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Library to offer new children's program

By TRACY E. GERLACH
The Daily Advance

Two new programs being offered by the Perquimans County Public Library target the very youngest of potential library users - newborns and preschool children.

Using a \$500 grant from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, the library will launch its Reading: the Best Start program this fall. A second program, based on the book, *Mother Goose Time*, will begin in late September.

Both programs are done in conjunction with the county's efforts to provide early childhood intervention. They also support the goal of America 2000 and North Carolina 2000 - to ensure that by the year 2000, all children will begin school ready to learn.

Working in cooperation with the county's Interagency Council, the library will send gift certificates to new parents and parents of preschool children to pick up a decorative bag with information about local children's programs and agencies, information about nutrition and parenting and a free copy of *Goodnight Moon*, a picture book by Margaret Wise Brown.

"We want to make sure by the time kids are in grammar school, parents have a library card and know what we provide," said County Librarian Shelley Fearn. "Once you have a child it becomes imperative that you use the library."

The remaining cost of Reading: the Best Start will be paid for using \$300 from the Interagency Council and \$200 from the library budget.

The program's purpose is to foster in parents an appreciation for the value of reading with their children and for self improvement, to encourage new parents and parents of preschoolers to use the library and other agencies serving Perquimans County residents and to implement a program that reflects the library's role in reaching all children regardless of socioeconomic background.

Fearn's sister Dorothy F. Houlihan co-authored the model the library will use for its *Mother Goose Time* program.

The program stresses the use of parent lap time to teach rhymes and songs to children between the ages of seven months and two years.

By sharing the rhymes they learned as children, parents will teach their children hand-eye coordination and at the same time bond and share quiet time, Fearn said.

The actual teaching is not done by the program coordinator, but by the parents themselves.

"The beauty of this program is it makes no difference if you have one parent and child or 10," Fearn said. "It's an interactive thing between parent and child."

The program is especially helpful to first time parents who are not yet comfortable in their teaching role, Fearn said.

County schools begin a new year

Administrators report very smooth opening

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The laughter of children echoed through the halls of Perquimans County schools Monday when students reported for the first of the scheduled 180 days of the 1992-93 school year.

Administrators were pleased with how well the first day went.

"It was a very positive opening," said schools superintendent Randall L. Henion, who reported that he and assistant superintendent Jake Boyce "walked the deck together," visiting all four schools during the day.

"We're just off to a great start," Henion said. "Our teachers seem to be happy this year, exceptionally up."

Henion attributed the smooth opening to good preplanning on the part of administrators, teachers and support staff. He reported that the maintenance department had done an outstanding job readying the schools for the return of the students. He also complimented the cafeteria staffs for their prepara-

tion and for setting up the lunch areas for the new recycling program.

A few minor bus problems cropped up, but Henion said he believes those situations have been corrected. He also said that the video monitors ordered earlier in the summer are being installed to allow for random monitoring.

The principals assigned to all four schools concurred with Henion.

"I think it went quite well," said Perquimans High principal William Byrum. "Most people were in their places and seemed to be ready to get down to business."

Perquimans Middle School co-principal Morris Kornegay reported the same at that facility.

"It went smooth as silk," Kornegay said. "It's the best opening I've ever been associated with. You could not ask for a better opening here at school."

Kornegay said the open house held Sunday afternoon at the middle school allowed parents and students to come in,



Photo by Susan Harris

Students in Mrs. Byrd's typing class at Perquimans High School look a little overwhelmed by the typewriters on their desks, even though they were not even plugged in for the first day.

All-in-all administrators tagged the first day of school a success and look forward to a successful year.

meet teachers, find their classrooms, learn their schedules and ask any questions they had regarding school. That, in his opinion, went a long way toward making the first day so positive for both students and staff.

Kornegay also reported that enrollment at the middle school is at 530 students, up about 47

from last year.

"Everything went fine," said Central School principal Gary Stubbins.

Stubbins said that except for a few minor bus problems that can be expected during the first few days, everything went very smoothly.

Hertford Grammar School

principal Bill Tice was in conference Tuesday morning and could not be reached for comment.

Parents should receive handbooks this week outlining codes of conduct, the school calendar and other information needed by students and parents, administrators said.

Zoning change wins council approval

Hertford Mayor John G. Beers votes against measure

By TRACY E. GERLACH
Staff writer

Two local developers overcame one hurdle Wednesday in their plan to create a 250-home development in the area.

