

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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10 CENTS



TORNADO DAMAGE—A tornado which swept through the Holiday Island community of Perquimans County left this mobile home belonging to Martin F. Bremus in total



destruction. Bremus, a native of Virginia, had the trailer moved to Holiday Island two weeks before the disaster. He



and his family were planning to move in it the next weekend. No one was in the trailer or injured when the



tornado hit. However, the new mobile home was totaled and uninsured. (Staff Photos by Kathy Newbern)

Working Women Affected By Minimum Wage Boost

By FRANCINE SAWYER
Long-range local effects of the new minimum wage law for household workers might include: organization of a Day Care Center for children, a reduction in Perquimans County's

female working force; and a higher rate of unemployment for household workers. Most Perquimans County household employers agree their household workers are "worth" \$1.90 per hour. "A

good worker earns that amount of money, but we just can't afford to pay them."

One female who works in the public fulltime says she would have only \$20 remaining from her take

home pay after a month's work after paying a domestic \$1.90 per hour.

The household worker who works five days a week, eight hours a day at \$1.90 per hour will earn \$304 per four week month under the new law. This amount equals or surpasses the take-home pay of the average Perquimans County female office worker.

Social Security payments for the full-time household workers, based on 160 hours, would be \$17.78 per month from the employer and \$17.78 per month from the employee.

Methods of the compliance with the new ruling used so far in this county show that household employees will receive slightly more money than they did before the law went into effect. But, they will be working less time for the same amount of money.

This situation is brought about by the large-scale reduction in hours most employers have chosen to take for household employees in order to pay \$1.90 per hour.

Reduction in hours is a practical method of compliance for many employers, but does not accommodate the working mother who must have a fulltime employee to care for young children.

Some working mothers will resign from jobs. Others will call on relatives to care for their children. Unemployed mothers will be reluctant to seek jobs.



MARSHALL MERRITT

Merritt Joins HPD

Marshall Merritt, 31, of 223 Woodland Circle joined the Hertford Police Department last week as patrolman.

Merritt is a native of Red Springs, N.C. He served in the Navy four years and the Army for three years, receiving honors and awards in both branches.

Most recently Merritt served as chief of the security force at Harvey's Point installation. He has attended military police school at Ft. Gordon, Ga.

He is presently taking law courses in his spare time. His hobbies include reading, tennis, gardening, and being the husband of the former Frances Ober of Rocky Hook, and the father of two boys, Paul, 7 and John, 4.

Hertford Dark After Outage

It was very dark. Hertford residents ended their celebration of Mothers Day Sunday night when all of the lights went out in the town at 7:28 p.m.

The cause of the situation, which left streets dark, homes looking vacant, and stopped the hum of refrigerators and freezers, was a tree which knocked over a Virginia Electric Power Co. pole in the swampy area of Center Hill.

Sunday's weather provided high winds and a great deal of rain for Hertford, causing the tree to fall on the pole.

VEPCO sent two crews out, who worked all night, until power was restored at 5:13 a.m.

According to VEPCO's district manager, Steven Fields, after crewmen got the pole up, a shortage was noted causing more problems for the workers in the dark swampy area.

Nonetheless, workmen got power back. A portion of the townsfolk got power back about 9:31 p.m. after a tap line which feeds Hertford electricity was put back in operation.



TOGETHER—Kermit Layton, left, executive director of Albemarle Fireman's Association, and Jim Paige, chief of Emergency Medical Services of the N.C. Dept. of Human Resources discuss the activities of the Albemarle Fireman's Association.

Learning Never Stops For COA Adult Students

By KATHY M. NEWBERN
Staff Writer
Many area people are taking advantage of adult

education classes sponsored by the College of the Albemarle and held at the vocations building of

Perquimans County High School.

One class at first glance seemed to be a group of men bending over a large bath tub mixing up white mud pies. This was a class on brick masonry instructed by Walter Edward Askew, of Edenton. For the small registration fee of \$2, these men were learning a useful trade or a skill that will be handy around the house.

Minor materials are furnished by COA, and the bricks are used each year. Last Thursday night, the students were building what appeared to be the front of a house with windows, front door, steps included. This will be torn down and rebuilt in future classes.

Opposite the brick masonry, class a group of women were skillfully recovering chairs in the upholstery class. With supervision of Doris Toler, also from Edenton, students were giving a new look to old furniture. Each student purchases her own material, has it sewn and then fits it on her chair. The process is rather long since the chair has to be nearly rebuilt and then refinished.

Just a few doors down, those artistically inclined were making use of the class on "Oil Painting." The class is taught by Margaret Brewin of Hertford. Like the other classes, it is held two and one half hours on Tuesday and Thursday nights during the present spring quarter. This particular class has been offered three years. Included are beginners and returning students. The program is very flexible. For example, beginners are taught basic art such as color and design while those returning further develop their style.

In another classroom, students attentively studied. These people are enrolled in adult basic education. These and other programs allow people to receive an education equivalent to grades one - 12.

The adult education classes are offered to the general public and cover a variety of fields. Anyone 18 years of age or older is eligible to attend. In order for a class to be taught, at least 10 students must enroll. Some classes are for enjoyment while others can teach an occupation.



PILING IT ON—The two men in the foreground skillfully add another layer of brick while instructor Askew looks on. Brick masonry is one of the many adult education classes being taught at Perquimans County High School.



