

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Briefs

High school to hold open house on Oct 4

Perquimans County High School invites students, parents and interested community members to a special satellite telecast at the high school in the faculty conference room next to the cafeteria on Wednesday, October 4 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Those attending will have an opportunity to get acquainted with the programs available to students on the TI-IN satellite network.

During the half hour from 7:30-8:00, there will be refreshments and a time to ask local educators questions about satellite courses for students.

From 8:00-8:30, the State Department of Public Instruction will broadcast a program of information about the resources accessible through this new technology.

TI-IN is a fully interactive televised education network. It delivers learning opportunities to students and teachers which would otherwise be unavailable because of distance, expense, or limited enrollments. This open house will give students and parents a chance to let their local educators know what courses are needed from the TI-IN Network for the 1990-91 school year.

Playhouse sets date for dinner theater

Tickets are now on sale for the upcoming production of the comedy melodrama, "He Ain't Done Right by Nell," to be presented at Angler's Cove Restaurant private party room on October 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29.

The evening of entertainment and gourmet buffet will be produced by the Perquimans Playhouse, Inc. in conjunction with Angler's Cove Restaurant. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Tickets are available at the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce office, telephone 426-5657.

Members of the cast include Carol Hammer, Frank Parrish, Christine Carson, Steve Farthing, Becky Carson, Jennifer Quick and Billy White.

The production staff includes Bob Hess, Dave and Iris Dallas, Frances and Stephanie Hammer, Jennifer Quick, Norma McMullan and Brenda Hollowell.

Perquimans Playhouse, Inc. holds membership meetings on the first Monday of each month at Angler's Cove Restaurant, and membership is open to all persons. Come and experience the fun.

FmHA plans loan servicing program

Chowan and Perquimans County farmers with loans from the Farmers Home Administration are invited to a meeting on October 2 on how FmHA's computer program is used in considering loan servicing options such as rescheduling and write-down, FmHA County Supervisor, Melvin E. Howell, said recently.

The meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. at the Martin Community College, Room 14, in Williamston.

Howell said the meeting is particularly important for FmHA borrowers behind in their payments and those having difficulty with their loans.

"We will go over all the options available to those borrowers and explain how to go about finding one that will keep them in operation," Howell said. "We will be putting emphasis on the Debt and Loan Restructuring (DALR) computer program that was developed just for this purpose."

Howell said DALR does many mathematical calculations quickly and in a number of combinations in helping in the analysis of farm financial plans.

"If a restructuring plan exists that will keep the borrower on the farm, DALR will find that plan, and that plan will minimize the cost of debt restructuring," he said.

Officials are working hard to fight Perquimans drug traffic

An Associated Press (AP) news release concerning the drug operation of the Harveys and alleged police corruption in Perquimans County printed in the Daily Advance on September 7 received mixed responses in Perquimans. The news release sparked comments from former law enforcement officials, present law enforcement officers and residents.

The news release, however, must be analyzed before conclusions can be drawn from it. The information used in the article was taken from a report on drug operations in eastern North Carolina prepared by the U.S. Attorney's office.

First, it should be noted that the report was compiled in February 1988, approximately 18 months prior to the AP press release.

Secondly, since the time of the release which stated, "Police corruption is perceived by the public as being widespread in this area of North Carolina due in large part to drug operations," the Hertford Police Department has had almost an entire new slate of officers employed. The only officer still on the force is Patrolman Robert Harvey, who Police Chief Aubrey Sample describes as "as honest as they come."

Finally, Fred and Linda Marie Harvey have both been tried, found guilty and sentenced on drug-related charges since the report was issued. Both are now incarcerated.

Sheriff Joe Lothian said that it took over a year to build a sound case against the Harveys, who were trafficking in cocaine and operating a "shooting gallery," a place where people gather to use illegal drugs. He said that the Harveys had been under suspicion for quite some time before the investigation that led to their eventual arrests and prosecution.

