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Fireworks fund to get boost

Promotion at Astro-Mart will provide funds for July 4 fireworks show

The 4th of July fireworks committee is getting a financial boost this week, as they assist with a promotion sponsored by Astro, Inc. and Citgo.

According to Matt Wood, owner of Astro, Inc., community residents who support the effort to raise funds for the fireworks will be accepting applications for Citgo Plus Credit Cards at Astro-Mart in Hertford through Saturday from 7-9 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. daily. Those who agree to complete the application will be given a free 2-liter soft drink and Citgo coupons worth \$6 toward gas purchases. In return, Astro, Inc. and Citgo will make a donation to the fireworks fund for each application completed.

Wood said if the hours the volunteers will be on site are inconvenient, customers may stop by any time and fill out an application. A donation will also be made for those applications.

Several local businesses and community residents have donated to the fireworks fund. Anyone wishing to make a contribution may send it to Fireworks Fund, c/o NationsBank, P.O. Box 46, Hertford, N.C. 27944.

PERQUIMA announces raffle winners

The first winners of the PERQUIMA fundraiser have been announced by committee members.

PERQUIMA, a subcommittee of the Perquimans 2020 Vision Coalition designed to raise funds for worthy causes in Perquimans County, sold packages of 30 tickets for \$10 last month. A drawing is being held each day in June with cash prizes.

Winners from June 1-11 are Darlene Cuthrell, Becky White, Christy Greene, Wilson Greene, Elaine Meher, Kim H. Webb, Bruce White, Irma Blanchard, Robert Lane, Vivian Sutton and Debbie Benton.

Those seeking financial assistance for local projects may apply for PERQUIMA funds by contacting Juanita Bailey at the Cooperative Extension office, 426-7697, or Jeri Oltman at the Perquimans County Library, 426-5319.



Becky Murphy displays a gift basket, her speciality at newly-opened Rebecca Anne's Antiques on Church Street Extended.

GRADUATION/CLASS OF '95



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans County High School Class of 1995 celebrates as class members exit the stadium after graduation Friday evening, led by valedictorian Ebony Harris and salutatorian Christopher Gregory.

Byrum uses wit, wisdom in address

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

William Byrum used equal portions of wit and wisdom as he addressed the 166 graduates at Perquimans County High School's 70th commencement ceremonies Friday evening.

Byrum, former principal at the school and now special assistant to the superintendent, pulled items from his "box of life" as he addressed the students. Byrum produced a thank-you note and said, "There are lots of people up in the stands who need that tonight."

He told the students that others had played an important part in helping them to graduate.

The students were also told that studies show that personality, not ability, plays the major role in success.

"High on the agenda of personality traits is attitude," Byrum said. The most important attitudes for success, he said, are thoroughness, adaptability and enthusiasm.

With a paper arrow, Byrum pointed out the need to have a direction in life.

"Life needs direction. Life needs to go somewhere," he said.

A mirror was produced from the box to remind students that they are special people with the ability to achieve. Byrum used a

straight pin to illustrate that a portion of the brain as small as the head of a pin can hold all the information that can be stored in three computers.

"You have it (a brain). You can do it. You have the equipment," he said.

Last, the man who served as principal until last year brought out glue.

"Never give up, never give up," he said. "The secret of success is sticking to it."

Byrum told the students they should use all the traits he discussed, and advised them to embrace and enjoy life, see the beauty around them, feel the love and warmth of friendship, build bridges and live life to the fullest.

"And in the end, you will have the greatest treasure of all, a life filled with hope, faith in something greater than you, happiness and wonderful memories," he said.

Class valedictorian Ebony Harris spoke to her classmates about the steps to success.

"The way to success is to first have a clear goal," she said.

"Success is operated on a self-service basis."

Harris said success is measured by the obstacles overcome in life, and that preparation is the key to overcoming obstacles.

Salutatorian Christopher Gregory also shared words about success with his classmates.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams," Gregory said.

