

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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A five inch snowfall that began late Wednesday night and continued into Thursday morning shut down Perquimans County Schools

on Thursday and Friday of last week and put them on a one hour delayed opening schedule on Monday. Some town and county

businesses were closed on Thursday but were able to re-open on Friday. The storm was followed by the coldest temperatures of

the year, and as of press time, much of the snow was still on the ground.

Only once since the snowfall

did highs rise above the freezing mark, and on Sunday, temperatures reached a chilling 11 degrees.

A long range forecast however, has called for a warming trend with some form of precipitation possible

on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week.

The snow resulted in hazardous driving conditions

on Perquimans County roads but only minor accidents were reported by the N. C. Highway Patrol.

Dressed in frigid white



Shoveling it

Last week's snow meant a vacation from school for sixth grader Arlo Eason. But there was still a little work to do. His

sister Donna waited eagerly for him to finish shoveling because the next task was a more pleasant one: building a

snowman. (Photo by MIKE McLAUGHLIN)

Baker not running

Late filing flurry swells race

A total of nine candidates joined the race for elected office during the last week of filing at the Perquimans County Board of Elections office, swelling the total number of candidates to 18 for only six available offices.

But when the flurry of filing was over incumbent school board member George Baker was not among the candidates. Baker, of the Parkville District, has decided to step down after 16 years of service.

"I hadn't planned on running," Baker said, adding "I've been on there a right good while and decided it was time to step down."

He said he had been thinking of stepping aside for some time and no recent developments had contributed to the move.

Several candidates will vie for Baker's vacated seat. They include Janice Y. Boyce, Clifford P. Towe and Edward E. Brown, Jr.

In the Bethel Township, however, incumbent school board member Emmett Long was the only candidate to file.

There is no shortage of competition in the Hertford Township, though, as Preston Stevenson, George White, Gilliam (Gill) Underwood and Edward (Ed) Nixon have all jumped in the race.

Four candidates have filed for the District I commissioner's seat currently held by Lester Simpson. They include Simpson, Lee Brabble,

Margaret Stowe Garrison and John London.

Two commissioners will be elected from District II, and incumbents Joseph W. Nowell, Jr. and Waldo Winslow, must fend off a challenge from democrats Charles H. Ward and Billy L. Pierce.

Wayne Winslow also filed for a District II seat and was the sole Republican to file for any partisan office.

Incumbent Jeanne C. White was the only candidate to file

for the office of Perquimans County Register of Deeds.

And Lenoard W. Overman became the only Perquimans County resident to join the race for the state house of representatives.

Voters may register at the board of elections office in the county office building (old agriculture building) on Dobbs Street. Registration closes April 7 for the May primary.

High school land purchase near

The Perquimans County Board of Education will offer \$69,500 for three tracts of land known as the Urquhart property, all located adjacent to the county high school, which the board has been seeking to purchase for the past five years.

The county commissioners authorized the offer after a meeting with schools superintendent Pat Harrell on Monday morning.

Originally sought for expansion of parking and athletic facilities at the high school, the 18.5 acres became tied up in litigation after school officials and heirs to the property could not agree on a price.

Recent developments, however, have led school officials to speculate that they

are "closer than ever" to reaching an agreement.

Another topic of discussion at Monday's commissioners meeting was the county water department.

D.F. Reed, Jr., county finance officer, reported that expenses had been higher than usual in the department for the month of January, and that collections had been lower than usual.

In particular, Reed pointed to a bill for more than \$1000 for the installation of radio equipment, and asked whether its purchase had been authorized. Commissioner Waldo Winslow looked through a bound volume of minutes from past meetings and could not find

authorization for the purchase.

Board members also claimed that water department employees had been driving county trucks home from work and agreed that the practice should be stopped.

"Some way or another we need to see if we can cut down on expenses in the water department," said commissioner Lester Simpson.

Wayne Floyd of Rivers and Associates, the firm that designed the system, said that he would devise a system whereby expenses can be recorded at the water department as they are incurred.

Floyd said, however, that department expenditures should soon reflect a decrease, with the recent installation of

a bulk salt storage tank. The salt, used in the water treatment process, had previously been purchased by the bag.

Reed also reported that more than \$1 million in current taxes had been collected to date, a figure representing more than 90 percent of the total levy for the county.

