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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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School opens Aug. 10

While students and teachers enjoy the waning weeks of summer, administrators and clerical personnel in the school system are busy preparing for the opening of school on Aug. 10.

Applications for free and reduced price lunches will be mailed this week. Each family already in the database from last year will receive an application in the mail, according to Child Nutrition Director Donna Harris. Applications will also be available at all four schools, the schools central office, the county Department of Social Services and the county Health Department. The forms are also available by calling Harris at 426-5741.

Harris said applications should be returned as soon as possible.

Each family with children in the school system should complete one application, whether the family is applying for free or reduced-price meals or not. Harris said completing the forms will help the system to update its mailing list with the new addresses assigned to many families this summer. Families not applying for free or reduced price meals should write "Address Update Only" in the space for income.

Breakfast will be free to all students in all schools during the 2000-01 school year, regardless of eligibility status for free or reduced-price lunches.

Full-price lunches will be \$1.25 for pre-kindergarten through second grade and \$1.50 for grades 3-12. Reduced-price lunches are 40 cents at all grade levels.

If a family now gets food stamps or WFFA benefits for a child, that child can get free meals. A foster child may get free meals regardless of family income. All other eligibility will be determined based on income.

In addition to gearing up to provide meals, all four schools are in the process of finalizing classroom assignments and student schedules.

Perquimans County High School Assistant Principal Tim Aydlett said students enrolled at that school will receive their schedules by mail. He added that the letters will be mailed in plenty of time for students to make necessary schedule changes.

Students attending both the middle school and Hertford Grammar School will be notified by mail of assignments prior to the opening of school. Personnel at those locations said Tuesday morning that scheduling and assignments are being finalized; however, a mailing date has not been determined. Supply lists will be included in letters for both schools.

No one was available at Central School Tuesday.

Recommendations for teaching and administrative positions, including one for a new principal at PCHS, will go to the board Monday night, said Personnel Director Brenda Dail. Dail said she is presently filling positions left by a couple of recently-submitted resignations. She said new staff at all schools have solid credentials, many with classroom experience.

"We're in good shape (personnel-wise)," she said.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation officials celebrated the opening of its headquarters expansion and renovation Friday with a ribbon cutting (above). The building was dedicated to and will bear the name of Dorris B. White, a retiree who moved through the ranks from secretary to general manager during her 50-year tenure with Albemarle EMC. Among those to recognize White during the ceremony was AEMC Board President L. A. Harris Jr. (below).

AEMC dedicates building to White

Dorris White saw a lot of electrifying changes during her career.

White spent 53 years with Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation, blazing a trail in the industry for women in management and witnessing a number of technological advances. In recognition of her dedication to the electric cooperative and its customers, the newly expanded and renovated EMC headquarters was named the Dorris B. White building during a ribbon cutting ceremony at the site Friday.

Albemarle EMC president L.A. Harris Jr. said with all the changes that occurred in

the industry over the years, the one thing that remained the same locally was White's presence and commitment.

White was first hired as a bookkeeper/secretary for Albemarle Rural Electrification Administration in 1946. REA, as it was called at that time, was located on the second floor of the Hertford Banking Company, now Centura Bank. At that time, the holes to set electric poles were dug by hand and bookkeeping meant poring over columns of figures in huge ledgers. And management positions in the industry were held by men.

White watched that change as outside employees began

using heavy equipment to set poles and bookkeeping became computerized. Her role with the cooperative also changed, as she moved up to bookkeeper then office manager, and on April 25, 1983, became the first woman to serve as the general manager of an electric cooperative in North Carolina. Meanwhile, the REA changed its name to Electric Membership Corporation, or EMC. The Albemarle REA moved from downtown to Edenton Road Street in facilities that now house the Extension Office, then in 1965 dedicated the building in Winfall.

The additional 4,000 square feet of office space and renovations

dedicated last week include state-of-the-art computer and security systems housed in a climate-controlled room, additional offices to serve a growing customer base and house possible expanded services in the future, and a drive-up window for more convenient customer service. The meeting room has also been renovated. It will seat 32 and will be available to civic groups.

On hand for Friday's ceremony were EMC employees and directors, former employees, community leaders, and White's children, Martha, Frances and Edmond, and grandsons, Charles and Henry.

