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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Mixon first N.C. detention Teacher of Year

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Teaching is a challenging job, and no teacher faces more challenges than Mark Mixon, a teacher at Perquimans Juvenile Detention Center.

Mixon's skills in helping his troubled charges earned him the 2002 Detention Center Teacher of the Year. He is the first to receive the honor implemented by the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to recognize those teachers who excel in the detention center setting.

I try to take them from where they are as far as possible.

Mark Mixon
Teacher,
Perquimans
Juvenile
Detention Center

"Teachers in detention centers face the unique challenge of a classroom of students of widely varying ages and abilities," said DJJDP Superintendent Jane D. Young. "Students may be in the class for only a few days and may be anxious about their situation. Mr. Mixon exemplifies the characteristics needed to help students focus and make progress in school while they are in detention. He is dedicated to ensuring that students' individual differences are recognized. His leadership and skill are truly worth of recognition."

Mixon, who is in his fourth year with the detention center, spent 18 years in the military — eight of them as a logistics instructor — before becoming a teacher. He earned his degree from Virginia State.

He retired to Columbia and accepted a position with Washington County Schools as a teacher in an alternative program funded by a grant. When funds ran out at the end of the school year, he spent two years with the Department of Corrections before accepting the teaching position at the detention center.

Mixon has an average of 13 to 14 students each day, generally aged 12-15, although he has had students as young as 11. He teaches all subjects, and this is not always an easy task as the students come from different schools and backgrounds and are in

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About 175 people were on hand at the Hertford Fire Department Saturday to observe the Remembrance Day for the Winslow Oil Company fire, which blazed on Jan. 10, 1978. The department held the observance to remember and show appreciation to those who fought fire, rescue and law enforcement personnel, and volunteers who provided dry socks, food and a break from the bitter cold.

Firefighters remember Winslow Oil Company fire

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Firefighters with soot-blackened faces. Fireballs rolling through a bright blue sky. The variety of colored hats signifying different fire departments. Water lines snaking along Covent Garden. Ice coating buildings and trees. Even icicles hanging from the hats of firefighters.

These were the images projected on the screen Saturday as the Hertford Fire Department showed

slides of the Winslow Oil Company fire on Jan. 10, 1978 during a 25th anniversary Remembrance Day observance.

Firefighter Sid Eley, who was a lieutenant in the department on the day of the oil company fire, later served as chief and still an active firefighter, narrated the slide show. The presentation took the approximately 175 people on hand through the day of the fire and the day after, and ended with scenes of the fire site after clean-up.

Eley said it was evident that God was in control of the event, as there was only one serious injury and damage, although heavy for Winslow Oil Company and Farmer's Feed and Seed, was so much lighter than it could have been with a fire of that magnitude.

Charles Skinner, chief of the department at the time of the fire, discussed the response to the fire from the beginning to its end. He said the department's pre-planning and training for a possible fire at the site

where three oil companies once stood just feet apart got people on the scene and fighting the fire immediately. Once help arrived, those departments were quickly dispatched to fill in where needed.

Guests at Saturday's observance were served homemade soup and sandwiches, the same meals brought to them by volunteers on the day of the fire.

(Part two of a series. Next week: Glimpses of the fire through the eyes of firefighters on the scene.)

PARKING PROBLEMS



Parking on the wrong side of the street in front of the Hertford Municipal Building causes traffic congestion at the post office to get even worse, according to Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy. The town recently installed three signs that state "No parking left side," but as this picture clearly shows, drivers are not reading the signs. Officers are often stopping to talk to drivers when they see violators at present, but drivers failing to abide by the parking rules are subject to a traffic citation and a fine.

Vanscoy reports on speeding study

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Speeding on Church and Market streets was again a topic at the Hertford Town Council meeting Monday night.

Town Manager John Christensen said Tuesday that Police Chief Dale Vanscoy gave a report to council Monday night on speed on the two streets. The information was taken from the speed trailer which is used in different places around town at intervals. The trailer is equipped with electronic mechanisms which record the number of vehicles that pass and their speeds.

The trailer was sited on Church Street to record traffic as it entered town over the S-bridge for two full days. During that time, 2,252 cars came into town, with 90 percent of those vehicles averaging 29.7 miles per hour in the 25 mile per hour zone. The fastest recorded speed was 39 miles per hour.

Christensen said he pointed out that most law enforcement officers do not

issue tickets unless vehicles are traveling about 10 miles per hour or more over the speed limit. With that criterion in mind, Christensen said the information from the speed trailer indicated that only about six tickets would have been issued over the two-day period.

One problem on Church Street, Christensen said, is that the houses are so close to the street, it may sound and look as if vehicles are speeding when in fact they are not. The blind curve coming off the bridge adds to the problem, he said.

On Market Street, 552 vehicles passed the trailer over a two-day period. As on Church Street, about 90 percent of those who passed were driving within 10 miles per hour of the speed limit.

There was discussion of putting speed bumps on streets to slow down traffic. Christensen will contact DOT and review the possibility of adding speed bumps with them and report back to council with his findings.

2003-04 school calendar proposed

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Students will start school next year on Aug. 6 if the board of education approves the 2003-04 calendar presented for consideration in December at its Jan. 27 meeting. The last student day on the proposed calendar is May 25.

The calendar allows students to complete the first semester and high school students to take exams before the Christmas break.

The proposed calendar was put together by a committee composed of teachers, administrators and parents.

If approved, students will be scheduled to be off on work days on Sept. 12, Oct. 10 and 13, Nov. 26, Dec. 19, Jan. 2, Feb. 6 and 9, and March 11 and 12. Students will not be in school Wednesday-Friday of Thanksgiving week. At Christmas, the last day for students, except those who need to retake exams or end-of-course tests at the high school, would be Dec. 18. Students will return on Jan. 5. Spring break is scheduled for April 9-16.

Faculty and staff who do not work on a 12-month schedule would return from the summer break as early as July 31, which is an optional work day, as is Aug. 1. All faculty and staff would report on Aug. 4 and 5, which are required work days.

Other optional work days are Sept. 12, Oct. 13, Nov. 26, Dec. 19, Jan. 2, Feb. 6, March 12, and June 1-2. Required work days are Aug. 4 and 5, Oct. 10, Feb. 9, March 11 and May 26-28. Because of exams, the high school has a required work day on Dec. 19 and an optional day on May 28.

Dec. 22 and 23, Dec. 29-31, and Jan. 12-16 are annual leave days for staff.

Days chosen as make-up days in the event of inclement weather include Sept. 12, Oct. 13, Feb. 6, March 12 and May 26.

The state has several requirements for a school

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 41
LOW: 26
MOSTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 39
LOW: 22
RAIN TO SNOW

SATURDAY
HIGH: 40
LOW: 22
PARTLY CLOUDY