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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 Cents

## Hertford amends curfew ordinance

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

If you're under 16, it would be wise to wear a watch if you're going to be out late at night in the town of Hertford.

The town council amended the town's curfew for minors at its June 7 meeting. Effective on that day, it is unlawful for minors under 16 to be on the streets between midnight Friday and 5 a.m. Saturday, midnight Saturday and 5 a.m. Sunday, or 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. of the following morning Sunday through Thursday.

The ordinance was first discussed by the council several months ago in response to residents' complaints about late-night loitering by youth.

"The council passed the ordinance because we felt that any child under a certain age without parent guidance should not be hanging out at all hours of the night," Mayor John Beers said.

The restrictions do not apply to minors accompanied by a guardian, parent or other person charged with the care and custody of the minor, or other responsible persons over 18 years of age. There are also exemptions for traveling to and from home and work, home and church, home and the municipal building if the municipal building is open for legitimate business during the curfew hours, or home and school if a school function is being held during the curfew hours.

Business establishments open during curfew hours cannot allow minors to remain on

the premises during the curfew. Parents, guardians and others charged with the care and custody of minors are responsible for the minors in their care.

First offenders will be taken to the Hertford Police Department, where parents/guardians will receive a call. The juvenile will then be taken to the residence of the parents/guardians. The adults will be given a written warning that the juvenile violated the ordinance and the warning will be filed at the police department.

The parents/guardians of repeat offenders will be subject to a criminal citation. If the juvenile is under 12, a report will be filed with the Perquimans County Department of Social Services.

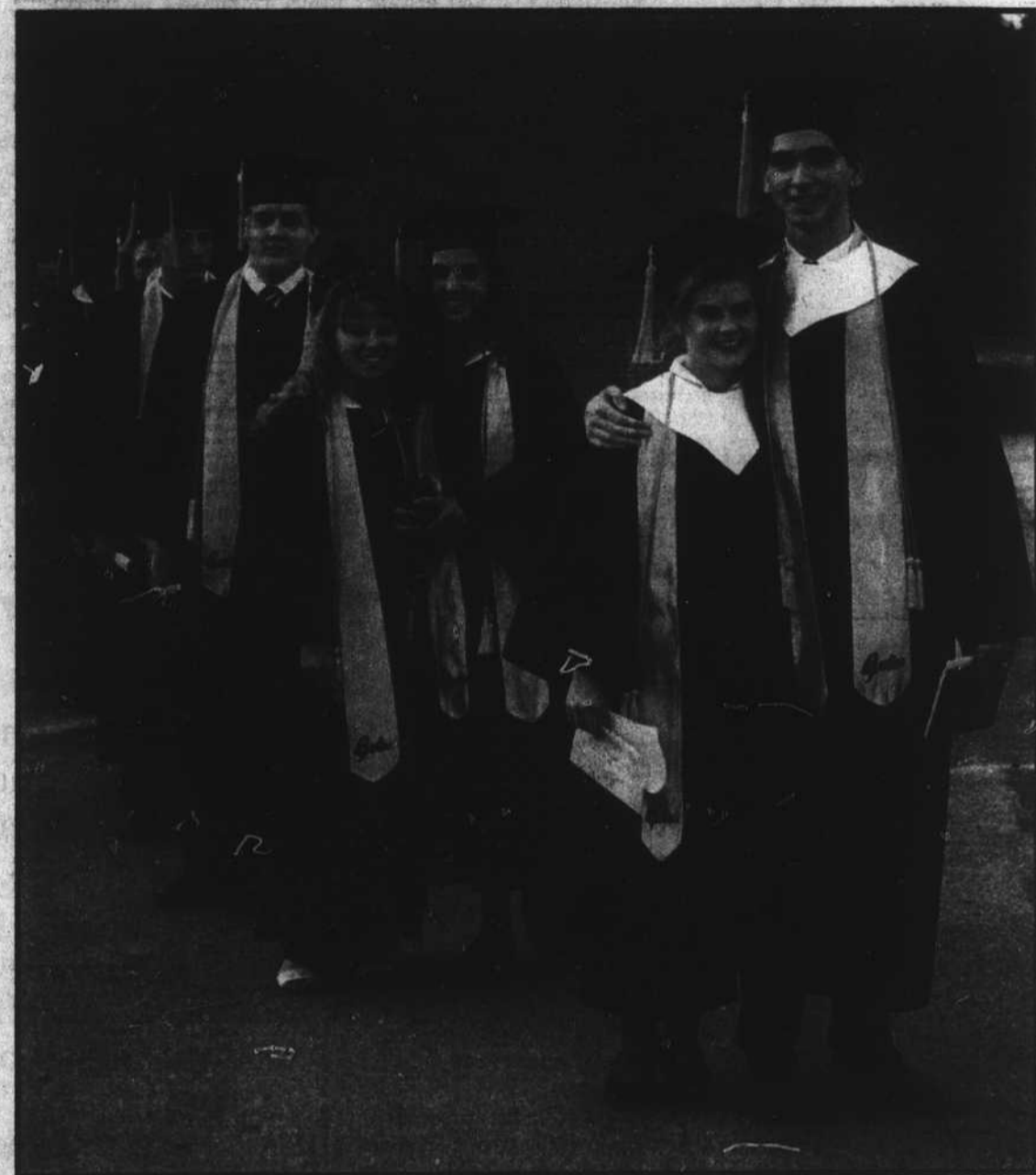
If any parent/guardian refuses to take custody of a minor found in violation of the code, the minor will be turned over to social services, and an investigation by the police department and social services will be ordered. The parent/guardian will be subject to a criminal citation.