Outdoor chamber music concert set

The historic 1730 Newbold-White House will serve as the backdrop for an outdoor chamber music concert on Sunday Aug. 6, 5-6 p.m. The free concert is presented by the North Carolina School of the Arts and sponsored by the Perquimans County Restoration Association and the Perquimans Arts League.

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for this casual outdoor family concert. The program "Guitar and Friends," fea-

tures four students from the prestigious North Carolina School of the Arts. On guitar will be North Carolinian Colin Allured and Russian student Polina Ravdel. Ludwig Carrasco, a Mexican student, will be on violin, with Sarah Wilson on flute. The 60-minute program features a medley of Spanish and South American folksongs, along with compositions by Maurice Ravel, Gabriel Faure, and Jacques Ibert.

To complete the picnic concert, a light

box supper, including a beverage, can be purchased for \$5. Reservations for the box suppers must be made by Aug. 3 and paid for in advance. To reserve a supper, call the Newbold-White House at (252)426-7567.

The Newbold-White House will be open for tours prior to the concert beginning at 2 p.m. Grounds for the concert will open at 4:30 p.m. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted. For more information call 426-7567.

Blood supplies are critically low

A nationwide blood shortage has the American Red Cross asking the public for immediate blood donations to boost critically low supplies.

According to the Red Cross, virtually all of the organization's 36 blood services regions have been appealing for donations in local communities in recent weeks. However, despite these efforts, a critical need for all blood types remains.

Currently, the Red Cross is struggling to maintain 50 percent of the target inventory levels of hospitals, which means each hospital receives on half the blood requested to support scheduled surgeries and trauma centers. Blood is needed for routine surgeries, accidents and diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and hemophilia.

Historically, summer months are a challenging time for blood donations. High school, college and university students who partici-

pate in blood drives during the school months are on vacation. Their donations account for about 15 percent of collections during school months.

People are also on vacation and tend not to donate during the summer.

Higher demand has also contributed to the summer blood shortage, officials said. Although donations overall are up, hospital distribution is also on the rise.

Members of New Hope United Methodist Church will host a bloodmobile visit on Monday, July 24, 3-7 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. The goal for the drive is 50 pints. For directions, information or to pre-register for a specific time to donate, call Donna Harris at 264-2319. Pre-registration is requested.

The Perquimans Chapter AARP also hosts regular blood drives at the Senior Center five to six times each year. The next is set for Aug. 24, 3-7 p.m.

Former mayor dies

Former Hertford Mayor Emmett Landing died in Chowan Hospital Friday.

The owner/operator of Landing Supply Company for many years, Landing served as mayor of Hertford from 1967-1971. He was a retired volunteer firefighter with the Hertford Fire Department and a Marine Corps veteran of World War II and Korea.

Landing was buried in Cedar Wood Cemetery Sunday.

(Please see page 3 for a complete obituary.)

New bank to open

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The East Carolina Bank plans to open a full-service branch in Hertford soon.

Executive Vice President Dorson White, administrator of East Carolina Bank's branches, said the bank has received approval from the FDIC and verbal approval from the North Carolina Banking Commission to set up shop in Perquimans County.

"I think from a regulatory standpoint we're ready," White said. "We're very anxious to get up there and get going."

While East Carolina will be a new bank, there will be at least one familiar face in the building. Becky Winslow, formerly of Centura Bank, will serve as the institution's local manager. Winslow is working with bank officials to review staffing needs and hire employees.

The bank is negotiating with owners to purchase property located about 200 feet south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and the eastern side of Harvey Point Road, White said. Once complete, the bank will choose a final plan for a building, which he said will compliment the historic feel of Hertford.

White described East Carolina as a community bank serving seven counties and 15 communities in Northeastern North Carolina. It is headquartered in Englehard. In addition to its application for a branch in Hertford, East Carolina also has an application pending for a branch in New Bern. If approved, the branches will be the bank's sixteenth and seventeenth locations. The expansion is part of the bank's mission to be a permanent banking presence in Eastern North Carolina, White said.

White said East Carolina Bank promotes community banking, relying on local employees to make most decisions on the local level.

"That (local decision-making) is a strong point of the bank," he said. "We're firm believers in relationship banking. We pride ourselves on responsiveness to customer requests."

Regional advisory boards help guide the bank and support local operations, White said.

East Carolina Bank will offer traditional banking products, including mortgages.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY

HIGH: 88

LOW: 72

SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY

HIGH: 88

LOW: 70

ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY

HIGH: 86

LOW: 69

ISOLATED T'STORMS