

Have a safe Memorial Day weekend

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C. Thursday, May 24, 1990

30 CENTS

Briefs

Summer school dates changed due to funding

Due to a change in state funding, the 1990 remedial and enrichment summer school will be held June 25-July 23. Students in grades 7-12 who need to attend for course credit should preregister in the PCHS office on June 21 or June 22 from 8 a.m. until 12 noon.

Perquimans Weekly moves deadlines for holiday

The Perquimans Weekly office will be closed on Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day. The advertising and news deadlines have been moved to Friday, May 25 at 3 p.m. No advertising or news will be accepted after that time.

Accident on U.S. 17 holds up mid-morning traffic Tuesday

A mid-morning traffic accident on U.S. Highway 17 south of Hertford caused southbound traffic to be rerouted for approximately one hour Tuesday morning.

According to unofficial reports, a mid-size Ford truck and a mid-size Ford car collided head on about one mile north of the Perquimans-Chowan county line.

The Hertford Fire Department's First Response Team was called to remove the accident victims from their vehicles. Fire Chief Edgar Roberson reported that the team was on the scene for approximately 45 minutes.

Also responding to the accident were the Bethel Fire Department, the Chowan County Rescue Squad and the Perquimans County EMS.

N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Wood investigated the accident. No other details were available at press time.

P.C.H.S. band, chorus set annual concert for Friday

The annual concert presented by the band and chorus at Perquimans High School will be held on Friday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the school's auditorium. Students are rehearsing to perform a variety of arrangements. Everyone is invited to attend the concert.

Hertford Police, county sheriff make arrests

The Hertford Police Department made the following arrests:

Louis Franklin Lane, 62, Rt. 1, Box 917, Hertford, was arrested and charged with second degree trespass on May 17.

Charles Haywood Lowder, 32, Rt. 2, Box 987A, Hertford, was arrested and charged with communicating threats on May 18.

Warren Lee Ernest, 43, 316 Stokes Dr., Hertford, was arrested and charged with assault on a female on May 18.

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests:

Michael Copeland, 31, Rt. 2, Box 86E, Hertford, was arrested and charged with worthless checks on May 16 on a Pasquotank County warrant. He was released on a \$500 secured bond.

Melody Hammond Suis, 28, Rt. 3, Box 389A, Hertford, was arrested and charged with failure to appear as directed by a citation on May 16 on a Pasquotank County warrant. She was released on \$300 secured bond.

Arlene Spruill, 26, Rt. 2, Box 82, Edenton, was arrested and charged with assault on May 17 on a Chowan County warrant. She was released on a written promise to appear.

Michael Allen Holley, Rt. 2, Box 83, Edenton, was arrested on May 17 and charged with assault on a Chowan County warrant. He was released on a written promise to appear.

School board considers reorganization pattern

Increasing enrollment and projections that the number of students in the county's school system will begin to grow even faster has caused the Perquimans Board of Education to consider a reorganization plan for housing students.

Schools superintendent Mary Jo Martin submitted a reorganization pattern for the Board's review Monday night at their regular meeting. Under the plan, kindergartners, first and second graders from the entire county would attend Hertford Grammar School; third through fifth graders would attend Perquimans Central School; and grades six through eight would be located at Perquimans Middle School. The high school would continue to serve grades nine through 12.

Dr. Martin told board members that several factors contribute to the need for reorganization, including increasing student population, a desire to expand the middle school concept, less duplication of materials and resources, and easier instructional planning.

The N.C. Institute of Government has projected a 43 percent student population growth in grades seven through nine

by 1998, with an increase of 25 percent in grades kindergarten through six. Because there is no more available space to convert into classrooms at the middle school, either more classrooms must be built, or some students must be moved to an alternate location.

By moving the fifth grade to another school, there should be sufficient room for students in the remaining three grades, at least until 1998, when the enrollment would again hover near its present volume, according to Dr. Martin.

The fifth grade is still self-contained. This is not the case in grades six through eight, where students change classes for each subject. Putting the fifth graders back in an elementary atmosphere would better serve their needs, according to research available to the school administration.

With two schools presently housing kindergarten through fourth grades, there is duplication of materials and equipment, such as computer programs and media resources. Reorganizing the schools to house three grade levels each would help to alleviate this overlap, and allow the school's instructional material and equipment funds to be more effectively spent, Martin said.

The change in the schools organization would also facilitate easier instructional planning, with all teachers on each grade level working in the same school. Staff development workshops would also be easier to plan.

