County and the Currituck jail facilities.

Perquimans, Pasquotank and Camden counties jointly operate the Tri-County Jail, and each county is responsible for the transportation for any prisoner from its own jurisdiction.

In a letter approved by commissioners to be sent to the DOC, Gregory said if the plans for the bus to no longer stop at the jail are implemented, Perquimans law enforcement officials would have to leave Perquimans, drive to Pasquotank to get prisoners, then travel through Perquimans again to get to Chowan County. "We feel this procedural change should not take place," Gregory said.

The DOC presently sends a bus to Pasquotank County two times a week. Gregory said it would not be a tremendous inconvenience if the number of trips is reduced to once a week, "but we strongly feel the bus

should schedule one of its stops at our Tri-County Jail. We, the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners, ask that you reconsider your decision."

Nixon said if the DOC does not adhere to the county's request, he would contact area legislators and ask them to take action. "It doesn't make sense," he said. "It is not much farther for them to go by Elizabeth City and then take (U.S. Highway) 158 to Winton."

He added if the measure is put into place, the Tri-County Jail would have to purchase a bus and hire drivers to transport prisoners to Chowan County.

Sheriff jeep

Commissioners approved the purchase of a four-wheel drive jeep for the sheriff's department by a 3-1 vote, with Nixon voting against the motion.

Sheriff Joe Lothian said the jeep would be an asset for drug operations and would be used to find marijuana planted in woods which are not accessible by car.

Lothian said funds for a new police car are included in his budget this year, but the jeep would require an additional \$2,000. He said the cost of the jeep purchased through the state contract would be \$14,500. Lothian promised commissioners that he would keep his department operations at the budgeted level for the entire fiscal year despite the additional money needed for the jeep.

Nixon said the jeep was a "luxury item" and added that the sheriff should be able to drive to most places in the county without needing a four-wheel vehicle. Commissioners approved the request with the stipulation that the sheriff must remain within his budget for the fiscal year.

Alzheimer's support group formed to aid area citizens

Alzheimer's Disease is the fourth leading cause of death in adults, after heart disease, cancer, and stroke. More than 100,000 die as a result of the disease annually.

The disease attacks the brain and results in impaired memory, thinking and behavior. It affects an estimated 2.5 million American adults who are cared for in either nursing homes or at home. The symptoms include a gradual memory loss, decline in ability to perform routine tasks, impairment of judgement, disorientation, personality change, difficulty in learning, and loss of language skills.

Presently, the cause of Alzheim-

er's Disease is not known, nor is there any cure, however, good planning and medical and social management can ease the burdens on the patient and family.

According to Leanne Schultz, program developer-MIS coordinator for the Albemarle Commission, which is an area agency on aging, based in Hertford, "If a family member with Alzheimer's Disease is being cared for at home, it's very important to keep a calm environment."

Ms. Schultz made her remarks to a group who recently gathered at an informational session at Chowan Hospital, to determine if there was enough interest to begin a support group in Chowan County.

Presently, the Alzheimer's Association, founded in 1980, has more than 1,200 support groups and 188 chapters nationwide.

Ms. Schultz added that it's very difficult and frustrating to care for Alzheimer's patients, therefore, the group would provide information and sharing.

The group would meet monthly at Chowan Hospital with a tentative starting date for next March.

Anyone interested in joining the support group, please contact Leanne Schultz at 426-5753 or Pete Rogers at Chowan Hospital at 482-8451, ext. 359.



Hertford Mayor Bill Cox presents the HVFD Firefighter of the Year Award to Vance Hoover.

Beautiful decorations, good food combine for successful Ramble

By Paige L. Underwood
Extension Agent

The Perquimans County Extension Homemakers and Agricultural Extension Service held their annual Christmas Ramble last Monday night.

Luminaries and candle light welcomed the tourists to the Ben Hobbs house where they stepped back into the 18th century. The hall and parlor house was decorated with live greenery arrangements, cedar Christmas tree and fires burning in the open fire places. The furnishings and decorations were authentic to the 200 year old house.

Wooden reindeer and country charm greeted the guests at the Wayne Layden House in the Beech Spring Community. The home which was owned twice by Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Layden has been completely remodeled. The furnishings revealed the couple's interest in country decor. The energy efficient home now has a modern kitchen and large utility room. The exterior of the house has been up-

dated with paint, window shutters, and porch rail.

The Perquimans River reflecting the large 2 year old brick home welcomed the group to the Billy Baker home at Billy's Beach. Spotlights revealed the upper deck and basement garage as the tourists entered the great room on ground level. The entire house was planned for year round living for family members, grandchildren and friends. The large master bath with hot tub is a dream bath.

The basement living area (complete with kitchen) replaces a summer cottage which the family once enjoyed at Nixon beach. The home offers the best of two worlds for the Baker's style of living.

Many displays, guests demonstrators and refreshments were waiting at Eure's Restaurant, head quarters for the 1988 Ramble which had been decorated inside and out. Green wreaths with red bows framed the candles buring in the windows. Oyster shell and sand dollar ornaments dressed the Christ-

mas tree as well as a large grape vine wreath. The Belvidere Extension Homemakers decorating committee thought the oyster shell seemed to be the perfect theme for the sea food restaurant.

Mrs. Mary Temple was busy stuffing bears and animals as she answered questions about her "animal family".

Mrs. Lisa Winslow has been busy making and dressing dolls. She displayed, baby dolls, Christmas dolls, adult dolls and just doll, doll, dolls.

All the above artists and craftsmen were from Elizabeth City. Grady Lawrence and son, Chad, displayed and demonstrated wreath making on his new machine using live greenery and the same method and technique as mountain tree growers use for making commercial wreaths.

The following clubs displayed table top exhibits, crafts, and gift ideas; Helen Gaither, Bethel, Belvidere, Winfall, Whiteston, and Burgess.

Snow Hill-White Hat served refreshments.

Santa Letter Contest Winner



Mary Anna Key was named the winner of the Perquimans Weekly "Letters to Santa Contest." Her winning entry appears in the special Christmas section inside today's edition. Mary Anna is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Lowe of Hertford.