Lothian expressed his disappointment that the Harveys were able to plea bargain, resulting in lighter sentences. "The reason that there was a plea bargain done," he said, "was because the case was so poorly put together and was rushed by several agencies in an attempt of one trying to outdo the other." Involved in the case was the Hertford Police Department, Perquimans Sheriff's Department, State Bureau of Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Elizabeth City Police Department.

That type of situation should not occur now, according to Lothian and Sample. "We're basically lending mutual assistance right now," Sample said. There is close cooperation between the departments.

The departments are correlating services, but the two department heads are frustrated by the lack of cooperation from citizens.

"In order for a police department to function, you've got to have the cooperation of the community," Sample commented.

Both men told of cases in which there are suspects, but no physical evidence to link the suspect to the crime. In some instances, eye-witnesses are either unwilling or unable to identify the criminal, further hampering efforts to prosecute.

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Why are citizens unwilling to identify criminals? "From what I've seen since I've been here, the people in this community are scared. They won't come forward," Sample lamented.

Another serious problem faced by law enforcement officials is not being called to crime scenes. The officers told of a case where a gun battle took place, but their departments were not aware of the shoot-out until a month after it happened. They have even been informed that drug dealers have blocked off streets, but no one turned them in until several days after the incident.

Drugs are rampant in Perquimans County. The sheriff's department has logged over 150 drug-related arrests in the past 14 months. U.S. Highway 17 provides the artery through which drugs travel here. Water surrounds the county, the chosen route of some drug dealers. The Hertford Police Department has been understaffed for many months.

The drug situation did not escalate overnight, and it will not go away overnight, according to Sample. The problem has been mounting for years, but some citizens could not believe that drugs were here, and refused to deal with the problem then.

Laying the drug problem to rest squarely on the shoulders of the drug dealers is unfair, said officials. The users, they said, must also be dealt with. If the market dries up, the dealers must move away.

Both men feel that the situation will get worse before it gets better. Gangs have begun to infiltrate the county, which can lead to the same type of events which have occurred in Washington, D.C. "The threat is real," said Sample.

Within the next 10 years, they feel that other gangs will be in the county, competing for their share of the drug trade.

What do the two top-ranking law enforcement officials in Perquimans County plan to do about the drug traffic? "We're going to do our job," said Lothian. "We're sticking it out," Sample replied.

Both men know the dangers in going after drug kingpins, but Lothian said, "As law enforcement officers, we don't mind taking the heat." But, Lothian added, they must have community support.

People have to be willing to call in criminal actions, go to court to testify against law-breakers and open their eyes to the fact that the drug problem is not isolated in certain neighborhoods. "It would surprise you who's dealing and buying," Lothian commented.

Summing up his feelings, Sample said, "The only reason this country's in existence is because the citizens defended it. They won't defend it any more."

U.S. Attorney Margaret Currin has pledged her support of local attempts to fight crime. She has told Lothian that she will visit soon to assess the situation and see if there's anything she can do to help law enforcement officials.

Hopefully, it won't be too little, too late.

EIC will sponsor child care food program

The Economic Improvement Council, Inc. full year head start announces the sponsorship of the child care food program. Meals will be available at no separate charge to children enrolled at the Perquimans Head Start Center and will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex or handicap.

The chart below lists family size and income standards used to determine eligibility. Eligibility standards for the child care food program are effective July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990.

For more information, call 482-4495.

FAMILY SIZE	WEEKLY		MONTHLY		YEARLY		
	FREE	REDUCED	FREE	REDUCED	FREE	REDUCED	
1	\$ 150	\$ 213	\$ 648	\$ 922	\$ 7,774	\$ 11,063	
2	201	286	869	1,237	10,426	14,837	
3	252	358	1,090	1,551	13,078	18,611	
4	303	431	1,311	1,866	15,730	22,385	
5	354	504	1,532	2,180	18,382	26,159	
6	405	576	1,753	2,495	21,034	29,933	
7	456	649	1,974	2,809	23,686	33,707	
8	507	721	2,195	3,124	26,338	37,481	
FOR EACH ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER ADD:		+51	+73	+221	+315	+2,652	+3,774



The house that once sat on the corner of Edenton Road and Market streets has been dismantled. All that is left of the former dwelling is part of the chimney and debris. The property, which is owned by the Bertha C. Lane estate, was one that the town had targeted for condemnation.