ANOTHER MICHELANGELO?—Ms. Margaret Brewin of Hertford advises Troy Harrison as he adds the finishing touches to his painting titled "Fruit of the Field". He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Harrison of Hertford and is enrolled in adult education classes with special permission. (Staff photos by Kathy Newbern)



GETTING A FACE LIFT—At left, Doris Toler instructs Ginny Koraska on the correct way to upholster her chair. When completed, the chair will enjoy its "face lift" while Ms. Koraska enjoys the satisfaction of accomplishment.

Courtroom Is Local Theater

By FRANCINE SAWYER

Perquimans County District Court is sometimes a circus at other times it is serious, sad, happy or just a place for spectators to watch their friends and neighbors go through the motions of justice.

The county district court is not any worse or any better than any other visited in Northeastern North Carolina. Here is how a recent session went:

There were 37 cases on the court docket that Wednesday morning. This was considered heavy. Sometimes there are less than 20 cases scheduled for court proceedings.

A man waiting for his driving under the influence case to be heard, grasps his glasses case, shuts his eyes hard and seems to be praying. His wife wears sunglasses.

Then there are the spectators. There is the large elderly woman who sits in the same third row seat each every other Wednesday morning and watches. She's never been in any trouble herself. She is lonely, has not much to do. She comes to court, she observes. Sometimes she smiles.

The clerk of court announces to the courtroom filled group court will be delayed. The judge is holding a special hearing. People shift in their seats. The talk turns into stage whispers. Lawyers in their summer suits talk and laugh with highway patrolmen.

The defendants, waiting for court to convene sit with vacant stares, some look bored, some seem scared. The praying man lights a cigarette.

Here comes the judge. "All rise" says the sheriff. He calls court to session. The judge sits behind the bench.

A young assistant district attorney with a red polka dot bow tie calls the cases. Some are not pros. Some people didn't show up. Some cases are thrown out. Toward the end of the calendar, the judge seems

tired and bored. Once he seems to nod off.

The court DA tells the judge he can't hear, there is too much racket.

The judge gets aggravated and tells the sheriff to get the courtroom quiet. The judge tells the sheriff "if anyone else talks, bring 'em here before me at the bench."

The courtroom is quiet. Justice continues.

River Takes Life

BETHEL—A man was taken from the Yeopim River Friday after what authorities cited as "suicide by drowning."

Charles Sumner Welch, 56, was found Friday morning after a search which began Wednesday.

Welch's widow notified officials that her husband was missing about 10:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The Elizabeth City Coast Guard, Perquimans, Chowan sheriff's departments, Bethel Volunteer Fire department, and neighbors searched for the missing man.

He was in the river approximately 48 hours.

According to investigating officers Welch left a suicide note.

He was under mental medical care treatment. Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Nancy Basnight Welch. He was a native of South Weymouth, Mass. He was a member of Tidewater Post 327 of the American Legion in Norfolk. He was a veteran of World War II.

Bethel VFD Hosts Meet

BETHEL — The Albemarle Firemen's Association had its quarterly meeting Tuesday night hosted by Bethel Volunteer Fire Department at Angler's Cove Restaurant.

There was good attendance from members of the Association coming from the Region "R" ten county area. The meeting was called to order by President Carlton Jackson.

Chief John Hobbs gave the opening welcome to the group of firemen. The Perquimans County AFA director, Billy White, introduced the guest members of Perquimans County Fire Commission. Kermit Layton, Jr., executive director of AFA, gave a progress report on the AFA Information & Mutual Aid Assistance Directory.

The directory will contain a Mutual Aid Data Sheet from the twenty member departments of the Association. Elwood Insoe, of the Dept. of Insurance in Raleigh, introduced the special guest speaker, Jim Page. Mr. Page is chief of the Emergency Medical Services program under the N.C. Dept. of Human Resources.

He began by citing experiences from the time he was a rookie fireman in California until he became Battalion Chief of a large Los Angeles Department. Soon after serving in this position, he began writing a book concerning fire command procedures.

He was consultant to the paramedic TV program "Emergency". After looking into the Emergency Medical Services program of many states, Mr. Page decided to work with North Carolina where he saw the most progress taking place. His program also touched briefly on the "911" concept for Regional Emergency Medical Service Communications. This number would allow any individual to dial 911 and contact

rescue squads, fire departments, etc. anywhere within the state.

Also present were Lin Hawkins, state coordinator for E.M.S. and Mack McKenney, representative of A.H.R.D.S.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tyrrell County in August.

Donated Funds

The following memorial gifts have been given to the Newbold-White House Fund:

Elsberry White, by Winslow Oil Co. Sally Baker, by Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Winslow, Frances and R. S. Monds, Charles Harrell, by Winslow Oil Co., Frances and R. S. Monds.

Virginia Webb, by Winslow Oil Co.

Sue White Pitt, by Frances and R. S. Monds, Winslow Oil Co. Thomas Tilley, by Winslow Oil Co.

Memorial gifts are set aside in a special fund which will be used for furnishing the Newbold-White House after the exterior is completed. Gifts are welcome all year round, and may be made by contacting Mrs. Jean P. Winslow, Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 42, Hertford. Recipients are sent a specially engraved acknowledgement card. All memorials are tax deductible.

PROMOTED

Marine PFC Thomas D. Kiper, whose wife Virginia is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon G. Ange of 515 Pennsylvania Ave., Hertford, was promoted to his present rank while serving at the Marine Corps Air Station here.