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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 Cents

Briefs

Teachers needed for hunter safety courses

As of July 1, 1991, it is mandatory for all first-time hunting license buyers to take a Hunters Safety course.

Due this new law, the Wildlife Resource Commission is seeking volunteers to help teach this course. Anyone interested in helping needs to complete a Hunters Safety Instructor Course. To sign up or for more information please call J.C. Staley at 426-5662.

Church plans sale

The New Hope United Methodist Church UMW will be holding their annual yard sale and bake sale on Saturday, May 25. The sale will begin at 10 a.m. on the church grounds.

Driver training set

Bus driver training classes will be held 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., June 12-14, at Perquimans County High School. If you are interested in registering for the bus driver training, please contact Tom Monti at the Perquimans County Board of Education office at 426-5741. Persons interested in attending the training must call prior to the workshop date to pre-register and attend all three days of the training. This training is required for anyone interested in driving a school bus during the 1991-1992 school year.

Basketball camp set

The First Annual Perquimans County Instructional Basketball Camp will be held at Perquimans High School from June 17-21. The camp is set to teach the fundamentals of basketball to girls ages 9-13. The camp staff will include area high school and middle school coaches who have an interest in improving overall basketball skill. Application deadline is June 8.

Baseball camp planned

From June 17-21 will be the second annual Perquimans County Baseball Camp. This camp will be held at the high school baseball field.

Sports Camp scheduled

The first annual Perquimans County Sports Camp will be held at Perquimans Middle School June 24-July 19. This camp is set up to provide children with a worthwhile summer activity, while teaching them basic skills in the following activities: soccer, softball, basketball, racket sports, gymnastics, wrestling (boys), volleyball, and track and field. The camp will be held from 8:30-12 noon.

Parents interested in any of the above camps should contact Roger Morgan at 426-8468 or 426-7355.



County grabbles with solid waste management

Solid waste management and its effect on the county's budget consumed much of the county commissioner's time in regular session Monday night.

The total solid waste management budget for the present fiscal year was \$132,000. That figure will skyrocket to \$227,320 in 1991-92, according to county manager Paul Gregory.

State mandates to cut by 25 percent the amount of solid waste deposited into landfills by 1993 has left the county with few alternatives. Manned convenience centers will be built

around the county. Residents will deliver their separated garbage to the centers for recycling. There will be receptacles for glass, aluminum, paper and plastic, as well as for general unrecyclable garbage.

Tentative plans for 1991-92 call for erecting three recycling centers at a cost of \$25,000-30,000 per center. Operating the three sites will cost the county \$133,812, which is reflected in the \$227,230 in the budget proposal. However, the \$75,000-90,000 cost to construct the convenience centers is not included in the proposal.

One option discussed by Gregory and the commissioners which looks likely is assessing every household in the county a \$25 annual solid waste fee. Gregory said the fee could be included on the ad valorem tax statements mailed in September and would be due by December 31 as are tax bills.

Even with the \$25 fee, the commissioners will probably be forced to raise ad valorem taxes by 2-3 cents per \$100 of valuation. Commission chairman Lester Simpson said that the

budget must be balanced and the county will be forced to absorb state budget cuts.

Commissioners Leo Higgins and Thomas Nixon said that the county must give residents an incentive to recycle and not to litter the county with garbage.

Higgins suggested the county consider door-to-door pick-up on a regular basis for white goods. He said the residents who use the service can be charged per pick up.

The commissioners must decide how many convenience centers to build, and where they

will be located. The cost of operating the centers will more than likely dictate the number to be built.

The commissioners will meet in a work session on May 29 to discuss with officials from the towns of Hertford and Winfall solutions to the solid waste dilemma. Gregory will also outline the 1991-92 budget proposed by the finance committee consisting of Gregory, Nixon and Higgins.

Final decisions on financing for solid waste management will be made at that meeting.



Photo by Susan Harris

A Belvidere man escaped unharmed when turned on Swamp Road Monday. this Ford wrecker he was operating over-

Rain contributes to Monday accident

Balding tires on a rain-slicked road caused a Belvidere man to slide into a ditch Monday afternoon.

James Jacob Hall, 36, of Route 2, Box 324, was traveling west on Swamp Road around 12:30 p.m. Hall told investigating officer N.C. State Trooper Craig Garriss that as he came out of a curve, he felt the back end of the 1971 Ford wreck he was driving slide around. The

truck left the road on the right, turning completely over and coming to rest in a ditch on its top.

Garriss requested assistance from the Winfall Volunteer Fire Department when he noted the truck's gas tank leaking.

The trooper estimated the damage to the vehicle at \$1,000.

Hall was charged with improper equipment (tired) and not having the vehicle registered.

Friday wreck interrupts town electric power

A Friday night wreck at the intersection of Edenton Road Street and Ballahack Road in Hertford sent drivers and passengers in two vehicles to local hospitals.

According to the accident report filed by patrolman Tim Bunch of the Hertford Police Department, a 1988 Ford van driven by Clifford Callis Whitehurst, 44, of Elizabeth City, collided with a 1974 Chevrolet truck operated by Marcus Bernard Downing, 34, of Hertford at approximately 9:14 p.m. Whitehurst was traveling west on Wynne Fork Road when he failed to stop at a stop sign, and was hit in the side by Downing, who was traveling north on Edenton Road Street.