Mathews re-elected to cooperative board

Director Charles H. Mathews of Perquimans County and Garry Meiggs of Camden County were re-elected by members of the Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) at their annual meeting held Saturday, September 9 in Hertford. Thomas A. Bateman of Chowan County defeated Paul C. Williams for the District 2 Chowan directorship.

President L.A. Harris announced that the EMC will be refunding approximately \$233,000 in capital credits. Members should have them in hand sometime during October. Mr. Harris said, "The refund covers credits from the balance of 1976 and 20 percent of the 1988 capital credits." Thus far, \$1.7 million has been refunded to past and present members.

Joseph A. Byrum, vice president of the EMC, retired from the board effective September 9. L.A. Harris recognized Byrum for his 21 years of service to the cooperative.

General Manager Dorris White reported that growth in some areas was less last year than in 1987; however, 1988 was still a very good year.

New programs are being offered to increase kilowatt-hour (kwhr) sales and off-set some of the system demand which increases the EMC's average unit cost per kwhr. Targeted first are water heaters. Under the program, any member with a gas water heater or any member in an existing home who has never had a water heater who installs an electric water heater will receive a \$150 rebate if a load management switch is installed on the water heater.

The second promotion will be directed at security lights - a very good area for off-peak sales. The main thing Mrs. White stressed was, "These programs will be cost effective and beneficial to our total membership."

White said, "In 1988 members purchased a total of 86 million kilowatt hours of current, a 5.2 percent increase. Revenues from 1988 increased 14 percent and totaled \$6.4 million. The average revenue per kilowatt hour sold was 7.9 cents, an increase of almost six-tenths of a cent."

White concluded her message by saying, "We pledge to exert our best efforts to operate your business in a manner consistent with your desires. Of course, this does not mean we can please all members all the time, no matter how great our effort toward that goal. But we can try, and we do try."

There were 227 members present for the meeting. The EMC serves portions of five counties: Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck, and services 7,500 members in these areas.

County receives grant to fund athletic facility

Governor Jim Martin recently announced that the National Park Service approved Perquimans County's \$38,500 matching grant application for the initial development of a 7.87 acre site which will include two athletic fields with fencing, lighting, backstops, dugouts, restroom facilities and a parking area.

The facilities will be built on county property in Winfall. The adult softball program sponsored by the Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Department was halted here two years ago due to the lack of available lighted athletic fields in the county. The program once utilized a field at Perquimans Middle School, but that field is no longer lighted, making night play in the county impossible for the adult program.

Said Recreation Director Anthony Downing upon receiving the news of the grant's funding, "I am thrilled. We're going to try to get started getting some work done to the fields so we can have them ready to go by softball season."

Work will begin soon on grading and leveling the fields, and on installing the light poles.

Downing said he also plans to try to use the facility for the county's youth soccer program. That program has a spring and a fall season, and presently teams practice and play on fields at the Central Grammar School in Winfall.

Grant funds were obtained under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. The 26-year-old program has pumped more than \$59 million into state and local recreation agencies in the state, involving 777 recreation projects for local government units in 94 of North Carolina's 100 counties.

The Perquimans County Commissioners budgeted their \$38,500 in matching funds in this year's budget.

"These LWCF local grants assist in meeting some of the backlog of local outdoor recreation needs in these communities," Gov. Martin said. "This program has served as a major catalyst to the state's park and recreation movement by helping to create a permanent legacy of public parkland across North Carolina for current and future generations to enjoy."

Photo by Beth Finney

Hugo whipped waves over this pier at Holiday Island, but spared Perquimans from the wrath that it unfurled on Charleston, S.C. Many residents took precautionary measures such as taping windows, but the storm roared inland, rather than travel up the coast.

