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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 Cents

## Albemarle Commission director resigns

Good eggs



Landon Jordan, Brittany Lane, Barron Lane and Michael Castelleo trade eggs with one another to get the colors they want. The children were at Brian Center at the 4th annual Junior-Senior Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt is organized each year by the Perquimans Weekly and Brian Center. It is sponsored by local merchants. (Staff photo by Susan Harris)

Flowers quits after audit shows he misused commission funds

By JULIAN EURE  
The Daily Advance

WASHINGTON COUNTY — Albemarle Commission Executive Director Don C. Flowers Jr. resigned last week, bringing to a close a chapter of commission history several board members said they hoped was now behind them.

Flowers formally offered his resignation to the 38 voting members attending the commission's April meeting at the Soundview Restaurant in Washington County.

The board unanimously accepted Flowers' resignation, which takes effect the end of this month. Flowers will be paid 10 days salary (about \$1,300) and his accrued vacation when he leaves, both of which are normally paid to terminated commission employees.

In bidding the commission good-bye, Flowers said, "Over the years, it has been a deep pleasure working with you. I hope that I have a chance to do it again real soon."

Afterwards, commission board chairman Joe Deneke said he hoped "everything turns out fine" for Flowers. Flowers had been the executive director since 1981.

By accepting Flowers' resignation, the commission had done "what we thought was good for Don (Flowers) and the commission," said W.J. "Bill" Jones, a Creswell town councilman, the commission's vice-chairman and a member of its personnel committee.

"Hopefully we'll be stronger because of this," Jones said.

Leo Higgins, Perquimans County commission chairman and member of the personnel committee, said Flowers' decision

would allow the commission to become a "cohesive organization" again.

"We'll continue to be very effective in Northeastern North Carolina," he said.

Zee Lamb, a Pasquotank County commission and board member, said he hoped "the lessons learned from this ... make the Albemarle Commission a stronger and more viable agency."

Flowers had been under fire ever since a state auditor's report was released to the board in February. The report, which hasn't been released publicly, indicates Flowers either mishandled or converted to his own use approximately \$22,733 in commission funds over a two-year period.

Of that amount, state auditors recommended Flowers repay the state and commission about \$1,800.

The board also voted Thursday to respond to the auditors' report and to seek reimbursement for the \$7,200 commission attorney Dwight Wheelless said had been paid "in error" to a private CPA firm.

Specific details of the response, delivered to the state auditors' office this week, were not made available. However, Deneke said Flowers had refunded "sums we thought should be due from him."

One source placed the amount Flowers reimbursed the commission at approximately \$700. It is not yet known whether Flowers paid the state \$360 that auditors and the commission agreed he should refund the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

Deneke also said the com-

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## Computerized Police rope in 22 alleged dealers

Albemarle and Chowan hospitals are two of 15 members of a growing electronic information network made up of not-for-profit hospitals in eastern North Carolina.

The computerized library network gives health care providers in the hospitals access to current medical and health care management information by linking them electronically to regional, state and national sources of medical information thanks to the Duke Endowment, according to Evangeline Norfleet, coordinator of Outreach Library Services at ECU's Health Sciences Library.

Eugene W. Cochrane Jr., director of the Endowment's Hospital Division said, "For the past several years we have given grants to help hospitals establish computerized systems, linking them to major medical libraries. This system provides rapid, also instantaneous access to medical information needed for treatments and cure."

On line access to medical information is essential for regional medical centers like Albemarle Hospital, according to the hospi-

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A round-up of suspected drug dealers by the Northeast Regional Task Force lassoed 22 people and corralled them under combined bonds exceeding \$1 million Thursday.

Tagged Operation First Strike, the four-month undercover operation was an attempt by the task force to get rid of many of the mid-level dealers.

"Operation First Strike targeted mainly the area of the highly visible 'street corner' drug dealer where, both in Hertford and Elizabeth City, have been the recent scene of drug-related shootings," said Lt. J.P. Tade, task force supervisor. "By removing this level of drug dealer from the street, the operation should assist in the decrease of street violence."

