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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 62, No. 29

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, September 2, 1993

35 Cents

Nixon takes byte out of computer industry

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Perquimans' first computer company has taken a big "byte" out of the fast-paced, high technology computer industry.



Albemarle Computer Outlet, owned and operated by Billy and Margie Nixon, is the only computer sales and service company in the county. Nixon said business is brisk, and that's good news to a man bitten by the computer bug so hard he has worked a full-time job, is within a few credit hours of earning a bachelor's degree in computer science, teaches computer classes at COA and opened his own sales and service outlet - all at once.

Nixon did give up his job at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, but his schedule hasn't slacked up one bit. Between offering full customer service including classes through his business, teaching five nights a week at COA and taking his own coursework, Nixon barely has time to eat. He doesn't seem to mind a bit.

Nixon's fascination with computers is shared by his wife, Margie, who recently resigned from her job as a computer lab coordinator at Perquimans Central School. Now Margie has joined her husband in the business - a move Nixon is thankful for.

"It would cost me a lot of money to hire someone with her knowledge to work in my store," Nixon said.

Much of Nixon's client base is outside Perquimans County, but more and more often, Nixon is helping locals get set up with their own home or business computer systems. Not only does Nixon sell computer systems and parts, he goes into customers' homes to set up the system and help customers become familiar with the system. Classes are even offered at the store.

This summer, adults and children were able to take classes in several computer subjects. Classes were limited to three students to allow more one-on-one time.

Adults who completed classes were:

Introduction to computers - Faye Asbel, Paul Ward, Larry Chappell, Valerie Jackson, Judy Jordan, Nancy Morgan, Jerry Boyd and Carol Perry.

Introduction to MS DOS - Pat Billups, Gene Copeland, Beth Taylor, Fannie Leigh, Charlotte Jones, Ellen O'Neal, Mary White, Valerie Jackson and Judy Jordan.

WordPerfect 5.1 - Chris Critcher, Nancy Morgan, Tracy Lawrence, Jamie West and John Chobot.

Nixon taught the adult classes.

Children who successfully completed classes included:

Introduction to computers - Blair Winslow, Michelle Nixon, Mandy Coates, Amber Jones, Christopher Chappell, Tiffany Baker, Cara Coates and Amanda Winslow.

Print shop/graphics - Mandy Coates, Erin Dail, Amber Jones and Meagan Winslow.

Word processing/graphics - Christopher Chappell, Tiffany Baker and Brian Applegate.

Day classes will be available upon request for fall and winter. For more information, call Albemarle Computer Outlet at 426-7171.



Jesse P. Perry Jr., Dale Ball, Jimmie Hayes and Rebecca France look over their artwork for the upcoming Artists Four art show and sale to be held at the Perquimans County Library. The event is a fundraiser for the library. (Photo by Susan Harris)

Artists Four

Art show and sale to benefit county library

If pictures truly do paint a thousand words, then the Perquimans County Library will get thousands of new words added to its volumes of printed material when the Artists Four art show and sale opens Sept. 13.

Artists Four is the brain-child of Hertford artist Rebecca France, brought to life through the cooperation of three other local artists who

agreed to take part in the show - Dale Ball of Moyock, Jimmie Hayes of Winfall and Jesse Parker Perry Jr. of Hertford.

Each artist has contracted for numerous pieces of art to be sold during the show. Thirty percent of the proceeds of the sale will be given to the library to supplement funds for improvements in computerized, audiovisual and print materials.

Library board chairperson Katherine Biggers said the board is looking forward to the art show.

"The board is so happy with the support the community has given the various library programs," Biggers said. "We are pleased we have the opportunity to sponsor our coming art show."

The art show will kick off with a reception on Sept. 13 from 6-9 p.m. and will end with the Indian Summer Festival on Saturday, Sept. 25. In addition to raising funds for the library and offering a new attraction during the Indian Summer Festival, the library hopes to enhance art awareness and appreciation and gain exposure for local artists. Organizers hope to make the show and sale an annual event.

Each of the artists in the premiere show brings a unique blend of talent and artistic interpretation to their work, according to librarian Shelley Fearn.

Ball is a regularly featured artist with the Pasquotank Arts Council Gallery. She is known for her treatment of natural subjects, and uses pen and ink, pencil, oils and water colors as her media. She has shown her work from Kitty Hawk to Hawaii. This is her first show in Perquimans County.

A relatively new artist, Hayes has lived in Perquimans County since 1989. In this short time, she has built a reputation around her keen eye for style, color and design. Her newest artistic endeavor has been her watercolors of flowers and other natural subjects. Her work shows great promise with its use of exotic and vivid colors of nature. Her work has shown at community festi-

vals and has sold at local boutiques.

France, a much-respected artist, is known for the strong, yet beautiful, images she creates in her art. Watercolors is her choice of media because of the design, color and atmosphere she is able to create with the paints. Locally, her work has been shown in the Pasquotank Arts Council Gallery in Elizabeth City. She also showed in a juried national show in Goldsboro and in Charleston, S.C. France has been an advocate for the local library, lending and donating art works for display there.

