

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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20 CENTS

Snow... White stuff blankets county

More than two inches of snow fell on Perquimans County Saturday causing minor accidents and a few power outages.

The surprise snowfall began on Saturday morning and continued into the evening as temperatures hovered near and below freezing all day.

Chief Marshall Merritt reported one snow related accident in the town of Hertford, a minor rear end collision.

In the county, two accidents

occurred, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol, but both were minor and no injuries were reported.

The extreme temperatures caused rotten wires to fall on Whitehead Road, resulting in power outages in that section of the county.

The snow also caused power outages at Nixon's Beach and Holiday Island.

As of press time, however, all of the white stuff had melted and a steady rain was falling on the county.

Winfall may get insurance cut

A recent survey by the Insurance Services Office of North Carolina has resulted in a lower fire insurance classification for the town of Winfall.

Insurance Services reported that fire protection in Winfall had been improved to the extent that its

classification had been lowered to 8, from a previous 9A.

Winfall Volunteer Fire Department Chief Wayne Winslow said the lower classification could result in a savings of as much as 8 to 10 percent to the homeowner on fire insurance rates.

Public hearing

No changes yet in subdividing

State community assistance planner Keith Painter presented a plan which would allow the small developer to follow an abbreviated review procedure at a public hearing held on Monday to discuss possible changes in the county subdivision ordinance.

But no action was taken on those changes as the commissioners again hit a snag on when to require developers to hook on to the county water system.

In his presentation, Painter outlined a number of conditions that would have to be met in order for the subdivider to be eligible for the abbreviated review process.

If the subdivision consisted of four lots or less, included no new streets, required no new water line construction, and was expected to have no

negative impact on adjacent property, then it could be approved by the subdivision review officer, rather than requiring the approval of the planning board and, finally, the county commissioners.

The property owner would also have to secure all the necessary certificates (such as health department and CAMA) and prepare a plat that includes all required information.

Painter said that such an abbreviated review could be completed in one day, whereas the current review process takes from two to three months.

The commissioners appeared receptive to such an abbreviated review process, but the county water question was not so easily resolved.

At issue is when the



Snow ball game

Last Saturday's snow fall gave Perquimans kids an unexpected winter wonderland to romp in. Amanda Kornegay, Jeff Cain, David Cain, all of Hertford, and Camden visitor, Sean

Winchester (l-r), play football while Barney, the bundled up mascot, runs interference. (Photo by NOEL TODD McLAUGHLIN)

Pig pickin' will honor Hunt

Governor Jim Hunt will be the guest of honor at a pig-picking on Jan. 10 in Perquimans County.

Sponsored by the Perquimans County Democratic Committee to Re-elect Jim Hunt, the event will be held at the Angler's Cove Restaurant at 4:30 p.m. The event is announced by Wayne Ashley, Julian Broughton, and Ann Young, co-chairpersons of the local committee.

Hunt, who is seeking a

second term as governor, will address the group during the informal gathering and will be available for individual discussion as well. This will be the governor's first visit to Perquimans County in his reelection bid.

The public is invited to attend. Ticket prices are \$10 per person and are available from the committee chairpersons, all of Hertford, as well as from Hertford Mayor Bill Cox.

Cars collide, one injured

A head-on collision on Friday afternoon resulted in the serious injury of an Elizabeth City man.

The accident occurred 8 miles north of Hertford on U.S. 17 at 5:20 p.m., according to a N.C. Highway Patrol report.

Thomas Leroy Wills of Route 3, Hertford was traveling south in his 1975 Chrysler when a northbound

1976 Ford driven by Thomas Bennett Jewell of Elizabeth City turned in front of him.

Wills didn't see the car and his auto slammed into it, resulting in injury to Jewell and an estimated \$2,500 damage to both vehicles.

Jewell was transported to Albemarle Hospital.

Wills was charged with failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Dwellings burn

A pre-dawn fire in Bethel last Sunday virtually destroyed a three-apartment building belonging to Henderson resident Charles Gardner.

Insurance adjustors are presently investigating the cause of the blaze.

The Bethel Volunteer Fire Department received a call at approximately 3 that morning but upon arrival, found the building totally engulfed in flames, according to depart-

ment member Lee Brabble. Brabble estimated the building to have been totally destroyed.

Bethel fire chief Donald Hobbs said the apartment at one end and the apartment in the middle of the building were destroyed, while the apartment on the other end of the building suffered smoke damage.

The building was located off the entrance drive of the Bethel Fishing Center.

Suspects held

Two Hertford youths have been arrested and charged with second degree burglary and larceny in connection with a break-in at the home of Elizabeth Gregory of 307 Gum Street on Dec. 30.

Kent Wayne Felton, 16, of 206 King Street and Link O'Neal, Jr., 18, of 102 White Street are charged with the break-in and theft, according to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt.

A .32 pistol, a Timex watch, and a family photo album were taken from the home, Merritt said, but so far only

the photo album has been recovered.

He said that the youths were charged with second degree burglary, rather than breaking, entering and larceny, because the break-in occurred at night.

A conviction on second degree burglary carries a minimum sentence of 7 years imprisonment and a maximum of life.

Both youths are confined in the Albemarle District Jail under \$2,000 bond with a probable cause hearing set Jan. 16.

