

Religion:

County churches gear up for late summer revivals: Page 5

Education:

Parents and children should prepare for start of school year: Page 7

Perspectives:

Tony looks at downtown Hertford at street level: Page 4

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35 Cents

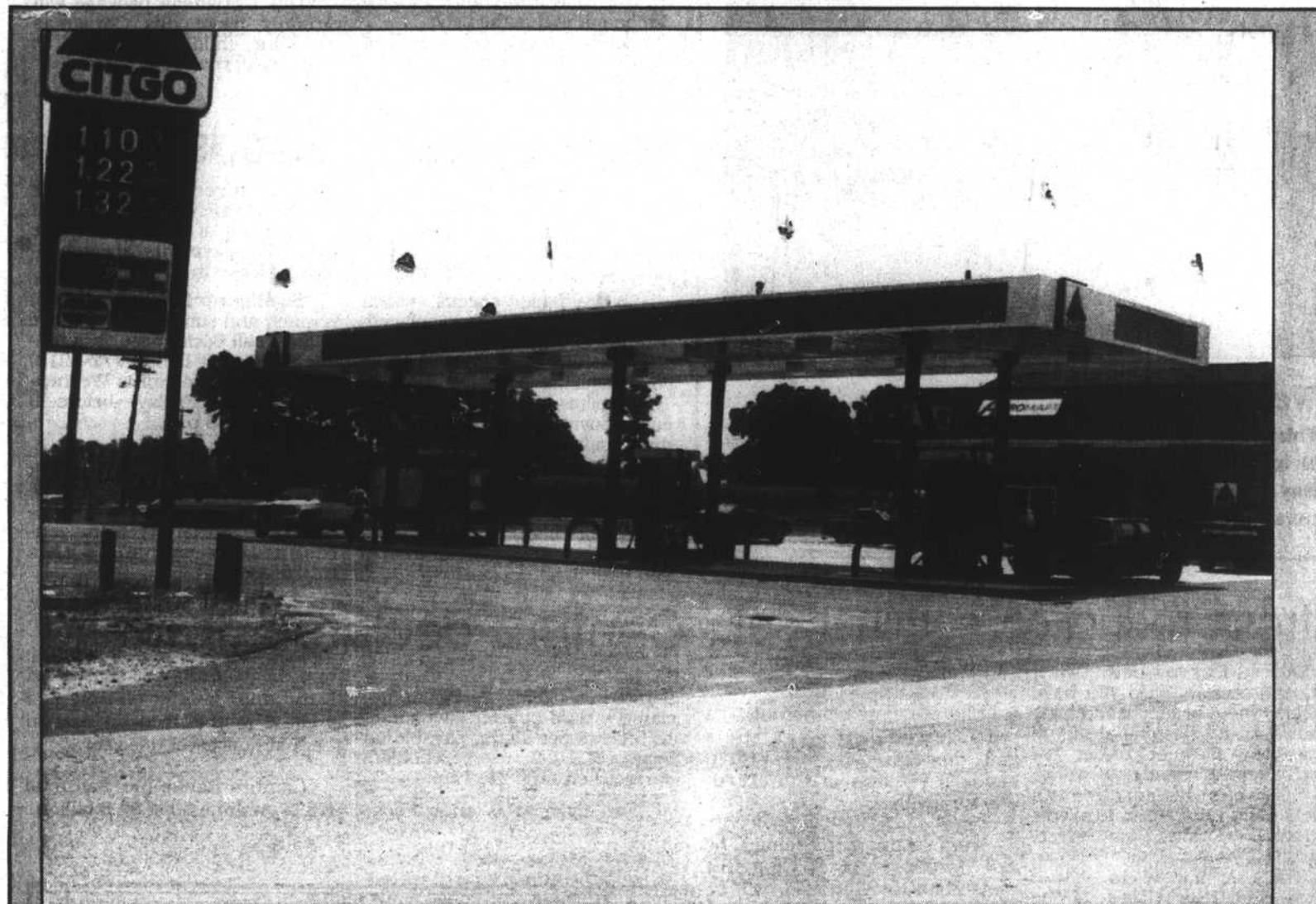


Photo by Susan Harris

A ribbon-cutting was held Monday for the newest business section of U.S. 17 and Church Street Extd., the store offers residents and travelers a convenient stop for gas and food.

Astro Mart opens store on U.S. 17 Bypass

Travelers along the U.S. 17 Bypass around Hertford can now fill their gas tanks and their stomachs since Astro Mart became the first convenience store on the corridor last month.

Owned by Astro, Inc. of Camden, the Hertford store offers gasoline, a delicatessen, groceries and money orders. Store hours are 6 a.m.-11:30 p.m. seven days a week, according to manager Teton Reid.

