

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Perquimans Weekly sold to Cox Newspapers

Thomson Newspapers and Cox Newspapers, Inc., have reached an agreement in principle whereby Thomson would acquire six Cox newspapers in Arizona and transfer to Cox ownership of two Thomson dailies and a weekly in North Carolina, along with cash and other consideration. Closing is subject to signing of a definitive agreement and regulatory approvals. The joint announcement was made by Dick Harrington, president and chief executive officer of Thomson Newspapers, and Jay Smith, president of Cox Newspapers, Inc.

Cox newspapers included in the agreement are in Yuma, Arizona and suburban Phoenix. The suburban Phoenix Tribune Newspapers include five daily newspapers that serve the East Valley (Mesa, Tempe, Chandler and Gilbert) and Scottsdale. Thomson newspapers included in the agreement are in Rocky Mount and Elizabeth City, N.C.

Harrington said, "The Arizona acquisition will allow us to extend our strategy of building regional marketing and communications companies by entering new and thriving markets. Cox's six Arizona dailies provide solid foundations for the development of businesses that will eventually offer broadly based marketing and communications products and services, in addition to the currently published daily newspapers."

Harrington explained that Thomson Newspapers' long-term strategy for growth involves building regional marketing businesses around its newspaper operations, many of which have been organized into strategic marketing groups (SMGs). In an SMG, the daily newspapers continue to focus on serving their local markets, while the SMG management team identifies, evaluates and develops products and services for the regional mar-

ketplace encompassing the newspapers. Depending on the market, these could include weekly newspapers, specialized advertising publications and such marketing services as distribution, direct marketing and database marketing.

"The newspapers we will transfer to Cox are solid businesses that should perform well for their new owners," Harrington said, "But they are not located in markets that afford us the opportunity to pursue our regional marketing strategy. Those newspapers are staffed by outstanding people whose contributions to Thomson Newspapers and their local communities are greatly appreciated. I'm confident that they will continue to provide the readers and advertisers in these communities with quality publications and service."

Speaking for Cox, Smith said, "We established a presence in Arizona in 1977 and have added

and grown newspaper businesses in the East Valley, Scottsdale and Yuma since that time. We're proud of the fine service Cox employees have provided readers and advertisers, beginning nearly 20 years ago.

"Our transaction with Thomson gives us the opportunity to expand our presence in North Carolina, which we entered late last year. We look forward to extending our service to new readers and advertisers in North Carolina."

The six Arizona newspapers Thomson plans to acquire have a combined circulation of more than 100,000, with the largest reaching almost 44,000 households. The Mesa Tribune, Tempe Daily News Tribune, Chandler Arizona Tribune, Gilbert Tribune and Scottsdale Progress Tribune are in one of the fastest growing areas of the country. The Yuma Daily Sun is located in the third largest metropolitan area in

Arizona.

The North Carolina newspapers Cox will gain include the Rocky Mount Telegram, The Daily Advance in Elizabeth City and The Perquimans Weekly in Hertford. The combined circulation is about 30,000.

Smith said, "Publishers of the North Carolina newspapers will report to Jordy Whichard, publisher of our Greenville Daily Reflector and nine weeklies in that state. We're pleased we can continue the proud tradition of serving each of these local communities within eastern North Carolina."

Whichard commented, "Cox's expansion in eastern North Carolina demonstrates the company's confidence in the growth potential of our newspaper communities. Our combined circulation has grown to 49,000 daily and over 45,000 weekly. I look forward to working with the staffs in Rocky Mount and Elizabeth City to serve readers and advertisers

in those areas."

Thomson Newspapers publishes 103 dailies and numerous non-dailies, advertising and specialty publications in the United States and Canada. It is one of the main operating units of Thomson Corporation. The principal activities of The Thomson Corporation are specialized information/publishing worldwide, newspaper publishing in North America and leisure travel in the United Kingdom. The corporation had sales of \$7.2 billion (U.S.) in 1995 and has 50,000 staff members.

Cox Newspapers, Inc. includes 19 daily newspapers, 15 weeklies, direct mail marketing, book publishing and online services. It is a subsidiary of Cox Enterprises, Inc. a major media organization, which is also a leader in broadband communications/cable and television/radio broadcasting. Through Manheim Auctions, Cox also is the world's largest operator of automobile auctions.

County may land detention center

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners is considering a state offer to locate a juvenile detention facility near the county softball fields in Winfall.

The facility would house 24 youth and employ 25 people, Perquimans County Manager Paul Gregory said. It would be a self-contained unit with kitchen facilities and a fenced-in recreation area.

No final decision about locating the facility in Perquimans has been made, Gregory said. The county commissioners will hold a joint meeting with the Winfall Town Council on Sept. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Winfall Town Hall to discuss the proposal with county residents.

"We want to make sure all the questions people have are answered," Gregory said. "If it goes very good, as we anticipate it will, we anticipate the commissioners will finalize the documentation."

