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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 Cents

Briefs

PTSA to meet

The Perquimans County Middle School PTSA will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 24 at the school. The topic for this meeting is the D.A.R.E. program. Anyone interested in drug education programs is asked to come and give us your support.

Drawing, bake sale planned

The Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department will hold a drawing for porcelain dolls and a bake sale on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the fire station. If interested in purchasing a \$1 ticket for the dolls, contact Jennifer at 297-2901 after 6 p.m. You do not have to be present to win.

E.I.C. to meet

The Economic Improvement Council, Inc. will meet at the Perquimans Senior Center on Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. All council members as well as area residents are encouraged to attend. Special guest for the meeting will be Senator Howard Hunter Jr. of the N.C. General Assembly. For more information contact Lois P. Smith at 426-7866.

Scholarship program underway

The 45th annual Voice of Democracy Scholarship program is now underway. Locally sponsored by VFW Post No. 8148, the contest offers high school sophomores, juniors and seniors the opportunity to voice their opinions on citizens' responsibility to their country, and to convey thoughts about America. This year's theme is "Meeting America's Challenge." Students interested in entering the contest can contact their teachers for information.

Pre-game dinner planned

The Perquimans School Food Service Association will kick off Friday evening's football festivities with a pre-game dinner. Chicken pot pie plates will be available in the high school cafeteria for \$3.50 each. The dinners will be sold from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Homemade desserts will also be available for an additional charge.

Support group to meet

The Albemarle Multiple Sclerosis Support Group will meet at Elizabeth City's First United Methodist Church on Monday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. in the men's bible class room. For more information contact Faye Proctor at 264-2773.

Address change

The mailing address for the Perquimans-Chowan office of Farmers Home Administration has changed. The new address is 512 S. Church St., Box 2, Hertford, N.C. 27944. The office location remains the same.

Chicken supper set

The Durants Neck Ruritan Club is sponsoring a fried chicken supper on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$4.50 each. Proceeds will benefit the Durants Neck Volunteer Fire Department.

Commissioners want D.A.R.E. program

After discussing the matter in executive session, the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners decided Monday night in regular session to see what they can do to put the D.A.R.E. program back in the schools. Responding to public concern over the discontinuation of the program, the commissioners authorized chairman Lester Simpson to meet with Sheriff Joe Lothian to discuss the program's re-implementation.

Earlier in the meeting, Fred Yates, president of the Perquimans County N.A.A.C.P., appealed to the commissioners to take action regarding the program's demise.

"I'm a little shaken that we're taking the D.A.R.E. program out of the schools," Yates said as a standing-room only audience listened. "I appeal to you tonight...to do something."

Yates encouraged the commissioners to open up the lines of communication with the sheriff, and offered his assistance.

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Fred Yates

"We appreciate you being concerned about this," Simpson told Yates and his delegation of 10.

"There's a lot of people concerned," commissioner Thomas Nixon added.

"We need to keep that program in, gentlemen," Yates said. "If there's anything that I can do, I'll do it. We elected you guys and we elected the other guy. You must communicate."

Commissioner Leo Higgins asked Yates how effective he felt the program is. Yates responded that D.A.R.E. is very effective in helping young people say no to drug dealers. He said that the drug problem here is bad, and he doesn't want to see it get

worse. "We haven't given up on it, Fred, and I still hope we can get this program started," Simpson stated.

Yates said he was not at the meeting to debate who's right and wrong in what appears to be a stand-off between the commissioners and the sheriff, but rather to ask that the lines of communication be re-opened to benefit the children. "The reason they're (drugs) in this area is because it's so easy for them to get. I mean, there's nothing done about it," Simpson said.

"Ralph (Robinson) did a good job (with the D.A.R.E. program). The children like him. I think we can get this program started

back. We're not asking him to do it free. The county wants to pay the man," Simpson added. "Our neighborhood really needs it," Yates responded.

"Has communication improved between you and the sheriff's department or is it still at a stalemate?" resident John Popek asked the commissioners.

Simpson replied that he has not been in contact with the sheriff, however he said that he set up a committee that has communicated with the sheriff and that Higgins is on the committee.

"I'm not prepared to communicate on it," Higgins said.

Yates said, "I don't think that the drug program is the issue. There is something else behind the drug program and the drug program is being used. I'm thinking the drug program is being used for a pawn on something else."

The commissioners did not respond to Yates' statement.

Yates asked the commission-

ers if they'd be willing to sit down "over coffee" and discuss the problem with the sheriff. Simpson said, "Yes."

"I think everyone of us - the commissioners, Paul (Gregory), John (Matthews) - will go and do everything we can," Nixon added.

Simpson told Yates that Lothian has been invited to attend commissioners' meetings three times, but has failed to do so.

Gregory said Tuesday morning that the commissioners are very concerned about the D.A.R.E. program, and want to work with the sheriff's department to put it back in the schools.

"They support it 100 percent," Gregory said. He added that both he and Lothian have been asked to speak about the program at the Perquimans Middle School PTSA meeting on Sept. 24. He said he hopes that they will be able to report that the program will be back soon.



Photo by Susan Harris

The Live Wire Band, composed of local teen musicians, performed Friday evening during the Indian Summer Festival. The group, led by singer Brian Jones, was well-received, especially by their friends who turned out in large number to support Live Wire.

Indian Summer Festival is success

Indian Summer Festival '91 brought two days of fun to the streets of Hertford last Friday and Saturday, as record numbers of patrons filled the downtown area and Missing Mill Park.