Dot Johnston, delicatessen manager, said the store is ready to prepare cooked-to-order breakfasts each morning when the

store opens. Biscuits filled with a customer's favorite breakfast combination or a plate meal are available. Lunch and dinner offerings include hot and cold sandwiches, as well as plate meals. Customers may eat at one of the eight tables in the dining area, or choose take-out meals. The deli closes at 9 p.m.

Reid is a stranger to neither Hertford or Astro, Inc. The 1985 graduate of Perquimans County High School went on to earn a business management degree from Livingstone College in 1989. During his years

at Livingstone, Reid worked for Astro during his breaks from school. Prior to being named manager of the Hertford store, he worked in the main office in Camden and as an assistant manager.

So far, most customers have been locals and travelers heading south on U.S. 17, Reid said.

Astro Mart is located in the shopping center at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and Harvey Point Road owned by Charles Ward. It is the sixth store opened by Astro Mart.

Towe earns County lets water tank painting bid promotion at Centura

Suzanne Towe has been promoted to vice president at Centura Bank in Rocky Mount, where she serves as branch support coordinator in the Operations Department. Her duties include managing the branch support area and providing policy and procedures information to the branches.

A Hertford native, Towe joined the bank in 1982 as a teller. She received a bachelor of arts degree in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and in August will graduate from the NCBA Mid-Management School of Banking.

Towe was a 1991 participant in Centura Bank's Winner's Circle, has served as a tutor in the Cities In Schools program and as an ambassador for the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce.

Towe is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford P. Towe of Winfall.

The Perquimans County commissioners Monday let a bid to paint the county's three water tanks.

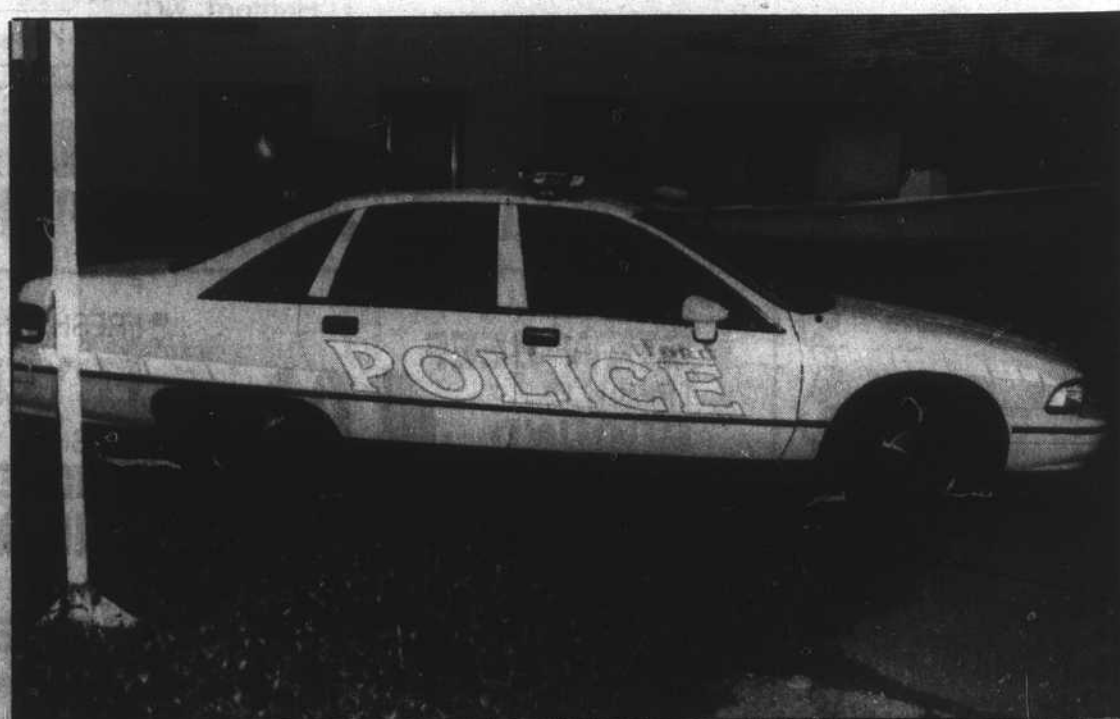
Southern Corosion was given the contract at a price of \$101,975. The work had been budgeted in earlier fiscal years, but had been delayed, according to county manager N. Paul Gregory Jr.

Gregory said the main purpose for painting the tanks is to keep the water, later piped to customers throughout the county, clean. The contract calls for Southern Corosion to put eight coats of epoxy paint on the inside of the tanks. The outsides will also be painted, Gregory said.

The commissioners also ap-

proved allowing Gregory to look to federal sources for a boat to be used for drug enforcement and rescue purposes. Gregory said federal law allows for the transfer of federal equipment to local government agencies to use in the war against drug trafficking. If a boat can be found, it will be transferred to the county at no cost to local taxpayers.

