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25 CENTS

Students sustain minor injuries in school bus accident

By JANE B. WILLIAMS
Several students from the New Hope area sustained minor injuries on Monday morning when the school bus in which they were traveling overturned on New

Hope Road approximately one-mile off U.S. 17 By-pass.

Six students were transported by the Perquimans County Rescue Squad to Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City to be checked

for minor injuries following an accident of unknown origins. The students had sustained minor bruises. No treatment was administered to any of the students according to Pat Harrell, Super-

intendent of Perquimans County Schools.

Harrell said that a few other students were taken over to the hospital by their parents to be checked later in the day when

they complained of aches and pains.

Students taken for treatment at the time of the accident were:
-Rosie Overton, age 11, of Route 3, Hertford.

-Tray Wilson, age 8, of Route 3, Hertford.

-Sandra Millwood, age 13, of Route 3, Hertford.

-Elisha James, age 13, of Route 3, Hertford.

-Ivan Mallory, age 8, of Route 3, Hertford.

-Lamont Walker, age 11, of Route 3, Hertford.

Harrell stated early Tuesday morning that he did not know what had caused the accident. He said that it appeared that the bus had run off the road onto the shoulder toward the ditch and then flipped over across the highway. The bus was operated by Kenny Nixon.

A Highway Patrol report on the accident involving Bus 6 had not been filed at press time; however information received from Trooper Billy Long and reported in The Daily Advance on Tuesday afternoon stated that Nixon was charged with reckless driving on Tuesday. The accident was being investigated by Trooper Long of the N.C. High-

way Patrol. Long was not available for comment.

Harrell stated that Nixon had not been suspended from his duties as was reported earlier this week. He stated that Nixon would not be driving a bus until an account of the accident had been received from Trooper Long. Action will be taken after the report is received.

Further information in the Advance account of the accident stated that the bus ran off the right edge of the road, traveling about 130-feet on the shoulder before veering into a shallow ditch. The driver then tried to steer the bus out of the ditch, and it toppled over onto its right side, coming to a rest on its side across both lanes of the highway.

Harrell stated that he would like to express his appreciation for the fast action taken by the Perquimans County Rescue Squad, the Winfall Volunteer Fire Department, the Hertford Fire Department Special Rescue Team, the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, the N.C. Highway Patrol and the numerous volunteers. "We're very thankful that no youngster was seriously injured in the accident," Harrell said.



Minor injuries were sustained by approximately six elementary grade students Monday morning when the bus they were traveling in to school overturned on new Hope Road near U.S.

17 By-pass. The cause of the accident has not yet been determined by Highway Patrol personnel. (Photo by Jane B. Williams)

Condition of highways gauged as the major concern of eastern residents

By JANE B. WILLIAMS
Perquimans County residents had the opportunity Monday morning to gain insight into the Governor's office when Ed Sweeney, Director of the newly established Eastern Office of the Governor, came to Hertford to receive input and discuss matters of local interest with citizens from the county.

Sweeney was in Hertford upon the invitation of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce. He works out of the regional office located in New Bern.

Upon his arrival Monday morning Sweeney was met by a delegation of local officials at the Hertford Municipal Building who immediately began fielding questions regarding Governor

Jim Martin's thoughts on highway improvements in northeastern North Carolina. Sweeney told the group that the Governor was aware of the need for transportation improvements in the east, but that increased funding would be necessary to facilitate such plans.

Following a morning session at the county's courthouse with local residents, Sweeney again met with local civic and political leaders for an informal luncheon meeting at Angler's Cove Restaurant. Again the topic of transportation was foremost on the minds of area residents.

"The number one concern of people in the east is roads," Sweeney said. He relayed that the New Bern office was established in November and since that time roads have been the focal point of the most critique.

He added that the prison system was the second major concern of eastern N.C. residents.

When questioned about the primary road concern of eastern N.C. residents, Sweeney said that Interstate 40 was the most discussed route; U.S. 17 was said to be second on the list.

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox, a member of the Highway 17 Transportation Association said, "I-40 is being addressed now, and it is almost complete. How long before 17 gets that kind of consideration?"

Sweeney stated that there were no improvements scheduled in the ten-year planning manual published by the State Department of Transportation; however, a hearing date is being discussed to gather public input in the issue of U.S. 17. Sweeney encouraged residents to write their representatives to let them know of their concerns regarding the issue.

Cox retorted that in a ten-county region this area has roughly 100,000 people, and added that some individual counties have that large a population base. "We're looked at as a minority. If we had decent roads maybe we'd have 200,000 people. We'll always be a minority as long as we don't have people, and we can't have people until we have roads," he said.

"We share a representative with six or seven other counties," Cox continued; "while places like Wake County have five representatives."

Cox went on to say that when government talks eastern North Carolina they're including Greenville and Pitt County, "that's not eastern North Carolina. We need representation for the northeastern sector of the state."