County officials have been negotiating with the state for approximately one year about locating the facility in Perquimans. If they agree to accept the facility, construction could begin in January.

"It's a temporary holding area for youth 16 years old and younger who have become involved with law enforcement, but who haven't been to juvenile court yet," Gregory said. The average stay for youth at the facility will be 8-30 days.

The state Division of Youth Services, an agency within the Department of Human Resources, will operate the facility.

The nearest one of its kind is in Pitt County. However, that facility is often full, meaning local youth who must be held in detention are often shipped to other facilities miles from home.

No site for the facility — if Perquimans decides to accept it — has been located. The county is negotiating with an unnamed landowner over an as yet undisclosed site. Officials are also considering locating the facility on county-owned land.

LITTLE GRADUATES



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Preschoolers at Perquimans Learning Center donned caps and gowns last Thursday for their graduation program. The tykes ran through a sampling of what they've learned in preschool, including the alphabet, days of the week, months of the year, songs and verses. Others at the Learning Center also took part in the program that brought a full house to the Winfall facility.

New school sex education policy based on abstinence

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Parents of Perquimans County Schools students should be aware that health education, sometimes called healthful living, includes sex education.

School board members approved the system's health education program policy in regular session Monday night.

The policy states that before students may participate in a portion of the health program that includes the topics of abstinence until marriage, avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, parents will be notified by the school system, and will be given the opportunity to review the material and the right to withhold consent for the child to participate. Any parent wishing to withhold consent must do so in writing to the principal. Otherwise,

consent to the program is presumed.

The school health education program encompasses all major aspects of healthful living for students from kindergarten through ninth grade. The program promotes behaviors that contribute to a healthful lifestyle and improved quality of life. Students will be provided with accurate information regarding healthful living and will be encouraged to be responsible for their behavior, according to information provided by school administrators.

There is no health program for grades 10-12.

Beginning in the middle school grades, the curriculum will include sex education. One of the goals of the curriculum is to "establish abstinence from sexual intercourse outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children."

Other items mentioned in

the Healthful Living Education Framework 1996 booklet that may be taught in the middle/high school grades are:

- Inform students of the current legal status of those homosexual acts that are a significant means of transmitting diseases, including HIV/AIDS.
- Assure that students understand that a mutually faithful, monogamous, heterosexual relationship in the context of marriage is the best life-long means of avoiding diseases transmitted by sexual contact, including HIV/AIDS.

- For any instruction concerning contraceptives, provide accurate statistical information on their effectiveness and failure rates for preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, in actual use among adolescent populations.
- Assure that students are

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Meads gets \$156K in settlement

Lawsuit against former police officer settled out of court

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

A Hertford businessman who was injured in an August 1993 altercation with a former Hertford police officer received \$156,000 in compensation earlier this summer.

Joseph I. Meads said last week that he agreed to settle a lawsuit filed against former Hertford police officer Andre Alfred on May 30. The case was scheduled for trial on June 3.

Meads' attorney, Branch W. Vincent III of Elizabeth City, declined to name the monetary compensation Meads was initially seeking.

The lawsuit charged Alfred with using excessive force, assault and violating Meads' civil rights. Meads filed suit against Alfred and the town of Hertford as Alfred's employer. Alfred left the police department several weeks after the incident, but town officials would not comment at that time on why Alfred left the department.

According to Meads, he was having a conversation with former Hertford police officer Ray Jedge outside one of his businesses, Joe's Place, on Aug. 24, 1993 when Alfred approached the two. Meads said Alfred made a remark that Meads considered an attempt to engage he and Alfred in an argument.

Meads said he held up his

hands, took two steps backward and told Alfred, "Look, I just can't talk to you." Meads maintains that Alfred began punching Meads in the forehead with his finger and threatened to assault him.

When Meads reached up and pushed Alfred's finger out of his face, Meads said Alfred pushed him with both hands, knocking him 6-8 feet backward and slamming him onto the pavement on his back. Meads said Alfred got in his patrol car and left the scene before Meads could get up off the pavement. The businessman said Jedge admonished Alfred for his actions.

Later that day, Meads said he contacted Hertford officials and asked that the incident be investigated and some type of action be taken by noon the next day. Meads said when he got no response from town or police officials, he met with magistrate Broughton T. Dail Sr. to swear out a warrant for simple assault against Alfred. Dail issued the warrant, but the charges were dropped by former District Attorney H.P. Williams Jr., Meads said.

At the time the incident was made known to The Perquimans Weekly newspaper in April 1994, Williams was interviewed and said the charges against Alfred were dropped pending an investigation by his office. After the D.A.'s investigation, Williams said Meads was notified that he could swear out a second warrant against Alfred and that Williams' office would prosecute the case. Meads said he did not obtain a second warrant.

Please see **settle**, page 6

Outside

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
High: 80s	Low: 60s	High: 80s	Low: 60s	High: 80s	Low: 60s
MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY	