

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 CENTS

Marijuana confiscated

Aerial search nets 43 plants in Joppa

A new program with which the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department is involved netted the confiscation of 43 marijuana plants worth about \$68,000 on the street.

The North Carolina Army Air National Guard, Highway Patrol, Sheriff's Association and Department of Crime Control and Public Safety have teamed up to combat the increasing marijuana production in the state.

"Marijuana is fast becoming the number one cash crop in this state," said Perquimans Sheriff Joe Lothian. "We want to do everything we can to try and keep it to a minimum in this area."

The State Bureau of Investigation plane is only available for use in the county once a year, which local law enforcement officials say is not often enough to combat the escalating marijuana cultivation.

The National Guard helicopter will be returning to the Albemarle area on a regular basis to scout for growing plants. "The general public can go ahead and get used to seeing them," Lothian commented

about the helicopters.

Lothian said that the local Highway Patrol unit has been instrumental in the implementation of the program, along with the local sheriffs.

He estimated that over 150 drug-related arrests have been made during the past 11 months in Perquimans. The charges ranged from simple possession of drug paraphernalia to felony possession and distribution.

Lothian said that he and his deputies issue no citations, even for simple possession. All drug suspects are arrested, photographed and fingerprinted, no matter what the charge. He wants to let people know that his department is seriously committed to eradicating drugs in Perquimans County.

The sheriff's department and Hertford Police Department plan to work together to rid the county of the plague of illegal drugs.

Local Briefs

Athletic Boosters will meet Wednesday

The Perquimans County Athletic Boosters will meet on Wednesday, August 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the PCHS coach's room.

Football program advertising and selling season tickets will be the main items on the agenda.

The Boosters are urgently requesting all persons interested in our youth, especially those parents of student athletes, to take a positive step and join the Booster group.

Much work is done each year by the Athletic Boosters. Painting, clean-up, uniform purchases and field work are all done by the vital organization. Many of the improvements made in recent years at Memorial Field have been made possible by funds and labor provided by the Boosters.

Unfortunately, many parents of athletes have not lent their support to the efforts of the Boosters. Without more participation, the group will not be able to provide the much-needed support system for student athletics it now provides.

Funds are raised by suppers, the annual Old Timer's Game and football program advertising. Last year, the group generated \$2,000 in season ticket sales.

Athletics is an expensive offering. Uniforms, equipment, field improvements, coach's salaries and lights and travel for varsity football and basketball; girls' volleyball, softball, track and basketball; junior varsity football and basketball; varsity and junior varsity cheerleading; baseball and boys' and girls' track must come from athletic funds, straining a tight budget.

Students involved in athletics work hard at their sports. Some go on to institutions of higher learning to play.

Please take the time to support student athletic programs. Attend the meeting on August 2nd.

Jaycees plan CF collection Saturday

The Perquimans Jaycees have planned a roadblock for Saturday, July 29 to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis. Last year, the group raised over \$500 for their efforts.

When you see a young adult approach your car with a white container at intersections throughout Hertford on Saturday, please give generously. A child's life may depend on your gift.

Wetlands cannot be converted easily

The "Swampbuster" provision of the Food Security Act of 1985 restricts the use of the nation's remaining wetlands for conventional agricultural purposes. Many farms contain woodland areas that may be classified as wetlands.

Under the provisions of the Food Security Act, wetlands may no longer be cleared for the purpose of producing an annual agricultural crop without incurring the loss of eligibility for all USDA program benefits on the entire farm. Such benefits are not affected, however, if wetlands are cleared and replanted with trees or put in pasture.

The Soil Conservation Service is now engaged in making wetland determinations on a county-wide basis. Wetlands are classified as soils that under natural conditions are covered with standing water or are saturated during some part of the year. These soil types also support hydrophytic or water-loving plants.

Upon completion of a wetland determination for each farm, individual farmers will be notified if they have any wetland areas and where such areas are located.

In the interim, farmers are urged to contact either the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) or the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) offices in Hertford if additional land clearing is anticipated.

Peoples Bancorp declares dividends

On July 19, the Board of Directors of Peoples Bancorporation declared a third quarter dividend of 14 cents per share to be paid on September 20, 1989, to shareholders of record on September 6. The ex-dividend date is August 30. This represents a 7.7 percent increase over last quarter's dividend of 14 cents per share. Upon payment, total dividends paid per share for the first nine months of 1989 will be 40 cents.