Dr. Martin asked the Board to seriously consider the plan for its economic and educational values. "I do recommend that we seriously consider the change," said Board chairman Clifford Winslow. "I personally think it makes a lot of sense."

Winslow reminded board members that the first step in the school reorganization took place when all the county's seventh and eighth graders were assigned to the middle school. Next, all fifth and sixth graders were consolidated. Winslow said it is time the board move to complete the program started several years ago.

Board members said that they anticipate a little resistance to the idea initially, but expect that when parents and other citizens concerned about education consider the change economically and educationally, they will see that the change would be in the best interests of the students and the taxpayers.



Photos courtesy of Vance Hoover



Hot stuff

The P.C.H.S. Marching Pirates got a taste of 97 degree heat when they performed at Disney World last week-end. The band put on a good show, but several succumbed to the oppressive temperatures. Upon their arrival back in Hertford Monday morning, they were tired, but said they had a great time.

Perquimans senior awarded full scholarship

Louis John West, a graduating senior from Perquimans County High School, is the recipient of a 1990 DeVry Inc. full-tuition scholarship to DeVry Institute of Technology in Atlanta, one of the system's 11 postsecondary campuses.

West is the son of Judd and Sharon Pipes of Hertford.

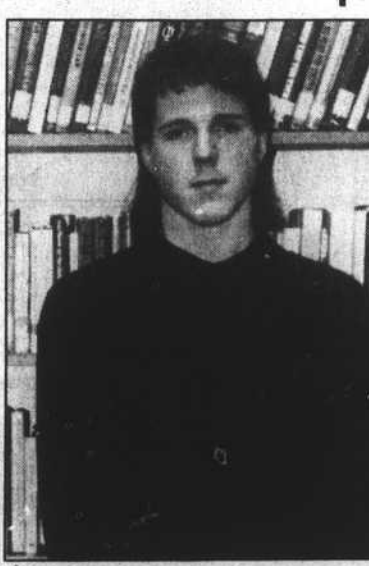
The announcement was made by George Fisher, acting president of DeVry-Atlanta. The scholarship, valued at up to \$21,115 covers tuition payments for the Computer Information Systems program. Students earn a Bachelor of Science Degree upon successful completion of all coursework.

Finalists for the DeVry scholarship competition were selected from a group of more than 650. Scholarships are granted on the basis of college board scores (SAT, ACT, or WPCT), high school academic records, and an essay written by the students. West's topic was, "What Skills Will Be Critical for the 1990s Business Manager?"

A committee of local high school principals, counselors and DeVry-Atlanta administrators evaluates the student's essay and high school records and makes final selections.

"DeVry is interested in identifying highly motivated young people with a strong aptitude and interest in technology-based business fields. Our annual scholarship program is a significant contribution to that end," states Dennis J. Keller, chairman of DeVry Inc.

In addition to the nine scholarships awarded at Atlanta, other DeVry Institutes in the U. S. are presenting a total of 37 full-tuition and 74 half-tuition scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Value of the 120 scholarships to be awarded in 1990 is approximately \$1.55 million.



West

... Full scholarship

Motorists urged to use caution over holiday

CHARLOTTE — Fifteen persons could lose their lives, and approximately 1,000 could suffer disabling injuries in traffic accidents on North Carolina streets and highways over the Memorial Day holiday week-end, the N.C. State Motor Club has projected.

The state will count its toll over a 78-hour period from 6 p.m. on Friday, May 25 through midnight Monday, May 28. Last year the holiday presented 1,208 accidents, killing 21 persons and injuring 924, while 973 were injured and 13 were killed in 1988.

Congress has officially designated May 21-23, which includes the long Memorial Day week-end, as "Buckle Up America!" Week. These special days, purposely scheduled to include the Memorial Day week-end, when much traffic is on the road, are set aside to make the public aware of the benefits of seat belts and child safety seats.

"Whether you're riding five miles or 500 miles, any time you're in a car - buckle your seat belt," Dr. John G. Frazier, III, president of the statewide motor club urged.

"Traffic accidents claimed 1,467 lives last year in North Carolina according to N.C. Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles' records," Frazier stated. "Wearing seat belts is the most effective step a driver and passenger can take to save themselves from serious, even fatal injury," he added.

"We are hopeful that the current downward trend in traffic fatalities in North Carolina will continue over the Memorial Day week-end, however, the recent Easter holiday week-end death toll of 16, with delayed death tolls yet to be included, was a disappointment," Frazier said.