Cruisin'



Hertford Police officers will be cruising in style, thanks to new Chevrolet Caprices that have replaced two of the Ford LTDs which were becoming costly to maintain. Officers Robert Harvey and Tim Bunch will be sporting the new vehicles.

School board wrestles with nepotism issue

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Should relatives of school board members be hired to work in the local school system?

The issue created a stir at the Perquimans County Board of Education meeting Monday evening when Personnel Director Paul Ward included Tanya Howell, daughter of school board chairman Wayne Howell, in the list of teachers recommended for employment for the 1992-93 school year.

"I have a real concern and it's a growing concern...about nepotism..." said former school board chairman Clifford Winslow after a motion and a second were on the floor to approve hiring Miss Howell and the other teachers recommended.

Winslow said that if Miss Howell was hired, a majority of school board members will have relatives working in the system once Wallace Nelson is sworn in as a board member in December.

Nelson's wife, Freda, is a teacher. Also having a relative employed in the system is Walter Leigh, whose wife serves as a computer operator.

Winslow said it puts administrators in "a very difficult situation" if problems with an employee who is also the relative of a school board member arise.

Leigh said there should be and has not been favoritism or preferential treatment given relatives of school board members. He said the board looks for quality employees, regardless of family relationships.

Winslow said that while Leigh's statements were true, the public might not perceive them to be true. He said public perception "may as well be fact."

Board member Ben Hobbs said that employees are not directly answerable to the board, and therefore there were "layers" which protected both employees and board members.

Superintendent Randall L. Henion recommended that the board look at a nepotism policy.

"I personally would recommend that we seriously look at a nepotism policy," he said.

"In the long run I think it would be advantageous to the Perquimans County School System," Henion added.

Winslow said he had brought his concerns about a nepotism policy to the board earlier, but could get no support from other board members. There is no nepotism policy in the new policy manual recently completed by the board.

"Let me say one thing, I did not solicit a job for my daughter from anybody in this system,"

"I have a real concern and it's a growing concern...about nepotism..."

Clifford Winslow
School board member

Howell said.

The chairman said that both of his daughters earned teaching certificates, but his elder chose not to return to Perquimans County to teach. Tanya, Howell said, wants to come home to work.

Howell added that he does not intend to serve on the board for an extended period of time, and that his daughter should not be overlooked for employment if she is indeed the most qualified candidate applying for the position.

Winslow said that he did not doubt Miss Howell's qualifications, but felt strongly that a point had to be made about hiring relatives.

"In good conscience I cannot, I cannot support this recommendation," Winslow said.

Hobbs said he had never heard the nepotism issue discussed during his tenure as a board member. He also said that young adults who wish to return to their home county to work should not be penalized because their parents choose to serve on the board of education.

Both Leigh and Nelson ran for and were elected to their seats on the board while their wives were in the employ of the school system.

Ward told board members that the school system has an intensive interview process and a thorough reference check that all applicants must go through before they are considered for employment. He said that the transfers and appointments recommended Monday night would serve to strengthen the school system.

The board voted 3-1 in favor of hiring the appointees, including Miss Howell. Winslow voted against the recommendations, and Howell did not vote. The chairman traditionally only votes when it is necessary to break a tie.

Arrests are reported

The Hertford Police reported the following arrests:

On July 29, Nelson Isaac Jones, 32, of Route 1, Box 260, Sunbury, was arrested and charged with resist, obstruct and delay, assault by pointing a gun, and larceny from a person. A secured bond was set at \$5,700.

On July 21, James Stanford Griffin, 20, of Route 2, Box 33B, Edenton, was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated and a stop sign violation. A secured bond of \$400 was set.

On July 21, Victor Edward Oliver Jr., 16, of 413 E. Queen Street, Edenton, was issued a citation for possessing beer by a person less than 19 years old.

On July 21, Jeffrey Edward Vaughn, 30, of 216 N. Church St., Hertford, was issued a citation for speeding.

On July 29, Debra Thach Stallings, 35, of Route 4, Box 792, Hertford, was issued a cita-

tion for speeding.

On July 31, Michael Lee Chapman, 18, of 515 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hertford, was arrested for communicating threats. Bond was set at \$200 unsecured.

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

On July 31, John Edwood Williams, 53, of Route 1, Box 29, Cedar Street, Hertford, was issued a Chowan County criminal summons for two counts of issuing worthless checks.

On Aug. 8, Jerry Lynn Gurganus, 34, of Route 4, Hertford, was arrested on a warrant for simple assault. She was released on \$200 unsecured bond.

On Aug. 8, Don Wayne Jernigan, 41, of Route 4, Box 747, Hertford, was arrested on a warrant for injury to personal property. He was released on \$200 unsecured bond.

LOOK
ON
PAGE 2
FOR
MONEY