Parents/guardians of offenders can be fined up to \$500 and/or receive an active 30-day prison sentence.

"We're going to enforce it

Please see Curfew, Page 2

This is it



Honor graduates (left to right) William Ponton, Jason Riddick, Karen Stone, Anne Winslow, Dena White and Ryan Willis prepare to enter the ballpark for commencement exercises Friday night. Approximately 105 students received diplomas at the school's 68th commencement. (Photo by Susan Harris)

## PCHS graduates 105

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

"Don't forget the times we have shared," valedictorian Ryan Willis told his classmates at Perquimans County High School's 68th commencement ceremonies Friday night.

Willis said each class member contributed a spark to the flame that symbolized the class, providing warmth and light that has led the class through good times and bad. He said that as each graduate left the commencement, a spark should go with them to help them to remember their special place in the class of '93.

Over 100 graduates, including Willis and salutatorian Dena White, received diplomas from school board chairman L. Wayne Howell during the ceremonies.

William Culpepper, a newly appointed member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, brought the commencement address. N.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight was scheduled to speak, but Culpepper said budget negotiations kept Basnight in Raleigh Friday evening.

"Our society has progressed only because men and women have sacrificed, worked hard and even died" to improve the world, Culpepper said. "You will learn to adapt to the changing world around you."

Culpepper challenged the graduates to mold their lives around the three "C's" — commitment to leave the world a little better, compassion for all and competence in everything they sought to do to from the simplest task to the most difficult.

Perquimans High School principal William Byrum presented awards and scholarships totalling about \$100,000 to the graduates.

In addition to Willis and

### Scholarships Class of '93

ECSU Incentive Scholarships (\$3,000): Michael J. Agar, Darrick J. Banks, Tammy L. Breeding, Jason D. Cartwright, Melissa E. Drozdowski, Marita C. Elliott, Jennifer F. Felton, Linda L. Felton, Tammi L. Ford, Renee L. Godfrey, Angel D. Halsey, Angela M. Jennings, April J. Maupin, Rosie T. Overton, Tracie R. Owens, Jason M. Riddick, Benjamin G. Roberts, Jenny L. Roffo, Tamika K. Tillett, Mary L. Trueblood and Dana L. Wood.

Daughtry N. Allen: Scott-Ellis Scholarship, Campbell University (\$1,600)  
Tameka K. Baccus: Perquimans County EOP Scholarship (\$300) and Parkville Ruritan Club Scholarship (\$1,000)

Cynthia M. Christian: Scott-Ellis Scholarship, Campbell University (\$1,600) and Parkville Ruritan Scholarship (\$1,000)

Jennifer F. Felton: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, EC Chapter (\$250)

Linda L. Felton: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Debutante Scholarship (\$1,760)  
Tammi L. Ford: BPW Scholarship (\$200)

Joseph R. Haskett: Chip Chappell Memorial Scholarship (\$250)

Michael J. Lavezzo: Scott Williams Memorial Scholarship (\$200)

Nathan A. Leonard: Leigh Winslow Jr. Scholarship, COA (\$750)

Marvin R. Moore: Merit Scholarship to Montserrat College of Art (\$1,000)

Tawnia T. Moore: Perquimans County NCAE Schol-

arship (\$200)  
Logan R. Perry: Parkville Ruritan Scholarship (\$1,000)

William M. Ponton: Bobby Carter Memorial Baseball Scholarship (\$500)

Kelli L. Rogers: Hertford Lions Club/Jimmy Hunter Scholarship (\$500)

Stephanie L. Stallings: Christine Peele Scholarship (Chowan Medical Assts.) (\$300), Aileen Thompson Scholarship (Albemarle Area Medical Assts.) (\$300), Brian Center Scholarship (\$250) and Durants Neck Ruritan Scholarship (\$200)

Karen D. Stone: High Honors Scholarship, Barton College (\$1,766)

Charline V. Walton: Lois Stokes Scholarship, COA (\$500)

Erika E. Ward: Leadership Activities Scholarship, Barton College (\$2,000)

Dena J. White: Meredith College Honors Scholarship (\$750), Teaching Fellows Scholarship (\$5,000) and N.C. Assn. of Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Scholarship (\$3,000)

Nicole M. Whitehurst: Knowles Scholarship (\$475), UMW Scholarship (\$100) and Thelma Elliott Scholarship (\$125)

Susanne R. Winslow: Peace College Leadership Scholarship (\$500) and S. David Frazier Academic Scholarship (\$6,000)

Ryan S. Willis: Teaching Fellows (UNC-CH) (\$5,000) and Perquimans County Morehead Nominee Scholarship (\$500)

Dana L. Wood: M. Aubrey Gallop Scholarship (\$500)

Mary Trueblood, Joseph Haskett, Jennifer Felton, Yolanda Overton, Jason Cartwright, Benjamin Roberts, Michele Christian and Michael Lavezzo.