House of Representatives candidate Shirley Perry said, "I would like to see him (Governor Martin) as committed during the remainder of his term to Highway 17 as he has been to I-40."

The group agreed that if Gov-

ernor Martin actually traveled the route in question he would be more sympathetic to the transportation problems incurred in the east. Sweeney agreed with that consensus and promised to personally drive the Governor down from the Wilson-Rocky Mount area to Elizabeth City to show him first hand the problems with the roads. Sweeney said, "The concerns are real, and really need to be looked into."

He suggested that residents of the east join together to organize and prioritize the needs. He further suggested that the group submit ideas for raising funds to implement the needed highway improvement projects.

Mayor announces plans to develop Community Watch Program locally

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

HERTFORD—More than 25 concerned citizens from the Brown's Acre community appeared at last week's meeting of the Hertford Town Council to express their concerns about the recent break-ins and purse snatchings in the municipality. The group questioned the council as to what could be done about the problem. They also requested increased patrolling of the area by the Police Department, and better lighting in the area.

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox announced that he had already taken steps to set up an organizational meeting of the Community Crime Watch Program. The meeting is set for Tuesday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. at the Perquimans

County Courthouse. It will be led by organizers of the Community Watch Program from Raleigh.

Cox told the group that getting the citizens involved was the only way he knew of to curtail the incidents. He encouraged those that were present to attend and urged them to bring the friends and neighbors.

The meeting will be open to the public.

The council assured the group that they would check on the lighting situation in the area, and that there would be an increase in the frequency of police patrol in the area. They said that they were well aware of the seriousness of the events that were happening.

Youth sustains minor injury in accident

By JANE B. WILLIAMS
HERTFORD—A local youth sustained minor injuries when he was struck by a vehicle on Church Street here on Friday evening.

Cedric Felton, age 13 of Wynne Fork Court, was taken to Chowan Hospital by the Perquimans County Rescue Squad where he was treated and released following the accident which occurred shortly before 7:00 p.m.

According to an accident report filed by Senior Patrolman Timothy Spence of the Hertford Police Department, Felton was reportedly walking north on Church Street on the wrong side of the road when the accident occurred.

Mrs. Cornelia Smith Phillips, age 75 of 801 South Church Street, was also traveling north on Church Street in a 1968 Plymouth, and upon meeting an oncoming vehicle, Mrs. Phillips reportedly maneuvered the car she was operating over to her right and not seeing the pedestrian, struck him in the leg.

Officer Spence reported that there was no visible sign of injury, but that the victim reported some pain. No property damages were reported, and no charges were filed in connection with the accident.

Candidates give insight into issues

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

Editor's Note: in this week's edition we begin an individual look at the candidate's seeking public office in the upcoming election. We open our series with some of the candidates for the First District House of Representatives who will vie for two available seats. One seat is currently held by the Honorable Vernon G. James (D), who is seeking reelection. The other seat is held by the Honorable Charles Evans (D) who has decided not to seek another term of office.

This week we will highlight statements from Democrats James, Winnie Wood and Harry B. Schiffman. Next week's series will examine the remainder of the candidates who are: R.M. "Pete" Thompson, Sam Walker, Audie Simon and Shirley Perry.

If you are elected, or re-elected, to public office what are your primary goals for your term of service?

JAMES—I would like to continue to seek better legislation for improvements to care for the sick, handicapped and elderly; the economy of agriculture; education, including physical plants; and highways, including secondary roads.

WOOD—My goals are to secure increased job opportunities and to provide good education and training for those jobs. And also to secure funds for maintaining and improving our District's roads and schools.

SCHIFFMAN—My goals are to

provide better representation with priority for the people of the First House District; to thoroughly research state issues which most directly affect the district; and to give an application of common sense and businesslike judgement to the factual merits of each issue.

Do you have a plan of action to carry out your goals?

JAMES—I would try to seek re-allocation, through legislation of funds now available for Social Services and Health Departments by working with state and local officials. We need to work more closely with school boards and educators on legislation needed for funding im-

provements to education. I want to continue my work on all phases of the problems facing agriculture, and see funds generated from highways going into the Highway Fund, not the general fund. I also favor an increased gas tax.

WOOD—The First District has ample resources - educational facilities, prime farm and commercial land, hard-working citizens and magnificent scenery, to name a few - to effect great change in our own economy.

To bring needed job opportunities to the District, I would work on ways to take advantage of the tremendous asset we have in being located so close to a popula-

tion of 1,600,000 people, Tidewater, Va.

We have long provided this area with a skilled work force. We could easily provide them with waterways and small towns to explore and enjoy, sites for new and expanded businesses, and meat, fruits and vegetables for their table.

SCHIFFMAN—The people of the First District must come first, over and above all personal and political interest. By being willing to listen and weigh merits from all people in the District, and taking prudent action with good understanding of the overall effects, I believe our citizens interests will best be served.



JAMES



WOOD



SCHIFFMAN