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35 Cents

School shorts

The board of education approved the employment of Nancy B. Morgan as transition/special populations coordinator Monday night.

Assistant superintendent Jake Boyce said Tuesday morning that the state is requiring a transitional program for exceptional children leaving the school system. Morgan's salary, Boyce said, will come from exceptional children's and vocational education funds, not local dollars.

Athletic facilities

The board approved using the former band room at Perquimans Middle School as an athletic facility. The building, which sits behind the main school building, is near the baseball and football fields, and will provide dressing and storage areas.

Planning grant

Perquimans County Schools will spend \$2,000 with Progressive Resources to try to get a \$50,000 planning grant to fund background work on a new early childhood center and elementary school at the Central School site.

Progressive Resources is a professional company that helps find public and private grant monies. Superintendent Randall L. Henion said Perquimans is a prime candidate to receive grant funds because of its size, economic condition and the facilities needs here. The end goal is to find \$9.5 million to build a new early childhood center/elementary school complex at the Winfall site.

Wastewater project

Work had finally begun on the Central School wastewater project, held up by the state when the state changed the agency handling the permit application process. Henion said he contested a \$2,250 permit fee to the health department, which was required because of the state's hold-up. The health department waived the fee.

PCHS drainage project

The board voted to apply for up to a \$5,000 50-50 matching grant to clean out the drainage ditch at Perquimans High School. Board member Clifford Winslow said the schools should contact the town of Hertford about sharing the local match because ditch runs through both town and school property.

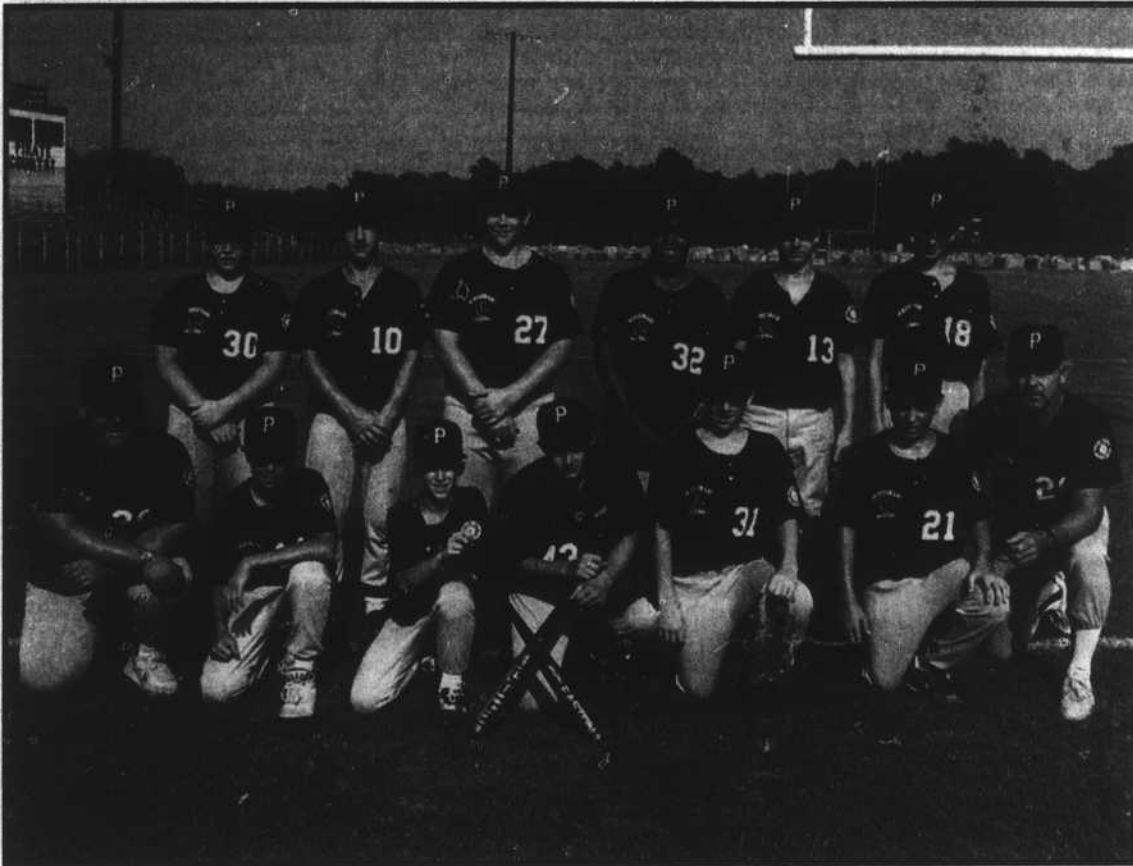
Leaves granted

The board approved leaves of absence for four employees Monday. Karen Whitley was granted a six-month maternity leave. Carolyn Spivey will take a one-year maternity leave. Roger Whitley will become a full-time student at East Carolina University while he works on a doctoral degree. Betty Morris was granted an indefinite leave to care for a critically ill relative.

Meeting with citizens

Board members Wayne Howell and Walter Leigh will meet with a Concerned Citizens for Perquimans Education committee Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. Superintendent Randall L. Henion and assistant superintendent Jake Boyce will also attend the meeting.

Baseball champs Perquimans Babe Ruth



Perquimans' 13-year-old All-Star squad won the District 7 Babe Ruth tournament in Hertford last weekend. On the team were (kneeling) manager Lee Stallings, Matt Leicester, Jamie Haskett, Tommy Stokley, David Cartwright, Cliff Stallings, coach Jim Hunter, (back) Bob Stallings, Drew Byrum, Paul Hunter, Wayne Downing, Carson Stallings and Ken Winslow. C.J. Stallings also coached the team. (Photos by Susan Harris)

Perquimans Youth League



Belvidere ended an undefeated Perquimans Youth League season last Wednesday to earn the regular season and tournament championships.

Schools get state grants

Board moves to put teacher assistants on salary schedule

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Perquimans County Schools received a financial boost from Raleigh, receiving over \$500,000 in small schools and low wealth funds for the 1993-94 school year.

"It's definitely great news," said schools superintendent Randall L. Henion at the school board meeting Monday night. "It's definitely a step in the right direction."

The funding represents an increase of over \$150,000 from last fiscal year. Perquimans will receive \$420,046 in small schools funds and \$103,291 in low wealth money. Henion said the allocations can be used to finance instructional, support, assistant and clerical positions and for instructional supplies and equipment. The monies cannot be used for facilities needs.

Teacher assistant salary schedule

Schools finance officer Frances Hammer presented a plan to the board to establish a salary schedule for teacher assistants. The system employs 40 people who are labeled assistants. Henion said adopting the schedule would put Perquimans ahead of most systems in the state because most do not have formal salary schedules for assistants.

The plan is based on years of experience. Under the plan, every assistant would be placed on the schedule according to the employee's years of experience with the school system. Hammer said adopting the plan would get assistants' pay on the right track.

"This was a place to start," Hammer told the board.

Board vice chairman Ben Hobbs said he advocated a salary schedule based on job duties and the value to the school system of different positions lumped under

the assistant heading.

"Years of experience, I dislike that," Hobbs said.

Board member Wallace Nelson agreed with Hobbs. He said that the board should try to come up with its own salary schedule based on role differentiation.

"The problem is there is no base salary schedule in place," assistant superintendent Jake Boyce said. Boyce added that after a base schedule was in place, the schools could work to establish a plan focusing on merit, performance and skills. He said it would take a long time to get an equitable schedule in place.

Hobbs said he knew it would be difficult, but a value should be placed on specific duties and basic competency should be a first step.

"First of all, everybody ought to be competent and if they're not competent, they shouldn't be here," Hobbs said.

The board voted to adopt the salary schedule submitted by Hammer as a starting point to get the teacher assistants on a more consistent pay scale with the understanding that the schools will immediately be working on a performance-based pay system. Nelson voted against the motion, stating that he would rather try to come up with some type of differentiated plan before adopting the experience-based plan.

Later in the meeting after a lengthy executive session, the board instructed the administration to present a study of role differentiation for teacher assistants at the next regular board meeting, scheduled for Aug. 16.

Renovation moves ahead at P.C.M.S.

The Perquimans Middle School renovation project is back in full swing after about a 10-day delay to clean out asbestos, according to assistant superintendent Jake Boyce.

Boyce said Tuesday that the asbestos was contained until workmen cut into some asbestos-wrapped piping. The uncontained asbestos called for testing and removal before the project could move head.

"(Maintenance director) Rich-

ard O'Neal did a real good job of getting on that, getting the right people in here to take care of it," Boyce said.

Boyce said the school is safe and contractors have resumed their work at the facility. While Boyce does not think the school will be finished by the original Aug. 9 completion date, he said the architect is hoping that school will be able to start on time. Students are scheduled to report on Aug. 26.

Study links drugs with violence

RALEIGH -- A new report concerning illicit drugs in North Carolina, published by the Governor's Crime Commission, supports the contention that there is a correlation between drug activity and violent crime.

"The study found counties with high arrest rates for possession or sale of drugs also have high violent crime rates," said Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety Thurman B. Hampton. "The report provides a snapshot of how drugs are transported to and distributed throughout our state, and how people, particularly youth, are drawn into crime through drug trafficking."

The study found that drug traffickers prefer to move cocaine, particularly crack, over other drugs because it is available, affordable and profitable. Cocaine travels to North Carolina over interstate highways from New York City, its primary U.S. source, and arrives at clandestine airports and along the state's coastline from the Caribbean or South America. In addition, the U.S. Postal Inspector says more narcotics are mailed to North Carolina than any other state.

"The study found counties with high arrest rates for possession or sale of drugs also have high violent crime rates."

Thurman B. Hampton
Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety

Emerging illegal drug organizations are clandestine and anonymous in nature and have built connections in secrecy, hiring local people to do the more visible sales and enforcement work. Illegal aliens, those who open legitimate businesses to launder money and cover up the drug trade, and out-of-state "franchisers" who divide a territory and recruit local youths to be street sellers are among the most common drug traffickers in the state.

Narcotics continues to be the main source of income for outlaw motorcycle gangs, the report found. North Carolina does not yet have highly organized youth gangs, but juveniles are involved

in drug trafficking, with children as youth as eight acting as "rollers" or lookouts around drug markets or crack houses. Most children involved in drug dealing are from age 10 to their late teens and are drawn into groups solely for drug trafficking or for social reasons.

While the study cited cocaine trafficking as being the number one illicit drug trafficking problem in the state, marijuana, heroin and LSD are also increasingly popular. The report notes that marijuana is making a comeback, with indoor cultivation the most recent trend.

Though seized on our highways every year, marijuana is still most often grown locally, the report said. Most people trafficking in illegal drugs prefer to import vastly more profitable cocaine that now sells for \$14,000 a kilo. Cocaine in 1983 sold for about \$60,000 per kilo. The contrast in the two prices is evidence of an increasingly abundant market today.

The 40-page report was co-written by the Criminal Justice Analysis Center of the Governor's Crime Commission.

County sets fair housing complaint procedure

The Perquimans County Commissioners recently amended the county's fair housing complaint procedure in conjunction with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and North Carolina State Fair Housing Act.

The procedures were established in an effort to promote fair housing and ensure that the rights of housing discrimination victims are protected. Formal steps are outlined in the procedures which residents who believe they are victims of discrimination may follow.

The first step in filing a procedure is to file a complaint with county manager Paul Gregory outlining the facts and circumstances of the alleged discriminatory act or practice.

Gregory in turn must inform the North Carolina Human Relations Commission about the complaint. The county reviews the complaint. Within 10 days, Gregory contacts the complainant to let him or her know that the complaint is being reviewed and has been referred to the Human Relations Commission, as required by the State Fair Housing Act and Title VIII. If the complaint cannot be resolved locally, it is forwarded to the Human Relations Commission in Raleigh for action.

For more information about fair housing policy and procedures, contact Gregory or Earline Sullivan at the Albemarle Commission.