

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 CENTS

Briefs State gives schools funds, takes portion back

Chamber prepares for Indian Summer Festival

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce is busily preparing for the upcoming Indian Summer Festival scheduled for Sept. 14 and 15 in Hertford.

Craft, art, display and food booths are available for the festival. Interested persons should contact the Chamber at 919-426-5657 by Sept. 10. Those wishing to appear in the Indian Summer brochure should apply no later than Aug. 13.

Pirate football set for Saturday at 7

Perquimans Pirates football teams will make their debut on Saturday, August 11 at 7 p.m. Both varsity and junior varsity players will dress out to meet the junior varsity Pamlico team.

The coaching staff asks that football fans come out and show their Pirate spirit by attending this pre-season scrimmage.

Admission is \$1.

FmHA seeks minority loan applicants

Melvin E. Howell, County Supervisor for Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) in Chowan and Perquimans counties, is encouraging the participation of minorities in the Agency's Farm Loan program. Howell stated that as a result of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, 21 percent of the farm ownership loan funds and farm inventory property will be reserved for minority farmers in North Carolina. The targeting of loan funds to minorities will assist FmHA in its efforts to reverse the loss of farm ownership by that group. Persons interested in the program should contact the local county FmHA office located in the ARPDC Building on Church Street Extended, Hertford, NC (919) 426-5733.

FmHA is a lender of funds for Agriculture and Rural Development within the United States Department of Agriculture.

Arrest report

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

Michael Craig Clark, 40, of 814 Bethel Fishing Center, was arrested on Aug. 1 at 7:45 p.m. and charged with second degree trespass after he allegedly attempted to remove videos from Adam's Family Country Store in Bethel. Clark and his companion, Paul Detmer, attempted to remove a selection of videos they felt were unsuitable for public viewing, said Sheriff Joe Lothian.

Clark and Detmer attempted to leave the store with video boxes, but not the tapes, Lothian said. Clark refused to leave the store when asked to do so and was subsequently arrested, Lothian said. Detmer was not arrested.

Clark was released on a \$200 unsecured bond.

Jerry Wayne Edwards, 46, of 830 Bethel Fishing Center, was arrested on Aug. 2 and charged with two counts of taking wild water fowl. He was released on a \$200 secured bond.

Jack William Harrell, 51, of Rt. 5, Box 135, was arrested on Aug. 6 and charged with driving with a revoked license and resisting a public officer. He was released on a \$1,000 secured bond.

The state legislature recently funded a portion of the Basic Education Program, Dr. Mary Jo Martin told the board of education Monday night, but local school officials have already been told that a portion of the funds must go back to the state.

Martin said that \$41.38 per student will have to go back to the state coffers due to the budget shortfall, which amounts to about \$77,000 for Perquimans County. In addition, administrators will be informed this week of an additional amount which must be kept in re-

serve until January. If collections on the state level are good, a portion of those funds will be released. The other percentage must be held until April, Martin said.

"We're going to have to take a long, hard look at where we take that 77 thousand dollars from," Martin told the board.

Under Senate Bill 2, the legislature gave local units expanded decision-making capacities. That new right will now have to be used to decide where the cuts will be made here, Martin said.

Martin added that the budget will

probably allow the local system to meet the projected career development merit pay for 1990-91.

Considering the hold-back, there is actually no new money from the BEP coming into the county. The system effective lost 3.5 positions scheduled to be gained under the BEP.

In order to try to offset the loss of funds, local administrators are writing grant proposals to apply for private education funds, such as those submitted to R.J. Reynolds last year.

"We are applying for every

penny of money that's possible," Martin commented.

Reorganization

Eighteen of the 32 teachers affected by the school reorganization had been moved into their new classrooms by last Friday, Martin told the board.

Martin said that high school students were hired temporarily to assist maintenance personnel with the move. Some teachers, she stated, have already unpacked their supplies and equipment.

Some members of the mainte-

nance staff will return to work early to help with the final clean-up process, Martin told the board.