Council moves to condemn properties

The Hertford Town Council took its first step last Wednesday night to rid the town of approximately a dozen unsafe, unsightly buildings inside the town limits.

Building Inspector Aubrey Onley met with the council in a special session to discuss his reports which recommended condemning the structures. The unoccupied dwellings and two business buildings should either be torn down or renovated according to Onley's report.

Most have substandard electrical services and plumbing, and many are structurally unsound. A small number have been boarded up to stop vandals and vagrants from entering the buildings. One is known to be used as a "crack house," a place where drug deals are made.

Vivian Trent asked the council to halt proceedings at 102 Railroad Avenue, which is owned by her daughter. She told the council that the house was being renovated when vandals broke the new windows, stole the heating system and damaged the electrical service. It is the daughter's intent to refurbish the house.

At the recommendation of Councilman John Beers, the council decided to notify all of the property owners to inform them of the town's intent so that they could reply. Councilman Jesse Harris said that hearing from the property owners would help the council to determine which properties would be renovated, and which could be demolished.

The property owners will be notified, and will have 30 days to respond to the letters that will be sent out by town attorney Walter Edwards, Jr. and Onley.

"I want concrete plans (for renovations), not just a 'yes, yes I will work it out,'" Mayor and City Manager W.D. (Bill) Cox said.

The town council has discussed some of the structures for years, trying to work with some of the owners of the buildings, but to no avail. Now they intend to get tough. If owners do not show clear intent to upgrade their buildings, the town council will proceed with condemnation proceedings, and will demolish the buildings.

Although the council is willing to cooperate with property owners, Cox said he will not allow procrastination. The owners must act in a reasonable amount of time.

The dozen-plus buildings presently under consideration are only the first of several that will be dealt with by the town. Cox said that the town is committed to cleaning up the town and getting rid of the eyesores.

When asked about the status of the Buck House on Market Street which has already been condemned and the decision appealed, attorney Walter Edwards said that owner Victoria Shoveliski of Maryland believes that she has found a buyer for the property who wishes to renovate the dwelling.

This week, Edwards received a letter from the prospective Buck House buyer stating that he has been trying to purchase the property for almost two years, but has only recently been able to proceed with the purchase due to the legal proceedings in which the Shoveliskis were involved.

His letter indicated that once the purchase is final, he intends to begin renovation in September, with hopes of moving in by the fall of 1990. Edwards said that the town council will probably request a meeting with the buyer.

The buildings reviewed by the town in addition to 102 Railroad Avenue are: the Broughton Building on the corner of Market and Church streets, Joe Perry's on Grubb Street, 213 Grubb Street, 104 Railroad

Avenue, Keel's Trading Post, the John Caddy Estate, 322 Market Street, 304 King Street, Bertha Lane Estate on Woodland Avenue, 328 Dobbs Street, 307 Market Street and 211 Woodland Avenue.

If plans to renovate or tear down are not received within 30 days of receipt of the town's letter of intent, the town will file a notice of hearing and complaint. The building inspector will then determine the appropriate action to be taken. The owner will have a short time to either demolish or repair the structure. After a review by the town council, demolition can begin if owners have not begun to renovate the property. The decision of the building inspector can be appealed to the zoning board.



Photo by Joe Southern

This Railroad Avenue house was being renovated when vandals broke windows and stole equipment from the site.

Jaycees honor Peckham, Layden for dedication

The Perquimans County Jaycees named the Jaycees of the month for May and June recently. The honor is based on a point system which takes into account overall participation.

Chris Peckham was recognized as Jaycee of the month for May. He competed in the statewide novice Speak-up category competition representing the Coastal Region.

During May, Chris co-chaired the Class of 1973 reunion dinner, attended state convention, worked on revamping the dunking booth and attended all board and membership meetings.

He also chaired a recent aluminum trailer project, where the club sold the aluminum as a money-making project. This year, Chris is serving as one of the directors.

