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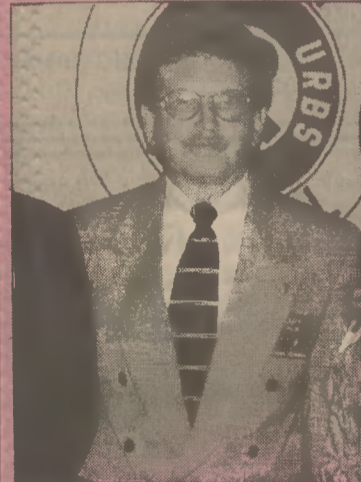
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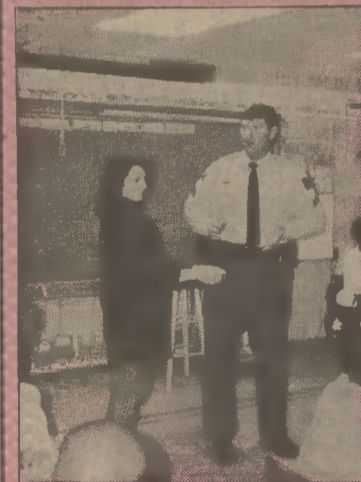
PCHS athletes attend Coach-Captain retreat in Raleigh

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Perquimans County an All of Us Care Community

May's theme:

Value and enjoy our environment focusing on

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Conserve resources

Incorporate these Healthy HABITS into your daily life and help make our community a better place to live!

For All of Us Care information, contact Dr. Randall L. Henion, Perquimans County Schools 426-5741

Fire insurance to drop

Hertford residents to see fall in fire insurance rates

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Hertford Fire Chief Sid Eley is sounding the alarm. Effective today, his department's rating with the North Carolina Department of Insurance has improved.

Eley said the Hertford department's rating dropped from a seven to a six, the result of upgrades in equip-

ment, other town upgrades and good record keeping by the department.

"This (rating) is very good for a volunteer department," Eley said. "Normally, volunteer departments cannot get below a class five."

The rating is not just a number to put on paper. It's going to mean savings on fire insurance for all residential and commercial buildings inside the city limits and all those within 500 feet of a Hertford fire hydrant.

A check with some local insurance agents indicates that the owner of an average

wood frame valued at \$50,000 can expect to see savings on fire insurance of about \$80 per year. Eley said he was told by an insurance agent that the new rating brings fire insurance premiums to the lowest rate possible.

Eley said the state insurance department will notify insurance companies of the change. The companies in return will contact their customers and notify them of premium adjustments.

The state is supposed to complete a fire inspection on all departments every 10 years, Eley said.

School board okays local budget request

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Perquimans County Board of Education is ready for its May date with the county commissioners after approving its local budget request last Monday.

School officials will ask the county to okay over \$1.3 million in current expense and \$250,000 in capital outlay.

Local funds in the amount of \$325,066 are being requested for employee salaries. County funds are used to cover the full salary of some employees and a portion of the salaries of others. Salary line items break out as follows:

- \$127,461—maintenance staff.
- \$77,480—custodial staff.
- \$25,606—instructional support staff supervisor.
- \$17,410—maintenance, clerical.
- \$12,404—executive administration, office personnel.
- \$12,079—fiscal services, office personnel.
- \$10,688—office personnel/SIMS.
- \$10,000—superintendent.
- \$8,356—principals and assistant principals.
- \$7,400—band director.
- \$6,479—athletic director.
- \$5,000—assistant superintendent.
- \$2,540—instructional support, assistant.
- \$2,163—mechanics.

In addition to salaries, the budget includes \$112,133 in total local supplements.

Broken down by department, the school board is asking for:

- Operation of Plant \$438,619. The largest budget category, over half of this department's budget is for electricity (\$254,389). Fuel for facilities adds \$34,000 and other utilities, \$7,500. Custodial salaries account for \$77,480, while custodial supplies are expected to cost \$45,000. Waste disposal, incentives, travel and uniform rental make up the rest.
- Maintenance of Plant \$295,121. Almost half of the budget (\$144,871) is for salaries. Contract repair, parts, materials, uncapitalized equipment and asbestos/waste/water/pest management expenses account for \$138,000. Vehicle liability insurance, travel and office expenses total \$12,250.
- Executive Administration \$96,304. Under this heading is \$28,304 in salaries and supplements, \$16,500 for maintenance contracts and repair, \$6,500 for superintendent vehicle allowance, \$10,000 for telephone, \$8,500 for reproduction, \$5,500 for incentive pay and \$2,500 for assistant superintendent vehicle allowance. Office expenses and professional publications are included here.
- Employee benefits \$96,002.

This covers social security, retirement, hospitalization, worker's compensation, annuity, and longevity. In addition to this line item, \$15,929 in employee benefits is reflected in other departmental budgets.

- Regular Instruction \$84,979. This includes \$10,000 for mobile classroom rent at Central School. New to this year's request is \$4,000 for teacher awards/incentives.