The two mobile units at Perquimans Central School are almost complete, Martin reported, and will be ready for occupancy before teachers return to work on Aug. 15. The unit at Hertford Grammar School is further from completion, and school officials are hoping it will be complete before Aug. 15. She said that it will definitely be ready to house students on the first day of school, Aug. 22.

Insects infest cotton, soybeans

Insects have descended upon crops in Perquimans County, according to county agriculture extension agent Stan Winslow, and have forced farmers to begin early pesticide application in an effort to combat them.

Corn earworms and European corn borers have been spotted in cotton and soybeans, Winslow said.

Farmers who usually begin active pest control in mid-August began spraying pesticides in late July when unusually early infestations became obvious.

Winslow said he is urging farmers to carefully scout their crops or follow their scouting reports so that pest management practices can be implemented as needed. He said that most farmers have good stands of soybeans and cotton, and these insects can have a devastating effect on what promises to be good yields.

Drew Woodard, a local 4-Her involved in special project programs, has been counting insects collected on the farm of his grandfather, Carroll Williams.

An insect trap erected on the farm snares the corn earworm and European corn borer in the moth stage. A black light draws the insects to the trap, where they die after coming into contact with a pesticide strip.

Since July 21, Woodard has counted an average of 120 corn earworms per day, and 215 European corn borers per day.

The per-day counts are increasing. When Woodard first began the project, he collected only 150 corn earworms and 60 European corn borers over a 3-night period. On August 6, Woodard reported 634 corn earworms and 1015 European corn borers during the same time period.

The rising counts concern Winslow.



Photo by Susan Harris

Drew Woodard tallies the number of corn earworms and European corn borers caught in his moth trap overnight.

"It is imperative that farmers scout their fields regularly to check for these pests," he said. "Without proper scouting followed by a good spray schedule, these insects can ruin a good crop, and spread to neighboring farms. I encourage all farmers in the area to continue scouting so that treatments can be applied to fight these pests and inhibit their spread."

Winslow also reported that pea-

nut diseases have been found on some farms, and that these diseases must be watched just as closely as those affecting soybeans and cotton. Early detection and treatment is very important, Winslow added.

Farmers are also reminded the annual crop management tour is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 14. Information about the tour is available at the extension office.

Water pipe relocation costs county over \$200,000

The expense of moving the water lines along U.S. Highway 17 North because of the new 4-lane road between Woodville and Winfall is a thorn in the sides of the county commissioners.

At their Monday meeting, county manager Paul Gregory told the commissioners that he had received a letter from the state saying that the county could stretch repayment of the approximately \$220,000 required to move the lines over a 4-year period, provided that the county pays the state 8 percent interest on the unpaid balance.

Gregory said that he has contacted officials in Raleigh, and is presently working with Transportation Board Utilities Commissioner Phil Godwin of Gatesville to try to come up with a new plan. Godwin agreed to present a plan to the Commission which would allow the county to repay the debt over two years with no interest.

Commissioner Thomas Nixon said that he is opposed to paying interest to the state.

Gregory told the commissioners that the money to repay the moving expense is in the water department's fund balance because the county knew the expense was forthcoming. The department is also delaying such maintenance items such as painting the water tanks to make more funds available to pay the state.

Nixon said that the state's plan to 4-lane U.S. 17 from Winfall to Edenton will add another large expense to the county's budget. He questioned how a small county with such a small water department would be able to sustain back-to-back moving expense outlays.

Although preliminary reports indicate that no water lines will have to be moved for the Winfall to Edenton phase of the Highway 17 project, final plans have not been drafted by engineers.

Electoral Study Commission

Gregory told the commissioners that he had received a letter from the NAACP last week nominating Willie Bines as the group's representative on the electoral study committee. The group was asked to respond in June.

The Republican Party had previously nominated Jesse Parker Perry as their representative.

The board approved both nominations, and the group will again review how best to change the voting system in Perquimans County to provide a better opportunity for minority representation.

Athletic fields

The board was informed that there is \$18,470 left in the athletic fields grant with which to build four restrooms, a handicapped access and a concession stand. Approximately \$52,000 was spent in fiscal 1989-90 on the project.

