



Go fly a kite

Friday afternoon was just perfect for kite flying, and youngsters from Three Bears Day Care gave it a try in

the park with kites they made themselves. Cristie Reed (left) proved a master at keeping her kite in

the air after Donna Haskett helped her to get it there, and Chris Hare (right) learned that one good way to

keep a kite flying is to keep the feet moving.

County should hire director, says state rep.

A representative of the North Carolina Department of Commerce advocates the hiring of a director to help coordinate Perquimans County's efforts to attract industry to the area.

Roger A. Critcher Jr., regional industrial development representative, told members of the Perquimans County Industrial Development Commission at a Monday night meeting at Angler's Cove that the county needed to hire a full time director to help attract prospective businesses.

"You have no one over here going up to Raleigh to fight you battles," said Critcher, "and you need somebody."

Critcher told the group that he felt the "odds were against" an industry choosing Perquimans County over the state's metropolitan areas. "You're competing with Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston-Salem and places like that," said Critcher, adding "You have got to sell Hertford."

One way of competing with larger areas, according to Critcher, was to combine forces with surrounding counties. "Regionalism is one way to

compete — if you combine all your monies in one pot you might get something accomplished," he said.

He advised the commission to identify what type of industry would be suitable to the area, and to identify the potential labor force. "Ask yourself, 'where are we going?'" said Critcher.

One prospective industry interested in the Hertford area was scared away when a town resident told company representatives that the labor force was poor, said Critcher, who added, "You can't let that happen again."

The commission also heard from representatives of College of the Albemarle. Dennis Burgess, director of occupational education at COA, outlined vocational and technical programs available at the college, and told members that many of the courses could be slanted to suit a particular industry's training needs.

Pam Whitley, assistant to COA president, described options available at the college for putting together brochures and booklets designed to aid in attracting industry to the area.

Squad, Coast Guard team up in rescue effort

It was like something out of a television drama on paramedics.

The Perquimans County Rescue Squad was dispatched to an accident in the Four Mile Desert area of the county. Squad members John Danchise and Jack Symons wound up riding a logging machine a mile deep into the woods on a swampy, bumpy path, to a man who had been seriously injured in a logging accident.

The trouble was, there was no way to get him out without injuring him further. Danchise thought of calling the Coast Guard, and though the accident had little to do with the coast, the Guard responded quickly.

Within 15 minutes, Danchise said a helicopter was hovering over a brief break in the woods, and the victim, 24-year-old Keith Weathersby, was being hoisted up in a Stokes Basket.

Less than five minutes later the chopper was well on its way to Albemarle Hospital where medical attention waited, Danchise said.

The whole thing started at 9:15 on Tuesday morning when the call first came in. Symons and Danchise responded, and they followed a logger deep into the woods in the ambulance. Symons said the road was muddy, and only the positive traction got him through. He went over a couple of

wooden logging bridges that were really touch and go.

Finally they went as far as the ambulance could go, and from there C.D. Lamb of Lamb and Stevenson Logging Company took them to the injured man on a Franklin Logger.

That was an extremely rough ride. Down in holes, up over logs. "I thought that boy was going to turn that timberjack over," said Symons.

He got off once to walk and sunk up to his knees. He got back on. "That was nothing in the world but just marshland," said Symons.

When the two men got to the victim

they realized there was going to be difficulty.

Witnesses said Weathersby had been standing on the ground sawing with a chainsaw when he was thrown backwards and got tangled up with a tree that had already been felled.

He was lying between two fallen trees and complained of pains in his back, left leg, chest, and lower abdomen. "It threw him straddle a log and messed up his groin a little bit," said Symons.

Symons and Danchise had brought along a backboard and other rescue equipment, but there was no way to carry the man back out for a mile through the mud.

"If the path had been a good path we'd of had a job carrying him out," said Danchise.

The only other option was to take him out on the timber jack but that was too rough a ride for a man with a possible back injury. "We were concerned about injuring him further," said Danchise.

So the decision was made to call the Coast Guard, and the organization came through like a champ.

Perquimans County Sheriff's Department Deputy Joe Lothian was one of the few who could figure out where the men were and led the helicopter to the spot in his patrol car.

Symons had the lights on the am-

balance flashing and a logger waved a stick with a pillow case on it. The group was spotted on the helicopter's third pass over the area, Danchise said.

"It was the first time we've been in a position where we couldn't get to the man," said Danchise. "We just want to thank the Coast Guard for their quick and efficient help."

Symons, for one, was hoping such a situation would not arise again. "It was an experience I don't want anymore. That's when they need some young ones. When you get to be 52 years-old you don't have any business back in the woods like that."

Weathersby was released from the hospital on Sunday.

Abuse, neglect make tough work

Statistically, child abuse and neglect are on the increase in North Carolina, and the same appears to be true for Perquimans County.

"We're getting more reports now than ever before," said county social services director Paul Gregory.

The department follows up immediately on those reports, Gregory said, and in the vast majority of cases, they don't turn out to be cause for real alarm.