"The secret of success is to do the common things uncommonly well."

The graduates wore white ribbons on their gowns and placed a chair filled with black and gold ribbons on the field in memory of Charlotte Cohen, a classmate who suffered a fatal cerebral hemorrhage last July.

School board chairman Ben Hobbs presented the diplomas.



Jamie Hudson is all smiles as she accepts her diploma from school board chairman Ben Hobbs.

Fate of market uncertain

Town says Bi-Rite must conform to zoning ordinance

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor and
GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

Hertford residents who have asked for action against a business owner operating in violation of the town's zoning ordinances may seek legal recourse if the town council does not take action to stop the operation by next week.

JoAnne Morris insinuated that if the town does not use its authority to force Stencil's Bi-Rite Market on Dobbs Street to comply with the town's zoning ordinance, some residents may file suit against the town.

"It has been a year this month since we came to this council for help," Morris said Monday night during council's regular meeting.

Morris and her husband and their neighbors, Leo and Marge Ambrose, initially complained to council that there was a horrible odor coming from outside receptacles at Bi-Rite, and that generators running at the store were disruptively loud. Last June, they told council that they had discovered that processing meats in a C-3 zone is not allowed. They asked the town to enforce its zoning ordinance. Since then, they have kept a vigil at council meetings, but say nothing has changed. The foursome has even sought counsel from an Elizabeth City attorney M.H. Hood Ellis.

Council had given Bi-Rite owners until May 15 to stop processing meats at the Dobbs Street site. Town manager John Christensen said he sent a letter to co-owner Stencil Davenport containing the May 15 deadline, informing him that Bi-Rite could carry items prepackaged and ready for sale, but could not process and package on site.

The May 15 deadline has passed, and the residents say the meat processing continues. "Summer is here. It's hot and the stench has already begun," Morris told council.

Council approved a letter written by town attorney Walter Edwards Jr. to Davenport stating that if meat processing does not stop by June 17 at midnight, the town may seek a criminal warrant or civil summons against the operation. The letter states that the town will inspect for compliance on June 19.

The town's C-3 zone allows convenience stores, but not full-service grocers.

Gene Davenport, a co-owner of Bi-Rite, said Tuesday that he believes the council has no authority to take action against him because proper permits were issued by former mayor and town manager Bill Cox. Davenport added that the store meets local health department standards and passes federal inspections.

"It's a few of the elite folks on Front Street who don't want us doing business," Gene Davenport said.

Gene Davenport said he hopes to move into the facility Bi-Rite owners have been renovating at Harris Shopping Center within 60 days.

He declined to comment when asked if he has already contacted an attorney. Gene Davenport did say that he would hire an attorney if the town takes legal action against Bi-Rite.

Rebecca Anne's combines old and new

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Becky Murphy has been an antiques dealer for 15 years. Now, she's trying her hand in the retail business with Rebecca Anne's on Church Street Extended.

Rebecca Anne's opened on June 1, and carries antiques, gifts, costume jewelry, handbags, cooking sauces, teas, coffees, original artwork - and even trinkets or clothing that strikes Murphy's fancy when she does her marketing for the

store.

Her main focus, however, is gift baskets. Murphy said she can whip up a gift basket for any occasion in a jiffy. She'll even deliver it free inside the city limits.

Murphy moved to Hertford in March 1994 when her husband, Bennie, accepted the position of police chief. Since then, she's been traveling back and forth between home and the Eastover Antique Mall near Fayetteville, where she was a dealer. Just before Christmas, she decided the dri-

ving was a headache. She and her husband found the building, formerly occupied by First Choice Realty, and began sprucing it up. The Chamber of Commerce sponsored a ribbon cutting on opening day welcoming Murphy to the local business community.

Rebecca Anne's is open Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and on Sunday from 1-6 p.m. Gift baskets can be ordered seven days a week by calling 426-5859 and leaving a message on the answering machine.