The festival was kicked off with storytime for kids sponsored by the Perquimans County Library. While the preschoolers enjoyed the literary activities beneath the oak trees, shoppers found bargains at the sidewalk sales, and many were rewarded with prizes courtesy of the local merchants. Historical window displays, an antique car display and the Albemarle Fire Safety House were also enjoyed.

Entertainment began at noon with music by the award-winning Perquimans High School Marching Band under the direction of David Zerbe. Other performances by local acts included Edgar Lane and the Live Wire Band.

Hosted by Jim Bridges and Ann Devlin, the featured musical team and a Rural Foot Camp band from the Hertford Fire Department and the Perquimans County Rescue Squad rounded out the evening's entertainment.

A variety of activities were held during the annual street festival. A parade of floats, including a church float, and a parade of floats, including a church float, and a parade of floats, including a church float.

consumed by hungry festival-goers during the day.

Rain threatened to cancel Saturday's activities at Missing Mill Park, but after a short morning shower, the show went on as planned.

Early birds participated in the 1 mile fun run and 2 mile fun walk sponsored by Chowan Hospital.

Then it was fun, games, food and entertainment on tap for the rest of the day. Out in the Cold, Wild Streak and Second Wind bands entertained the crowd, along with the Flatland Cloggers, the Perquimans County Recreation Department Aerobics team, and the Holiday Island Chapel Chimes.

The waterfront was popular with a ski show by the Hertford Ski Club, Yamaha Wave Runner demonstrations and a visit by the Silver Chalks. The festival ended with a junior high dance at the Senior Center.

From shishkeboys to chicken pot pie to crab sandwiches, festival-goers ate their fill Saturday, with many food vendors reporting that they sold out.

Although rain caused a flurry of activity as patrons and vendors hurriedly packed their wares late Saturday evening, festival organizers tagged the two-day event a success.

Hertford Town Council delays truck purchase

To buy a truck or not to buy a truck. That is the question that Hertford town councilmen have debated at both their August and September meetings.

At issue is replacing a 1976 pick-up used by the electric department. Mayor and city manager W.D. "Bill" Cox told the councilmen at their August meeting that the truck is used as much as any vehicle owned by the town. It has over 200,000 miles on the odometer, the steering is bad and the motor has been rebuilt.

Councilman Jesse Harris said he favored driving the truck until it wears out.

Replacing the truck was discussed in August because the council had earlier authorized Cox to get bids on a 1991 Ford pick-up. Cox submitted three bids to the council - \$11,613; \$11,990 and \$12,130 - from Courtesy Ford, Stewart Ford and Albemarle Motors, respectively.

After the decision to buy the truck was tabled, Cox asked, "Gentlemen, let me ask you, why did you ask me to go through the bid process?" Cox said that the town had allowed several pieces of equipment to "go to pot" in the past, resulting in the replacement of four major pieces of equipment in a two-year period. He added that replacing the equipment in such a short time-span had resulted in a financial strain on the town coffers.

When the issue was brought up for discussion in September, Cox said, "The truck needs to be replaced. It's got to be replaced." He added that it will probably be impossible to get a 1991 model vehicle this late in the year, which will mean the town will have to bid on what will

likely be a more expensive 1992 model.

"Are we going to take the position that when they start riding in the bucket truck that's when we're going to make the decision?" councilman Eric Haste queried.

Harris then suggested looking for a used vehicle.

Cox responded, "We don't need something two-thirds or half worn out in the electric department."

Cox said he had looked at used vehicles and found that a "decent" pre-owned model would cost approximately \$9,000 compared to a new one with warranties for about \$12,000.

"For the electric truck, we need dependable equipment," Cox said.

"It doesn't bother me if you want to go back and get bids again," councilman Billy Winslow said. Winslow made the motion to table the purchase at the August meeting. He said that since that time he had listened to the present vehicle operate. "We sure need a new one," he said.

"If it's running and doing the job, I vote against it," Harris said.

"The truck's days are numbered," Cox responded.

"If the truck is not good enough to do what has to be done you need that truck moved to a less-used department," Haste commented.

"I just feel like let's don't push it right this second," Harris said.

No decision was made on replacing the present vehicle which town electric employees say will run at a maximum speed of 48 miles per hour.



Photo by Susan Harris

Brighter horizons

Dianne Banks, owner of Dianne's Hairstyling and Tanning and Toning, receives her share of the Hertford Horizons funds which were set aside to assist with renovations in the business district. With Banks are Hertford Mayor Bill Cox, John Christensen and Carl Teranova.

County needs new wells in Winfall

Perquimans County needs to look for new wells to feed its Winfall water plant. Bill Deal of Deal & Phillips Engineering from Cary told the county commissioners Monday night.

According to Deal, the Winfall plant is in good condition, but the wells that feed the plant are not as productive as they need to be. On the other hand, Deal said, the Bethel plant is too small, but there is ample water available.

After much discussion Monday night, the commissioners asked Deal to submit a cost pro-

posal on drilling test wells in the Winfall area.

Deal said part of the problem in Winfall may be that the four wells are too close together. He added that the static water level is decreasing in the wells, indicating overpumping of the aquifer. Deal said that he did not believe the present well field is in a good location.

"I don't know where a real good location for a well field up in that area of the county is," said Deal, who has worked with the county water department for about three years. "The well

field is only going to get worse."

When asked how long the county water system can continue to operate at its present rate of growth, Deal replied, "I can go as far as saying that in hot weather it's touch and go. You don't have a whole lot of capacity left in your system."

Deal added that even if the county decided to build another water plant, tests, financing and plant construction could delay the first day of operation for five years.