The impact of the crash turned the Chevrolet on its side and sent it 54 feet from the point of impact. The van came to rest in a field 144 feet from the point of impact after moving between two electric poles, striking a guideline and causing an electric line to break.

The accident caused a power outage in a small section of town, and lights flickered several times in other areas of the municipality and in the county. Mayor W.D. "Bill" Cox said that North Carolina Power turned off electric current for about 10 minutes to remove the guidewire which was resting across a power line, and to reconnect the broken line.

When employees with the

Perquimans County Extension Service arrived at work Monday morning, they discovered that their computers would not turn on. Further investigation revealed that some breakers and surge protectors were damaged, according to County Manager Paul Gregory. It appears that the interruption of power due to the Friday evening wreck caused the problems at the Extension Service. Gregory said representatives from the computer company will arrive this week to assess the damage.

The Hertford Fire Department was called to the scene of the accident, and stayed for approximately one and one-half hours, according to fire chief Edgar Roberson.

Passengers in the van were transported to Albemarle Hospital by the Perquimans County Rescue Squad. The passengers in the truck were taken to Chowan Hospital.

Bunch estimated the damage to each vehicle at \$5,000. Whitehurst was cited for failing to yield the right of way in obedience to a duly erected stop sign and transporting a child under the age of six without being properly secured.

Durants Neck Fire Department receives matching fund grant

Durants Neck Volunteer Fire Department was one of 100 rural fire departments in North Carolina to receive matching fund grants as part of the Federal Rural Community Fire Protection Program, Governor James G. Martin announced recently.

The local department will receive \$1,443 of the \$100,189 in federal grant funds dispersed for the program for fiscal year 1991-92. The money can be used to purchase a variety of fire fighting equipment ranging from turn-out gear and hoses to pumps and wildland fire suppression equipment.

To qualify for the Federal

Rural Community Fire Protection Program, rural fire departments must serve fewer than 10,000 people. Fire departments interested in participating in next year's program should contact the local county forest ranger. The departments must file an application with the Division of Fore Resources showing need for the funds, and must be able to match the grant received.

The program is administered by the Division of Forest Resources of the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources through the U.S. Forest Service.

Locals attend state education event

Education officials, community leaders and parents from across the state traveled to Raleigh last Thursday to attend the sixth annual Public Education Day sponsored by the North Carolina Alliance for Public Education.

A delegation of eight from Perquimans made the trip to hear from education and legislative officials about the crisis in education and the state budget.

Trudy Blake, president of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators and a member of the Alliance, told the group that the state will not grow and achieve without a commitment to education. She said that today's schools must be restructured and priorities must be set so that North Carolina can become an example for other states to follow.

Senate President Pro Tem Henson Barnes said that the General Assembly must face tough decisions in balancing the budget for both this fiscal year and next. He said that while budget shortfalls will affect public education, teaching children is a state priority. He noted that two-thirds of the state budget goes to education.

Barnes said that there are only two ways to deal with the budget deficit, spending cuts or a tax increase. He said that his research had found that most people favor tax increases if education will be the benefactor.

Speaker of the House Daniel Blue stated that the state is facing the worst budget crisis in memory. He said that the state has a tremendous obligation to fulfill to its citizens, and the state must put meaning to the priority position of education.

Legislators have looked for duplicity and waste to come up with ways to cut the budget, Blue said.

Blue added that federal mandates have crippled the state budget. Human services and corrections, he said, were areas controlled in large part by federal legislation.

"We have cut as much out of the budget as we can cut out of it," Blue said. "There is no way



Photo by Susan Harris

Eight Perquimans parents and educators attended Public Education Day in Raleigh last Thursday. Making the trip were (standing, l to r) Ben Hobbs, Dr. Randall Henion, Henry Felton and Linda Godfrey, (seated) Lynn Lassiter, Betty Phelps and Jeanie Umphlett. Not pictured is Susan Harris.

(to balance the budget by cutting)."

Blue said that legislators must find \$700-800 million "just to hold the status quo. Over the next six weeks, we will come up with some solutions, long-term we hope."

Blue and Barnes agreed that the House and Senate are in agreement on budget woes and now enjoy the most cooperative relationship either can remember.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Bob Etheridge said that he was pleased with the cooperative and committed tone of both Blue and Barnes. He said that the calls, letters and visits by parents and educators had shown legislators that North Carolinians are committed to education.

"The most powerful lobby is citizens," Etheridge said.

Other speakers during the day included Judy Mountjoy, chairman of the Alliance and

president of the state PTA and N.C. School Boards Association Executive Director Gene Causby.

Visits to legislators planned for the afternoon were nixed when the legislators convened at noon. Thursday was the last day for bills requiring funding to be submitted to the legislature, and therefore legislators were in session and unavailable to speak with their visiting constituents.

Those who made the trip from Perquimans County were superintendent Randall Henion, principal Henry Felton, school board member Ben Hobbs, community schools coordinator Jeanie Umphlett, Hertford Grammar School PTA co-presidents Linda Godfrey and Betty Phelps, Central School PTA co-president Lynn Lassiter and Susan Harris, media representative and Central School PTA treasurer.