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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Briefs

### A.A.R.P. to meet

Perquimans Chapter 4118 of A.A.R.P. Inc. will meet Monday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center on Grubb St.

Matt Joyner from Swindell Funeral Home will be the guest speaker. Everyone interested in this subject is invited to attend the meeting.

Chapter 4118 is open to membership for all of the surrounding counties. The A.A.R.P. is here to serve, not to be served. For information about A.A.R.P., contact the Snelor Center at 426-5404 or contact president Mona Sadler at 426-7044.

### NAACP sets meeting

The Perquimans County branch of the NAACP will hold its monthly meeting Monday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Hall in Hertford. The Hall is located across from First Baptist Church.

### Booster meeting changed

The Band Boosters will have a meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the PCHS band room. This meeting was originally scheduled for March 5.

### Annual dinner slated

The annual dinner meeting of the Perquimans County Committee of 100 will be held at Angler's Cove on Monday, Feb. 25. Rick Tobin and Ben Berry, officers with Centura Bank, will present the program "Doing Business in Eastern North Carolina."

The cost of the meal is \$8 per person. A social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will follow at 7:30.

### Programming set

The Perquimans County branch of the NAACP is observing Black History Month with a black history skit, "A Struggle for Self-Esteem."

The NAACP is also sponsoring a student essay/art contest. First prize is a \$50 savings bond and second prize is a \$25 savings bond. The prizes will be awarded at a meeting at Poole Grove Baptist Church on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. Music will be provided by a youth choir.

A Black History Month Fellowship Service is scheduled at First Baptist Church in Hertford on Sunday, Feb. 24 at 2:30 p.m. The Rev. Ray Omen of Kadesh A.M.E. Zion Church of Edenton will be the speaker. Music will be provided by members of adult choirs from county churches.

## Commissioners raise water tap fees

The county commissioners voted Monday night in regular session to raise the prices of water tap installation and the charge for moving meters.

Commissioner Mack Nixon said during lengthy discussion on the move that he would "strongly suggest" that tap fees be increased to allow the county to raise funds within the water department to replace equipment in the future. Nixon said that it was a good business practice to set prices that allow for future capital needs.

The commissioners also voted to increase the price of moving meters from \$25 to \$175 plus the cost of materials.

"We need to give some plain direction to the water department," Nixon said. "It's just good business."

Commissioner Wayne Winslow made the motion to increase the rates effective May 1. On that date, the cost of installing a three-quarter inch tap will increase from \$300 to \$425, a one inch tap will go from \$375 to \$500, and a two inch tap will cost \$900 rather than \$750.

According to meter installation figures compiled by county manager Paul Gregory, the county was covering the cost of meter installations, but was not collecting sufficient funds to raise capital to replace trucks, backhoes and other equipment purchased and

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Mack Nixon  
County Commissioner

maintained by the water department.

Commissioner Thomas Nixon did not vote for the change, saying he thought the increase was too steep. He did not, however, vote against the measure.

The commissioners instructed Gregory to advertise the price change twice, once the first week of March and again the first week in April. Commissioners Leo Higgins said the notice would give those considering tapping into the water system time to pay the connection charges before the new fees take effect.

In old business with the water department, the commissioners were apprised of the calculations used by Gregory to adjust the water bill of Marty Stallings, a hog farmer who uses county water at his farm.

Stallings had approached the commissioners at their last meeting to seek a reduction in his bill, which he told commissioners exceeded \$9,000. Water department supervisor Russell Chappell and Keith Haskett were both present at that

meeting. Haskett told commissioners that when the water department read all the meters in the county in November per their policy of reading all meters every six months, he noted a drastic increase in usage on Stallings' meter. Haskett said he requested that the meter be read again. The meter was rechecked, and the initial reading was determined accurate. The water department employees advised personnel at the hog operation that the reading was significantly higher than usual.