The concerted effort of all motorists is needed to lower driving speeds, and to avoid drinking and driving. Unsafe speed is recognized as a major contributing factor to the volume and severity of traffic collisions.

Drivers are urged not to drink and drive. It is estimated that one of every 50 drivers on the road at any given time is illegally intoxicated. On week-end nights the ratio increases to one in ten, and on holiday week-ends the ratio increases even more.

County residents concerned over subdivision regulations

By NANCY ROYDEN-CLARK
Staff Writer

Last night, a public hearing was held at the Perquimans County Courthouse to discuss revisions in subdivision regulations.

An original draft of the subdivision regulations was dated October 2, 1978. The primary goal of the rewrite is to provide better organization and clarity of the regulations for the subdivisions.

A board of local citizens has worked together for about 18 months to formulate the plan of regulations.

The group believes they tried, while working on the revisions, to provide equal services for county residents on the whole.

County Attorney John V. Matthews Jr. explained the situation one builder in the county had been in and correlated it as a reason for the necessity of the new regulations.

The builder had put in no roads, no pipelines and was selling the home.

The regulations would mean builders and buyers will be paying more for preliminary and final plat approval. The fees have not been changed since 1978.

A preliminary plat approval fee will cost from \$10 to \$20 or \$2 per lot. The final plat will cost from \$10 to \$25 or \$2.50 per lot.

The requirement to install fire hydrants will be added under the new revisions.

Councilman Thomas Nixon did not understand why fire hydrants should be required under the new revisions.

"The water system in Perquimans County was not designed to fight fires," he said.

Other members disagreed with Nixon, saying that hydrants would allow water to at least be obtained from a nearby source, as opposed to hauling it from a distant hydrant.

Letter-writing campaign yields calls from Raleigh

The letter-writing campaign waged by local citizens in an effort to beef up state funding for small school systems has gotten attention in Raleigh.

Cheryl White, a Belvidere resident and the mother of Perquimans Central School students Chay, 8, and Tiffany, 6, received a telephone call from Sen. Marc Basnight, D-Dare, recently. White mailed Basnight one of the 30 letters she wrote to state legislators in April thanking them for what Perquimans received under the Basic Education Plan and encouraging the state to send more money to small, poor rural school districts.

"I spoke with Sen. Basnight on the phone for about 20 minutes," White said. "He seemed very sincere."

Basnight and 1st District representatives Vernon James and R. M. "Pete" Thompson have pledged their support to the grassroots efforts to obtain more state dollars for small rural school systems.

White also received replies from state senators James D. Speed of Louisburg and George B. Daniel of Yanceyville. Daniel's letter assured White that equal funding will be discussed when the General Assembly convenes in Raleigh in 1991.

White was one of about 250 parents, school staff members, students and other citizens interested in education who wrote letters to state legislators in April. Community Schools Coordinator Jeanie Umphlett said that over 500 letters were sent to Raleigh from Perquimans.

The campaign was a joint project with Camden and Tyrrell counties, who together with Perquimans formed CBS - Citizens for Better Schools. In February, the three counties organized a Steering Committee to map out strategy to obtain more money for their local schools. Organizers promoted CBS and their plan, including the letter-writing campaign, at a March rally attended by residents of all three counties, as well as Thompson and James.

The counties are members of the Small Schools Consortium, a group of school superintendents from small systems across the state who have banded together to work for equal educational opportunities for students in North Carolina public schools.

Historically, the state of North



Photo by Nancy Royden-Clark

Cheryl White holds two letters she received from state legislators concerning funding for small school systems.

Carolina has funded teacher salaries and instructional materials. Local governments are responsible for capital expenditures.

In larger, more affluent areas, local funds allow added teaching positions, expanded course offerings and an abundance of instructional materials, in addition to funds for capital outlay.

In poor, rural areas, local funds are often so limited that needed building maintenance must wait.

CBS and the Small Schools Consortium are trying to make state officials sit up and take notice. The state constitution guarantees equal educational opportunities to every student in North Carolina, and the two groups believe that pupils in small rural school systems are not receiving equal educational opportunity.

The issue has arisen in at least three other states across the nation, and lawsuits have been filed - and won - against states for failure to offer each student access to an equal education. No lawsuits have been filed to date in any of the counties represented by CBS.

A second letter-writing campaign will get underway in the fall, and members of the CBS Steering Committee hope that it will be even more successful than the April campaign.

Thinking of placing a Classified Ad; but not sure how to do it? Just call our friendly Ad-Visor, Elenora. She will be glad to help you.

426-5728

Perquimans Weekly

119 W. Grubb St.
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.