- Board of Education \$77,215. This category calls for \$10,500 in board member compensation, \$11,000 in attorney/legal fees, \$11,000 in audit fees and \$10,000 for membership dues and fees. Board member travel, insurance, police protection, cultural arts and other services are also funded in the budget.

- Office of the Principal \$45,817. Almost \$30,000 of this budget goes for salaries and supplements, with the remainder covering office expenses and travel.

- Athletic Programs \$39,960. These funds cover the partial salary and benefits of the athletic director, coaching supplements, student insurance and telephone.

- Instructional Staff Support \$36,871. Over \$32,000 is for salaries and supplements.

- Transportation \$36,613. The largest chunk in this department is \$13,000 for bus drivers supplement and overtime pay not covered by the state. It includes athletic travel, gas, parts, travel, training, contract transportation, equipment and drug testing.

- Performing Arts Program \$23,266. Departmental expenditures cover partial salary and full local supplement for band director, contracted interim instructors, travel, repair, supplies and equipment for band and chorus, and the local share of employee benefits.

- Community Schools \$18,300. The largest chunk of this category is for printing.

- Fiscal Services \$13,729. All of this request is salaries and supplements.

- Occupational Education \$12,000.
- Evaluation-Information Services \$4,500. This covers recruitment expenses.

Among the items included in the capital outlay budget are \$110,000 for roofing, \$7,500 for exterior doors, \$17,000 for termite treatment and \$15,000 for improvements to Memorial Field at the high school; \$25,000 for sewer line and storm drain repair and \$15,000 for upgrading the old band room for use as an alternative classroom at the middle school; \$7,000 for fuel tank removal at two schools; \$8,000 for maintenance equipment; \$2,500 for installing CB radios on school buses and \$43,000 for an activity bus.

A MOMENT IN TIME



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Hollywood had nothing on Hertford Saturday evening when dashing young men escorted glamorous young women to "A Moment in Time," the theme of the annual junior-senior prom. Outside, the local paparazzi, also known as parents and friends, lined up to watch and take pictures as couples made their way to the prom entrance.

It's off to work we go for 5th grade

Central Schools participates in Take Your Kid to Work program

No child labor laws were violated last Thursday when all the fifth graders at Perquimans Central School were put to work.

As a spinoff of the Ms. Foundation's Take Our Daughters to Work promotion, Central school sent their young charges to work with their parents or with mentors in a program called Take Your Kid to Work.

The program is designed to prepare students for the 21st century workforce. An immediate short range goal of the program is to prepare students for the transition from elemen-

tary to middle school. A long-range goal is to prepare them for the transition from school to work, whether this transition takes place immediately after high school, college, technical school or the military. It was coordinated by Anne White, Director of Student Services, and Central School principal Gary Stubbins and guidance counselor Stephanie Mancini.

"When I was growing up, I spent a lot of time dreaming about my future," White said. "A large percentage of our students seem to have stopped dreaming or thinking about their futures altogether. We hope to motivate students to become excited about learning by showing them the relationship between what they learn in school and what they will need to know to become productive citizens in the 21st century workforce."

"For the first time in our history, it really is imperative that all students learn," White continued. "The number of unskilled jobs are continuing to decline while the number of skilled jobs are increasing. When we combine welfare reform with the decline in the number of unskilled jobs, students who are not prepared will have no place to go."

In addition to the parents who served as work mentors for the day, some students spent time with ECSU Chancellor Mickey Burnim, principal Yvonne Walton, counselor June Riddick, District Court Judge J.C. Dole, Chamber of Commerce Director Sandra Smith, COA Dean Lynn Hurdle-Winslow, Perquimans librarian Jeri Oltman, Perquimans Weekly Editor Susan Harris, and Pioneering Success students at Perquimans High School.

Sheriff worried about domestic violence

Abuse in the home is on the rise, Lane said

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Perquimans County Sheriff David Lane sees a trend in Perquimans County that concerns him — an increase in domestic violence calls.

"It's beginning to worry me," Lane said Monday. "We get calls every week, two or three a week. One day recently we had two calls in one day."

One of the most disturbing aspects of domestic violence, Lane said, is that victims often feel trapped for economic and safety reasons. Some fear that they will be unable financially to provide for their children's basic needs without the income of the abuser. There is also the fear that if the victim takes legal action against the abuser, there will be further abuse as a consequence.

Lane said often law officers arrive at the scene of reported domestic violence and find that the abuser had fled the scene. On other occasions, the

situation has calmed down and the victim denies that any abuse took place. Then there are those times when the victim admits being abused, initiates legal proceedings, then either doesn't show up in court to testify or tells the prosecutor on court day that she will not testify.

One of the saddest consequences of domestic violence, Lane said, is that it tends to perpetuate itself through the children who live in homes where it occurs. He said a

Please see ABUSE, page 8

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 70s Low: 50s CHANCE OF RAIN	High: 70s Low: 50s MOSTLY SUNNY	High: 70s Low: 50s PARTLY CLOUDY