Perry is well known as an artist, botanist and farmer in the Albemarle area. He brings over 40 years of experience in sculpture to the Artists Four. An intense love and appreciation for the natural world and the environment is represented in his use of various wood grains, colors and textures. His work has been shown in New York, Nags Head and Elizabeth City. A county native, Perry uses his art to express his deep feeling, convictions and roots in the community.

Art will be on display beginning with the Sept. 13 opening reception. Checks, MasterCard and VISA will be accepted. Art purchased may be picked up on Sept. 27 during library business hours. The 30 percent of the purchase price donated to the library is tax deductible.

Contact the library at 426-5319 for more information. Artists interested in participating in future Artists Four shows will be registered during the show.



Part of getting ready for Artists Four is sending out invitations for the opening reception scheduled for Sept. 13 from 6-9 p.m. (Photo by Susan Harris)

Man charges officer with assault

Son said call for help got his father hurt

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

A local businessman said he was assaulted by a Hertford police officer last week, resulting in a simple assault charge against the officer.

Andre Alfred, 30, who joined the department on July 16, was charged with assaulting Joe Meads, owner of Joe's Place.

According to Meads' son, Joey, Hertford police officers were called to Joe's Place last Tuesday evening to break up a fight in the parking lot. Before the officers left, Meads was allegedly knocked backwards by Alfred about 6-8 feet, falling on the concrete parking lot.

Joey said he called 911 to request officers to break up a fight in the parking lot at about 8:50 p.m. Officers Ray Jedele and Alfred responded promptly to the call, Joey said. By the time the officers arrived, the fight had broken up. He said his father didn't know about the fight, and went outside to see what was going on when he saw Jedele through the store window. Joey said when he left the store around 9:15, Meads was talking to Jedele.

"I figured it was all over, so I went home," Joey said.

Joey returned to the store around 10:15 to get a loaf of bread. He said it was then that his father told him about being assaulted by Alfred. Meads confirmed Joey's account of the incident.

Joey said while Jedele talked with Meads, Alfred went into the adjacent trailer park, also owned by Meads. Alfred allegedly went to the place where the people who were involved in the fight which prompted Joey's 911 call had gone. When Alfred returned to the parking lot, he allegedly poked Meads in the forehead with his finger. The two exchanged words and Meads moved Alfred's hand out of his face. Joey said it was then that Alfred knocked his father to the ground.

Meads said Alfred used both hands and pushed him down hard. "He put me right flat on my back," Meads said.

Joey said Jedele told Alfred, "The best thing for you to do is get in your car and leave. You shouldn't have done that," Alfred left.

Later that night, Joey said Meads called a Hertford official about the incident, and asked the official to look into the incident and take some kind of action by noon the next day. Meads said no call was received at Joe's Place, nor was a message left on the answering machine at his residence as of around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. Because Meads felt that the official had not taken any action, Meads went to magistrate Broughton T. Dail Sr. to swear out a warrant for simple assault against Alfred.

"He wanted to get something done about it and nothing was done, so he had to take action on his own," Joey said.

Meads did seek medical treatment on Wednesday because his hand and hip were both bruised and sore. Although there were no broken bones, Meads was given medication for his injuries.

The whole incident has left Joey confused.

"I didn't understand why I called 911 for assistance and my father got knocked on his tail," Joey said. "I don't think that should have happened. I will think again before I call for assistance from the police. If I had known this was going to happen I would have handled it in a different way myself."

Joey said he doesn't understand what he considers the undue force used by Alfred.

"If my father did enough to get assaulted, why wasn't he arrested for something?" Joey asked. "It could have been handled a different way."

Hertford Police Chief Aubrey Sample Jr. said Monday it was inappropriate for him to comment on the specifics of the case, but said the arrest warrant was issued in violation of the policies set forth by the district attorney's office.

"The warrant was issued prior to an investigation being conducted or finished," Sample said. "The warrant was issued by a magistrate which is contrary to the policy set forth by the D.A."

District attorney H.P. Williams did not return a call Monday to answer questions about the policy.

Holiday travelers advised to drive safely

With the increased traffic expected on our highways during the upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol will be out in force to assist motorists with safe travel. Additional emphasis will be placed on all areas of enforcement, with vigorous pursuit of the impaired driver the top priority. Speeders, a leading cause of accidents, and other drivers who violate motor vehicle laws will be cited as well.

Secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety Thurman Hampton also urged caution during the holiday period. "We hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday weekend," Hampton said. "But don't get so eager to get to your destination that you become a highway statistic."

As on all major holidays, the Highway Patrol will participate in Operation C.A.R.E. The nationwide Combined Accident Reduction Effort by state police and highway patrol agencies uses high visibility and enforcement to reduce accidents on our nation's highways.

The Labor Day holiday begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 3 and ends at midnight on Monday, Sept. 6. Last year, five people were killed and 1,266 were injured on North Carolina highways during the same period.

Recycling Recipe

Give the rubber bands that come wrapped around your newspaper back to your paper carrier.

Submitted by Ellie Vickers