"Most (reports) are unsubstantiated," said Gregory. "There is usually a problem there, but it's one we can work with."

Relatively speaking, Gregory said he didn't think there is a great deal of child abuse and neglect here, but he qualified his answer.

"For the small county we are, I wouldn't say so, however one is too many," Gregory said.

Figures provided in a press release from the state Department of Human Resources indicate that abuse and neglect are on the rise.

"During fiscal year 1979-80, these social workers investigated 25,000 suspected cases of child abuse and neglect reported to county social services departments as required by the law. After these investigations, it was determined that protective services were needed for 11,000 of these children," reads the release.

"The number of children identified as victims of abuse and neglect represented a 27 percent increase over the previous year," it states.

And as a social worker, walking into a home in which an instance of child abuse or neglect has been reported can be a sticky situation.

Intervening in a problem home is

simply a tough job, says the Department of Human Resources. Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. apparently agrees.

He has declared April 5-10 "Child Protective Services Worker Recognition Week" in North Carolina.

Gregory said that even though the workers are professionally trained to deal with problem situations, the job can be trying. "No job's gonna be easy," Gregory said, "especially if you find a child that's been abused — gosh, it's heartbreaking."

In his four years as director, Gregory said the department hasn't found a case of serious abuse. "That doesn't mean there hasn't been one," he said.

Gregory maintained that there are still people who are afraid to report cases of abuse and neglect because they don't understand that their confidentiality is completely protected.

"We don't even tell the family when we go into a home," said Gregory.

When the department receives a report of alleged neglect, it has 72 hours to conduct an in-home visit. In cases of abuse, the law requires a visit within 48 hours of the report.

Social services tries to react much more quickly. "We're usually there within two hours," said Gregory. Gregory makes the visits himself on nights and weekends.

Cases in which social services takes custody of a child are exceedingly rare, Gregory said, and he sees taking custody as a last resort measure. In such cases, though, the child is placed in a foster home.

The in-home investigation begins with a frank disclosure of the reason for the visit. "We open by telling him the truth," said Gregory. "You've got to build trust so you can work with a parent."

The ultimate aim of the social worker, Gregory said, is to aid in the creation of a healthy family atmosphere in the child's own home.

This week

- A Hertford resident is a pioneer in prepared childbirth — see page 3
- Fairy tales hold lessons for adults — see page 4
- Supermarket says no to seniors — see page 5

Weather word

Fair weather Thursday, chance of showers late Friday and on Saturday. Highs 60s to lower 70s, lows in 40s to 50s.

Holiday Island raises lot assessments

By JACK GROVE
Ed Allen, Holiday Island budget committee chairman, gave a one-hour presentation of a proposed budget which represented an increase of \$161,467 over last year's budget at a property owner's meeting last Sunday.

The sizeable budget increase included a raise in assessments per lot. Residential lot assessments increase from \$100 to \$125 and camping lots from \$140 to \$160, both up \$20. (The charge to camping lot owners includes an annual charge of \$30 for water and \$25 for electricity. Residential lot owners have separate bills for these services.)

In a departure from the policy of previous years, Allen announced that club memberships would be available to the general public. In doing so he pointed out the lack of swimming pools in Perquimans and neighboring counties.

The club memberships will be available for an initiation fee of \$50 and dues of \$300 per year.

After a question and answer session, the proposed budget was adopted by property owners by a vote of 69 to 50.

The approved budget represents a total of \$264,273 for expenditures beginning May 1, 1981. Last year's budget totaled \$223,806.

Highlights of the new budget include snack bar, \$10,275; marina, \$29,656; bad debts, \$26,500; capital outlays (mostly new equipment), \$61,000; five percent reserve \$16,400; loan repayment, \$15,000; water co. \$35,660; pools, \$24,251; general maintenance \$46,480; sewage plant, \$5,719; and roads \$12,336.

The budget meeting started on an uncertain note when Allen told the assemblage that the tentative budget resolution should have been mailed to property owners along with the call for the meeting. This requirement was embodied in a 1978 policy resolution of the board.



Sold!

Alice Brewin makes a sale to Joe Henry Bagley at the flower stand she set up in Hertford last Thursday. The price? A great big 25 cents.

Due to this oversight, Allen said another meeting would have to be held in April. After some discussion and a 30 minute recess, property owners voted unanimously to set aside this requirement for this year's meeting only.

During his presentation of the budget, Allen quipped, "I have already received two packages. One had tar in it. The other had feathers."

One property owner wanted to know why such a large budget increase was being presented when no budget changes had taken place in the last three years. Allen cited inflation as the main reason for this year's increase and pointed out

that an increase had been voted down last year.

Others voiced concerns about the bad debts item. Allen countered by saying that "In every business there are some bad debts." He also said that management was aggressively working to reduce them.

It was also announced at the meeting that Forest Myers has been hired as general manager. Myers, a board member, has been acting general manager since the resignation of William Jeffress in January. As general manager, Myers vacates his seat on the Board of Governors.