## Parent committee meets with Henion

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Schools superintendent Randall L. Henion listened for almost three hours last Wednesday to parents' concerns about the Perquimans County School system.

Parents interviewed by *The Perquimans Weekly* who attended the meeting said they believe Henion understood their concerns and will work to make positive changes in the system.

"I do feel that something is going to be changed in a positive direction," said Johnetta Long, whose husband, Milton, also attended the meeting. "He did seem to be receptive and listen to everything that was said. I think he is definitely going to try (to solve our problems). I hope I am right."

The parents said they shared a variety of concerns including personnel, discipline, curriculum and facilities during the meeting. The parents declined comment on the specifics of the discussion, but said they were very honest about their concerns.

"The parents were very open about their concerns with Dr. Henion," said Chris Lane, who organized the committee at Henion's suggestion. "Some of the parents were very blunt with their opinions. I'm sure it was difficult for him to sit and listen to all the negative comments made, but he allowed us to speak frankly and I think he truly heard our concerns."

Suzie Swindell, a former teacher in the system and the parent of two students, said she believes Henion was open-minded and honest during the meeting.

"He appeared to be up front (with us)," Swindell said. "He seemed to answer honestly what we brought up. He really seemed receptive to a lot of things that were said."

Swindell said she thought Henion was aware of some school system problems prior to the meeting and had considered possible action.

"My impression is that he has been looking at some things, too, and he has some ideas. He knows things are going to have to shift some way, somewhere."

Henion said he told Lane in late May that he wanted to hear from parents about their concerns. The same day Lane began to make calls to let people know

the committee was forming. Henion has named it the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee.

Henion said the number one item discussed in the meeting was the environment in which the students and faculty study and work each day.

"They (the parents) agreed that the bottom line concern is providing a healthy environment for children to learn," Henion said.

Henion said after hearing some of the rumors about the schools over the past few weeks, then talking with the parents, he said it was clear that communication between administrators, school faculty, parents, students and the community must improve. "We need to open up the channels of communication," Henion said.

Henion said he would consider holding community meetings to explain education issues such as testing, curriculum, the middle school concept and other areas of concern.

"All ideas and concerns should be considered," Henion said.

Henion asked the committee to meet with him again. Members said they would like to meet at the end of July. They said that should give Henion sufficient time to study their concerns, perhaps implement a few needed changes and come up with a plan of action to discuss with the parents.

The parents said if they can work with Henion to make improvements, their time has been well spent. At least half the parents told *The Perquimans Weekly* that they do expect action, not promises, although they said they realize that change takes time.

The parents also said they feel that it's up to them to take a stand.

"I feel like the parents' committee is a good thing," said Dale Harris. "I feel like it can be a force for good."

Committee members who attended the first meeting included Chris Lane, Milton and Johnetta Long, Dale Harris, Marjorie Rayburn, Helen Hunter, Suzie Swindell and JoAnne Caddy. Anyone interested in knowing more about the committee should contact Lane.

## Smith awaits date with board

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Over three months after her suspension, Sharon M. "Sherry" Smith said she is glad she will finally have a chance to tell her story to the board of education Monday night.

"I am glad to have the opportunity to meet with the board to tell them my side of the story," Smith said.

Smith was suspended by schools superintendent Randall L. Henion on March 15 pending an investigation into misconduct charges. On May 17 the school board, after meeting in closed session with public school law specialist Ken Soo, voted not to renew Smith's contract. Smith said the next morning that neither she nor her attorney, Luke Largess, were aware that her contract would be discussed during that meeting.

Smith went public with her version of the story, based on her personal notes and copies of letters and performance evaluations, on May 19. The same day, Henion asked to meet with Smith and told her she could return to the classroom. Smith went back on May 24, 70 days into her 90-day suspension. The board has taken no further action on her contract nonrenewal.

Largess, the Charlotte attorney retained by Smith through the North Carolina Association of

Educators, wrote Smith on May 27 and told her that the board would like to hear her story on June 7. Because Largess could not accompany her to that meeting, Smith requested through NCAE representative Lucia Sellers that the meeting be postponed until June 21. School board chairman L. Wayne Howell agreed to the change.

Smith is preparing for the meeting with Largess and Sellers, who will attend with her. Although the appointment is scheduled during a regular board meeting, Smith said her case will be discussed in closed session in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes dealing with closed sessions and personnel issues. If the board decides to take any action, the general statutes require that the action be taken in open session.

Smith has repeatedly denied misconduct allegations. Henion and Howell have declined comment on the specifics of the case due to personnel policy. Howell did say, however, on May 25, that he and other board members felt that they had taken appropriate action based on the information provided to them by Henion and Soo. Henion confirmed that he handled the matter as advised by Soo.