Elizabeth City Developer Gene Meads and Preston Stevenson of Hertford will begin phase one of the project this fall, which includes 32 lots.

Once the full project is underway, the developers may annex the property into the Town of Hertford for use of its water and sewer services.

Members of the Hertford Town Council approved a recommendation from the planning board to rezone the 70-acre Ste-

venson farm near the Brian Center Nursing Home to accommodate single-family and multi-dwelling homes, offices and institutions.

The decision came despite opposition from residents of the surrounding area, who claimed multi-unit housing would lower their property values and endanger the safety of their children.

"Not many new home builders would buy a lot adjacent to what we currently have as multi-family housing," said Steve Dail, referring to the county's only housing complex, the Hertford Housing Authority.

Meads promised that the project would include upscale townhouses and not subsidized housing. He added that the pro-

ject will include buffers that separate the units from the rest of the area.

"What we're doing will help this property," he said.

Council member Sid Eley said a change in the area's zoning would not necessarily give a green light for the development of multi-unit housing. Any subdivision plans would still be subject to subdivision regulations and approval by the town's planning board.

Mayor John G. Beers voted against the motion after suggesting a plan to zone the entire area residential with a 10,000 square-foot lot requirement.



Photo courtesy Perquimans Schools

Dr. Rob Gilbert, a well-known sports psychologist and college professor, delivered the address at the annual Perquimans County Schools convocation last Thursday morning. Gilbert emphasized team-building.

Schools convocation held

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The annual Perquimans County Schools convocation was held last Thursday at Perquimans High School.

All faculty and staff members heard nationally known sports psychology expert Rob Gilbert explain "How to do the Impossible."

Dr. Gilbert specializes in motivating people to be winners, to break through mental barriers confining people to average performance. He focused on the principles of mental stamina, flexibility and working smart.

"When we start feeling better about ourselves, we do better," Gilbert said. He stressed that everyone has the ability to perform better, but must learn to hone the mental edge to reach peak performance.

Gilbert gave the school employees ideas on juggling responsibilities and building teams to better serve students.

Schools superintendent Randall L. Henion invited Gilbert to Perquimans because he felt that Gilbert's message could help all school employees learn to be more effective team players.

Gilbert is a sports psychologist with J.R. Associates headquartered in Princeton, N.J. He is a professor at Montclair State College, director of the Center for Sports Success and the author of *Gilbert on Greatness*.

The convocation opened with a continental breakfast prepared by the Perquimans High School cafeteria staff. Also included on the program were school board chairman Wayne Howell and Perquimans High School exceptional children's teacher Sherry Smith, who provided entertainment.

New teachers were recognized during the morning.

Indian Summer Festival gets new logo

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce has announced that a new logo has been designed for the Indian Summer Festival. Turtles on a log, long associated with Perquimans County, has been adopted as the official Chamber insignia, according to executive director Mary Harrell. Harrell said that the insignia, surrounded by the words "Indian Summer Festival Perquimans County, N.C." will appear on all festival-related brochures and

advertisements. Bands already contracted to appear at the 1992 Indian Summer Festival include Dakota, August, Overtime, State of Mind and the Singing Meter Reader.

The deadline for renting booths is Sept. 15; however, anyone wishing to appear on the festival brochure must reserve a space by Aug. 31, Harrell said.

Look for the new logo which will accompany updates on Indian Summer Festival '92 each week.



Water board to take over county system

By TRACY E. GERLACH
The Daily Advance

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners is considering forming an independent board to take over the county water system.

A public hearing will be held at 9 a.m. Sept. 8, to discuss the formation of the Perquimans County Water Authority.

A separate water authority would be able to borrow money more easily for future projects and would not be subject to paying for moving water and sewer lines for construction on state highways, County Manager N. Paul Gregory said.

The county recently settled a \$193,000 bill with the state Department of Transportation for lines moved four years ago during highway improvements. According to state statutes, if the lines are owned by a county, the state will not pay for the work. A water authority, however, would

have been exempt from paying.

"It's totally separating county government from the water system," Gregory said. "Hopefully, we won't have a water line problem in the future."

Even though the authority would be separate from the county, it will most likely be made up of members of the board of commissioners, Gregory said. The authority's business, however, could not be conducted during a regular board meeting, he said.

"We're using all board members for the protection of the people of Perquimans County," he said.

The new authority would take over the county's two water plants, equipment, six full-time and one part-time employee. Responsibility for a debt of \$1.1 million for the construction of plants in Winfall and Bethel, would shift to the authority.