Upon receiving the bill for over \$7,000, Stallings contacted Haskett. Haskett told Stallings that the water department had no authority to reduce a bill, and that Stallings should contact Gregory. Gregory suggested that Stallings meet with the commissioners if he wanted to request a reduction in his bill.

Stallings met with the commissioners on Feb. 4. He admitted at that time that he had not read the meter during the period when the water usage was in question.

A new policy went into ef-

fect on Nov. 1, 1990 stating that the commissioners would no longer reduce water bills unless it could be determined that a meter was faulty. Chappell said that the meter on Stallings' farm was replaced and the old meter tested. The old meter was accurate.

Because the water was consumed before the Nov. 1 deadline, the commissioners voted to apply the formula used prior to the new policy to Stallings' bill.

Formerly, the commissioners calculated the average consumption over a specific period, subtracted that amount from the total due during the same period, and forgave one-half of the overage.

Using that criteria, Stallings will have to pay \$3,176.10 this week and will be allowed to spread the remaining \$2,021.20 over the next six months, to be paid in addition to his regular water bill. The commissioners discounted the bill by \$2,021.20.

The commissioners were told by Gregory that the meters of large consumers will now be read each month by the water department. The commissioners said they would like to remind all water department customers that meters should be read each month so that large bills are not the result of the bi-annual checks by the water department.

## Belvidere man dies in logging accident

A Belvidere man died following a logging accident near his home last Thursday afternoon.

The victim was identified as William Bryant Chappell, 20.

Hertford Fire chief Edgar Roberson said that the department's Emergency Response Team responded to the call at around 2:30 p.m. The Belvidere Fire Department was first on the scene.

Roberson said Chappell had been logging in a wooded area near the Puzzletown community, close to the Chowan-Perquimans county line. The tractor Chappell was driving apparently flipped over on him, Roberson said.

Chappell was transported to Chowan Hospital by the Perquimans County EMS. He was dead on arrival at the hospital.

## Chapter 1 will meet

There will be a Perquimans County Schools Chapter 1 pre-kindergarten training session for parents on Thursday, Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. in the Board of Education building on Edenton Road Street.

Joyce Felton, director of Head Start Cthe Head Start program and brings first-hand knowledge and experience to her presentation. She also has extensive training gained through attendance at many state seminars.

All parents, guardians and grandparents are encouraged to attend this session to learn ways to help their children get a good start in their schooling. Those planning to attend should contact Thelma Finch, pre-kindergarten teacher at Heritford Grammar School, at 426-7439 or Estelle Felton, PAC coordinator, at 426-5741. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Chris Barber or Felton at 426-5741.

## Democratic precincts to gather

Perquimans County Democrats have scheduled their annual precinct meetings to be held at their regular polling places on March 7 at 8 p.m.

"We want all Democrats to attend this meeting, whether they're party regulars or just want to get involved with the party again," said County Democratic chairman Julian Broughton.

Broughton said that precinct meetings are the most basic ingredient for Democratic success. "The precinct level is where all policy-making begins," Broughton said. "The more that people get involved in precinct meetings, the better the party can represent the views of all Democrats."

At the March 7 meetings, Democrats will elect precinct officers and delegates to the April 6 county convention. Precincts also will have the opportunity to pass resolutions on the party's public policy issues.

For more information, call Julian Broughton at 426-5667 or 426-5438.



Photo courtesy of Anzie Wood

The Perquimans County High School band has planned a concert in support of the troops stationed in the Middle East. A program of patriotic songs and military marches is being practiced daily by the group. During the concert, families of local troops in Saudi Arabia will be recognized along with veterans of other wars.

## PCHS band plans patriotic concert for March

The Perquimans County High School Band will show its support of the local men and women stationed in the Persian Gulf, their families, and veterans of other wars with a concert scheduled for Sunday, March 10.

Patriotic and military music will fill the high school auditorium beginning at 3 p.m. Melodies ranging from the national anthem to marches will combine to represent the band's concern for troops fighting in the Middle East.