NRHDA

Clinic project explained

In an attempt to quell any "lack of understanding" Hertford's Town Council might have in regards to the Northeastern Rural Health Development Association, Andrew J. Martin, NRHDA's administrator, appeared before the board at its regular monthly meeting last Monday.

NRHDA is a federally funded health group trying to operate medical clinics in Perquimans and Bertie counties, and presently is in operation in Tyrrell County.

Summarizing NRHDA's history, Martin explained that although the project was originally the "child" of Dr. Clement Lucas, the health group no longer had any association with him because the nature of their present funding does not sanction an association with a private practicing physician.

Martin further explained NRHDA's subsequent board reorganization as an attempt

to represent, with an equal ratio, black and female factions of the community. A move, he explained, which forced Hertford Mayor Bill Cox out of the position he previously had on NRHDA's governing board.

"It has been difficult for people to understand the change (of the governing board) so lately we've been devoting our full time to making people understand (the changes) and applying for grants.

Although NRHDA has suffered funding setbacks at the hands of the ARPDC A-95 Clearinghouse Committee and also with Eastern Carolina Health Systems Agency, both of which refused funding recommendations, Martin said that an application is presently under consideration with a review committee in Atlanta and that a decision will be made sometime after January 14.

"We are striving for a waiver allowing us an association with Albemarle Family Health Health for call

"We will search for additional monies if the federal door is closed," said Martin who conceded that, "if they (other sources of funding) close their doors, then we could potentially close down."

Martin stressed that NRHDA's plans to operate a primary care medical clinic in Perquimans County was in no way competitive in nature with existing medical facilities and area hospitals, emphasizing only NRHDA's intent to supply full time doctor service for the area.

Martin admitted, however, that one of the possible two doctors that have been recruited for the project has elected to live in Edenton, a situation that could possibly limit the intended 24-hour service to the area.

"We are striving for a waiver allowing us an association with Albemarle Family Health Health for call

purposes though," said Martin.

According to Martin, it is the 24-hour aspect of the job which makes it difficult to recruit doctors to rural areas.

In another matter, the council expressed their support of Operation Overcharge, a group formed by the local Chambers of Commerce in northeastern North Carolina to combat exorbitant electric rates charged by VEPCO.

The council will endorse Operation Overcharge's petition effort and will also contribute \$125 toward the \$300 Perquimans County is responsible for toward Overcharge's administrative costs.

Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt reported that although parking to the left of the curb in the business

public relations campaign," Martin said, adding, "It's really hurt us."

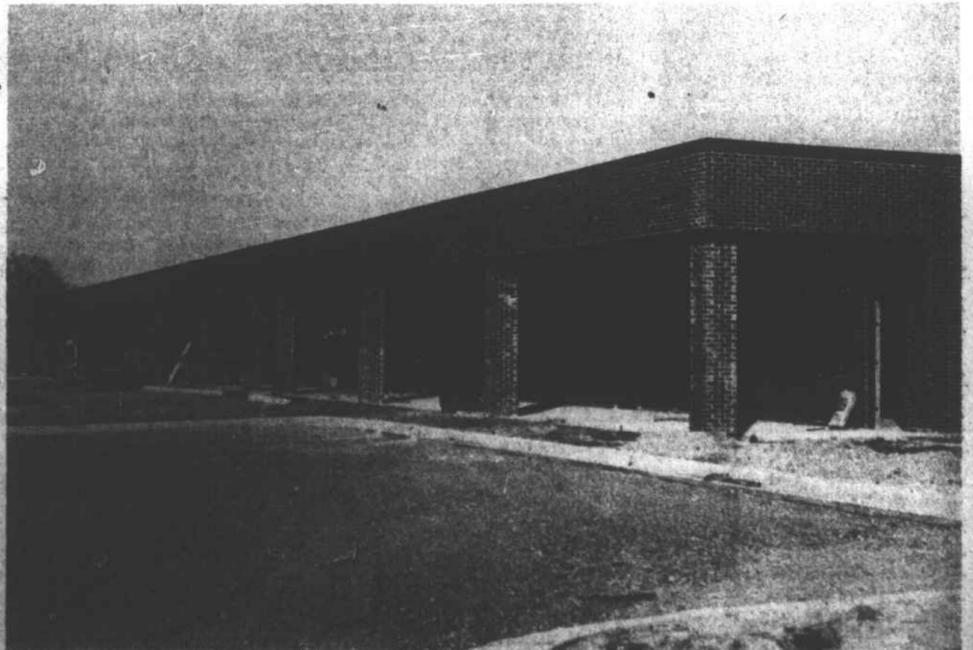
He said that the objective of NRHDA is to bring 24-hour health care to the counties it serves.

Hospitals and private practitioners have generated opposition to the program because they fear it will detract from their businesses, Martin said, a fear which he feels is unjustified.

"My philosophy is take the health care to the people," Martin said, "put it in the population centers."

In addition, he said that because of a new type of funding program NRHDA is seeking to operate under, it would no longer be affiliated with Albemarle Family Practice (except, possibly, on an on-call basis). Its prior association with the private medical clinic has generated criticism in the past.

Bids will be taken on



New addition

The million dollar addition to Perquimans High School is two thirds completed and should be ready for occupancy in March.

Included in the addition are 12 new classrooms, an expanded and renovated library, and two renovated locker rooms.

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