"Keith (Haskett) has done a good job on taxes," Reed said. "There's no doubt about that."

In other action, Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce president Henry Carney requested that the county pay \$175 of a \$500 fuel adjustment charge levied VEPCO on the chamber office's electric bill during 1979.

Carney said the town of Hertford is pitching in \$200

and the chamber would absorb the rest. The commissioners, however, took no action on the request.

The commissioners also passed a resolution seeking more local control over the issuance of septic tank permits and another resolution seeking the establishment of the Hertford-Winfall area as a growth center under the governor's balanced growth policy.

In addition, the commissioners accepted a bid for \$350 on a 1975 Ford patrol car from Sheriff Julian Broughton.

Several bids had been rejected at previous meetings because the commissioners had determined them to be too low.

Three year wait

Red tape tangles park plans

The summer of 1979, the projected completion date of the Hertford waterfront park, is long gone, and bidding delays continue to hold up construction.

Although a time lapse between the initiation of a project and actual construction is normal to allow for bid opening and letting, it has been almost three years since the waterfront park was conceived and still no construction has begun.

Plans for the park began in Feb. of 1977, two months before the town acquired the property site for the park in April of that year.

Hertford town manager and mayor Bill Cox attributed the delay to all the red-tape involved in legally accepting construction bids.

The first bids, submitted on Jan. 4, 1978, couldn't be opened because the law requires that no less than three bids be submitted upon initial advertisement. Only two were submitted.

The second bid opening occurred on March 1, 1979, with all bids exceeding the amount of funding available.

Following the second bid opening, the park was redesigned which, in turn, required that the bidding process begin all over again.

The revised waterfront park plans included the elimination of bulk heading, a boat basin, and a multi-purpose court from Site A, which consists of approximately 4.7 acres located behind the recreation department's building on Grubb St. This portion of the

site is to house picnic table and shelters.

Among the revisions for Site B of the park, to be located where the town boat ramp is presently, was the sealing down of the intended boat ramp to provide capacity equal to the existing ramp.

Bids submitted on Dec. 3, 1979 couldn't be opened because only two were made.

The last bid opening on Jan. 11, 1980, yielded only one properly submitted bid with

all others exceeding the budget.

Another readvertisement for bids is presently underway.

Despite the lengthy delay, Cox said that the estimated \$208,000 cost of the park had not changed.

Cox estimated that the cost of construction had risen approximately 30-40 percent since the plan was conceived.

"Even with this increase I feel that we can get the work

done with the allotted funding," said Cox, who added that the luxury items had been eliminated from the park plans.

Funding monies have come from the town of Hertford and from a \$47,400 grant acquired from the Coastal Plains Regional Commission through the Resource Conservation and Development program.

Cox said that Site B of the park could be completed by late spring and that Site A "could possibly be completed within 1980."



Firemen honored

L. Paul Smith, Jr. (l), was named Fireman of the Year and Dwayne Hurdle was

awarded for meritorious service at the Winfall Volunteer Fire Department's

annual banquet held recently at Angler's Cove. (Photo by MIKE McLAUGHLIN)

NRHDA turned down, will appeal decision

The Northeastern Rural Health Development Association was denied a request for \$200,000 in federal funds by the Atlanta regional office of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare last week.

NRHDA is a nonprofit, private corporation trying to establish medical clinics in Perquimans and Bertie counties.

Walter T. White, NRHDA chairman, said that the association hopes HEW will

rescind their decision upon an appeal application which NRHDA plans to submit sometime this week.

According to White, two of the three reasons given for HEW's refusal of the application were invalid.

The first reason cited the Eastern Carolina Health System Agency's disapproval and was the only valid premise made by HEW, said White.

The second reason, reprimanding NRHDA for not

severing ties with Albemarle Family Practices, Inc., was incorrect, according to White.

"The only association we have with Albemarle Family Practice is in the sharing of doctors," said White who noted a letter from the Health

Service Corporation allowing the two doctors commissioned by NRHDA to share call duties with doctors of the Albemarle Family Practice.

And HEW's third reason for refusing the funding was based on a supposed lack of

community support. "That just is not true," said White, adding he had in writing support from the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners, from Hert-

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