Band director David Ziemba said practices for the concert have been very touching. Many of the present band students performed with former members who now serve in the armed forces overseas. Knowing someone stationed in the combat zone has added a special dimen-

sion to the practices, Ziemba said.

The band will field an honor guard consisting of the national, state and county flags, as well as the school banner and the inaugural banner brought back from the inaugural parade of President George Bush.

Family members of local troops will be recognized during the free concert, along with veterans of other foreign wars. The two groups will be seated in reserved sections signified by the yellow ribbon that has come to represent the hope for peace across the country.

Ziemba said he and the band members are proud to be organizing what they hope will be a county-wide show of love and support for the families of the troops. He said that he hoped to have a full house for

the concert, as people gather to let their neighbors and friends know that all county citizens are concerned about the brave men and women from Perquimans County who are serving their country during a difficult period.

Family members and veterans of other wars who plan to attend the concert are asked to call the Perquimans Weekly office at 426-5728 so that sufficient seats can be reserved for those to be honored.

All students in the county schools will have the opportunity to enjoy the band's patriotic program. On March 11 at 2:30 p.m., students at the high school will gather in the auditorium. On March 12, students from Hertford Grammar School and Central School will be bussed to the high school for a performance. The band also

plans to give the concert at the middle school. Ziemba said the public may attend these concerts.

The band will also perform at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Vaughan Center at Elizabeth City State University during Operation Inspiration. The program is being sponsored by WCNC Radio and with the cooperation of the Elizabeth City Downtown Association and Elizabeth City State University.

After that performance, the band will travel to the C.P.O.A. Club located behind the Pizza Hut in Elizabeth City to play during Operation Support at 12:30 p.m. The event is being sponsored by VFW Post 6060.

Ziemba said he was honored to have the Perquimans band invited to participate in the support rallies in Elizabeth City.

## Social Services to receive commodities for local distribution

Perquimans County will receive butter, cornmeal, honey, flour, pears, and rice for distribution in February. The Hertford Lion's Club will begin distribution at 9 a.m. on Feb. 26. It will be conducted at the Ice Plant on Grubb Street and will be available to all income eligible households in Perquimans County. A rain date has been set for Feb. 27. Households having four or more members should bring a helper with them to assist in carrying food to their car.

All households who will not be able to pick up their commodities

may use a representative for this purpose. The commodities card or application must be signed in the correct places for this to be acceptable. No household will be allowed to pick up food for more than themselves and one other household as representative. There will be no exceptions.

There will be two lines at the distribution site. The second line will be for the physically handicapped and/or disabled who are present at the distribution to pick up their food. A doctor's note stating the disability, or

proof of handicapped license plates for their vehicle must be provided. Those persons using the handicapped line may pick up food for their own household only. Again, there will be no exceptions.

Cars may not be driven into the distribution area. Please remember to park only in authorized parking areas as the Hertford Police Department will be patrolling the area.

Applications may be obtained from the following agencies beginning Feb. 11: Department of Social Services,

Health Department, Economic Improvement Council, Catholic Social Ministries, Senior Citizen Center and the Open Door Ministries at the Ice Plant.

The Commodities Distribution Program is available to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, handicap, or political beliefs. Information about regulations against discrimination and how to file a complaint may be secured from the N. C. Division of Social Services, 325 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, N.C. or from your

county department of Social Services.

The income criterion are available at the Department of Social Services.

Last year the department elected not to hold one of the distributions due to poor response. Counties are not required by law to organize the food distributions.

DEADLINES FOR THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NEWS RELEASES ... MON. 3 P.M.

RETAIL ADVERTISING ... MON. 3 P.M.

CLASSIFIED & LEGALS ... MON. 3 P.M.

PRIOR TO THURSDAY PUBLICATION

PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

119 W. Grubb St.

426-5728

8 AM-5 PM, MON-FRI.