As a result of undercover operations, the task force obtained over 100 bills of indictment for 56 persons from grand juries in Pasquotank and Perquimans counties.

The task force kicked off the arrest phase of Operation First Strike around 3 p.m. yesterday with officers from the Hertford Police Department, the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, North Carolina's Probation Parole and Elizabeth City Police Department scouring the streets of Hertford for suspects indicted recently by the grand jury in Perquimans County.

Eleven alleged dealers were picked up in Hertford before the operation moved to Elizabeth City Monday evening, snagging 11 more.

Arrested in Hertford were: Cedric Lasander Felton, 22, of Dogwood Trailer Park, who was charged with four counts of possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine, four counts of selling and delivering cocaine and one count of conspiracy to sell and deliver cocaine. A \$90,000 secured bond was set.

Robert Mallory, 21, of Rt. 1, Box 1000, Hertford, charged with four counts of possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine, four counts of selling and delivering cocaine and one count of conspiracy to sell and deliver



Officers process some of the 11 suspected Thursday as part of Operation First Strike, mid-level drug dealers arrested in Hertford (Staff photo by Susan Harris)

cocaine. A \$90,000 secured bond was set.

Marion "Tina" Jackson Miller, 28, of Lot 43T, Meads Trailer Park, who was charged with three counts of possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine, three counts of selling and delivering cocaine and two counts of conspiracy to sell cocaine. Bond was set at \$80,000 secured.

Manuel Miller, 30, of 329 Market St. was charged with three counts of possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine and three counts of selling and delivering cocaine. His secured bond was set at \$60,000.

Banzollar Lee, 23, of 329

Market St., was charged with two counts of possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine, two counts of selling and delivering cocaine and one count of conspiracy to sell and deliver cocaine. His bond was set at \$50,000.

Charles Dowell "Chick" White, 39, of Rt. 2, Box 44 Meads Trailer Park, was charged with possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine, selling and delivering cocaine, possession with the intent to sell and deliver a counterfeit controlled substance and selling and delivering a counterfeit controlled substance. His bond was set at \$40,000.

Steven Jeffrey Mullen, 28, of Lot 49 Meads Trailer Park, was charged with two counts of possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine and two counts of selling and delivering cocaine. A \$40,000 bond was set.

Vera Thatch Brow, 28, of Lot 22 Dogwood Trailer Park, was charged with possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine, selling and delivering cocaine and conspiracy to sell and deliver cocaine. Bond was set at \$50,000.

Morris Kee, 35, of Lot 39 Meads Trailer Park, was charged

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## 3-on-3 tourney scheduled

An event truly unique to the Elizabeth City area will take place Saturday, April 17. A three-on-three basketball tournament will occur on Main Street in downtown Elizabeth City. That's right...in the middle of Main Street! The purpose of the event is twofold...one, to help raise funds for the Elizabeth City Jaycees and The Friends of the Court...two, to help promote Downtown Elizabeth City.

Each team will be comprised of three players plus one alternate and will play by traditional street-ball rules. Player registration will be divided into four divisions based on experience and age. Each half-court game will go up to fifteen points by ones, or last 30 minutes, whichever occurs first. This will be a double elimination tournament. Teams are entering from northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia for the pure fun of it and to find out who is the best in the area. This is the second year of the annual event. Corporate sponsors of the tournament include: Mid-Atlantic Coca-Cola, City Beverage/Budweiser, Walmart, Carden Printing, Branch Bank \* Trust, Holiday Inn, Davis Hardware, Central Insurance, South Atlantic Wood Preservers, Hornthal-Riley-Ellis-Maland Attorneys, Elizabeth City Downtown, and The Daily Advance.

For registration forms or additional information, please call 919-335-0289 or 919-264-3089.