An agreement to be presented to the Perquimans County Jaycees concerning concession stand operation was reviewed and discussed.

Under the agreement, the Jaycees would have the exclusive franchise for operating the concession stand at the athletic fields through June 30, 1991. The contract between the county and the Jaycees would automatically renew each year, unless terminated by either party with 30 days notice.

The Jaycees would be responsible for mowing and weed-eating the playing fields each week during the growing season and picking up trash at the complex.

The agreement will be sent to the Jaycees for their review and acceptance or rejection.

Gregory said that other civic organizations had contacted him after the Jaycees, and that if the Jaycees decided not to accept the agreement, he would contact representatives of other groups.

Schools participate in statewide parent involvement program

Increasing parent involvement will be a focus of local schools this year under a project sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction and the Perquimans County Schools.

Parents will participate in special activities and will receive materials on how to get more involved in their children's lives.

The overall goal of the PARENTS: THE KEY TO BETTER SCHOOLS project is to improve student achievement through increased parent involvement. The program is designed to provide parents with ideas and materials to use at home with their children, to encourage schools to develop and implement parent involvement projects, to encourage stronger home-school partnerships by suggesting ways schools and parents can work together and to increase public awareness of the importance of parent involvement in children's education.

Dr. Mary Jo Martin said parents are the key to student success in school.

"The national research clearly shows that children whose parents are involved in their lives have a better chance to succeed," Martin said. "We need more parents to show an interest in what happens to their children at school and parents who are more directly involved in what their children do after school hours."

"I think if we have better parenting, better homes, we'll have much better students," said board of edu-

cation member Wayne Howell in recommending that the board endorse the statewide program and implement it in the local school system.

"I think we as a board should certainly do everything we can to support it," added board chairman Clifford Winslow.

Martin and community schools coordinator Jeanie Umphlett, who will coordinate the project, told board members that the local system has already implemented programs, such as the after-school tutorial sessions and Odyssey of the Mind, which correlate with the goals of the parental involvement program.

Assistant superintendent Jake Boyce said that the tutorial program has been very successful, and that administrators involved with the program look forward to their continued involvement with parents and community citizens who have volunteered their time to work with county students.

Odyssey of the Mind has also enjoyed success, with teams earning regional and state honors in each of the two years of the program's implementation.

Umphlett told the board that she will utilize members of the community schools committees and PTAs already established to assist with the new program locally.

In announcing this year-long project, state superintendent Bob Etheridge said that he sees more participation by parents in their children's education as critical to

the success of public education.

"It is parents who must help us set high expectations for achievement, and it is parents who must provide a home environment that supports the learning process."

To encourage the development and strengthening of parent involvement project, Etheridge has established the Golden Key Award for Parent Involvement. The Department of Public Instruction will recognize school systems with exemplary parent involvement projects in the spring of 1991.

Local coordinators will be responsible for documenting and reporting local activities designed to increase and enhance parent involvement. These reports will be submitted to the state for judging. Fifteen school systems will be awarded the Golden Key Award on the basis of these reports.

Nine topics will be the focus of the program, including home learning centers; report card time and conferences; American Education Week; teaching responsibilities and values at home; media use; test taking and preparation; the importance of reading; family health; and family recreation experiences.

Information about the program will be sent home with students and published in The Perquimans Weekly throughout the year, Umphlett said.

Martin, Umphlett and the board members agreed that parent involvement is one of the keys to achieving better education in Perquimans County.



Photo by Susan Harris

Moth count

Drew Woodard checks his insect trap to collect the corn earworms and European corn borers that he has caught in the moth stage. Drew is working with the Agricultural Extension Service.

DEADLINES FOR THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NEWS RELEASES ... 3:00 PM

RETAIL ADVERTISING ... 3:00 PM

CLASSIFIED & LEGALS ... 3:00 PM

MONDAY PRIOR TO THURSDAY PUBLICATION PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

119 W. Grubb St.
426-5728
8 AM-5 PM, MON.-FRI.