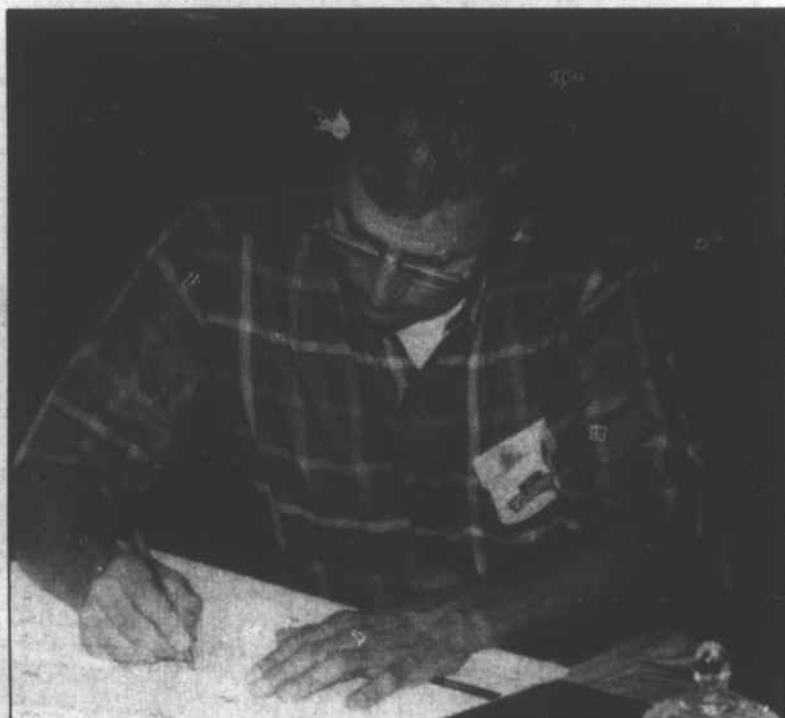
In June, Wayne Layden received the honor of Jaycee of the month.

Wayne served as chairman of the recent fireworks fundraiser and co-ordinated the fireworks order.

This year Wayne serves the club as Management Development Vice President and as a result, he attended Local Officer's Training School. Throughout the month, Wayne attended all board and membership meetings, participated in the aluminum trailer project, car wash and boxing the fireworks for the 4th Fest.

These two young men are fantastic and believe in the total Jaycee concept. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, the Perquimans County Jaycees continue to strive to make this a better community.

Perquimans County Jaycees meet at Joe's Place on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. We invite individuals between the ages of 21 and 39 to join us.



T. Erie Haste files to run for the Hertford Town Council. Incumbent John G. Beers has also filed for re-election.

Farm Bureau, Extension Service host Study Group

The Albemarle Farm Bureau Legislative Committee and the North Carolina Extension Service sponsored a tour for the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study-Albemarle Citizens Advisory Group last week. Dr. Parker Cheson, a native of Hertford, is chairman of the study group and went on the tour.

The tour was scheduled to show how the educational efforts of the extension service and information on water quality distributed to area farmers has been put into practice by farmers in Perquimans and Chowan counties.

Perquimans Extension Director Stan Winslow said that county farmers are aware of environmen-

tal concerns that relate to every aspect of crop and livestock production. Many of those farmers have adopted new practices to reduce the potential for run-off into waterways.

Practices used presently include the Integrated Pest Management Program, livestock waste management and soil fertility management.

Winslow reported that all farmers use the Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) at some level. Farmers now scout their fields for pests and treat only when necessary. The old theory was to spray for what you expected. This practice helps to alleviate pesticides entering waterways. Tour

participants viewed fields using pest management on the Nixon Brothers Farm.

Livestock producers, especially large farms, have spent thousands of dollars upgrading operations to manage wastes. New facilities and lagoons help to separate the waste from the swine, and therefore make management easier. Mack-bourne Farms, owned by Willard Copeland, was toured.

Using animal waste as fertilizer for crops is also an idea whose time has come to be implemented, Winslow said. Funds to help with the high cost of using animal wastes have been made available through the Soil Conservation

Service. Chicken litter and swine waste have been used locally.

Farmers are also using less fertilizers than in the past. An increased use of soil sampling services has resulted in less commercial fertilization, and a cost savings to the farmers.

Some crop growers work with the local extension service and N.C. State University on test plots which check the results of old and new pesticide, herbicide, cultivation and other practices. This week, experiments will begin in Perquimans in trapping European corn borers in cotton fields. The pests can be devastating to corn and cotton.

Led by the Perquimans and Chowan Extension Service staffs, the group included Dr. Billy Caldwell, Assistant Director in charge of agriculture and natural resource programs; Extension District Director Tom Hobgood; N.C. Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Jenkins; Extension Entomologist with the Tidewater Research Station in Plymouth, Dr. John van Duyn; Extension Soil Scientist with the Tidewater Research Station, Paul Lilly; Dr. Mike Linker, IPM Coordinator in Raleigh; local extension staffs and members of the study group.

The tour ended with a dinner at Hayes Plantation on the Albemarle Sound in Chowan County.