

Perquimans man charged with extortion

A Perquimans County man was arrested Thursday night and charged with three counts of extortion after he threatened to kill his estranged wife, her attorney and a District Court judge.

Michael Allen Walker, 28, of Durants Neck, was apprehended by the Perquimans County Sheriff's

Department, the State Bureau of Investigation, and the Highway Patrol, according to Perquimans County Sheriff Julian Broughton.

Walker had told his attorney, Walter Edwards Jr., about the threats. Edwards said that he, following the code of professional responsibility and his client's in-

struction, reported Walker's threats to the wife's attorney.

Walker had threatened to accomplish these killings through the use of explosives, if a civil court hearing between he and his wife did not result in his favor, said Broughton.

Walker had been scheduled to

appear in Pasquotank District Court at a contempt hearing for failure to pay child support and alimony, but the case was continued.

According to Broughton, when Walker was arrested, a large pipe bomb was discovered inside his truck, and as several concealed, deadly weapons were found in his

possession.

Three additional pipe bombs, numerous electrical detonator devices, equipment for manufacturing gun powder and a sawed-off shotgun were seized following a search of Walker's residence by the sheriff's department and the SBI.

All four pipe bombs, made up of pipes filled with gun powder and

detonators, were completely assembled and ready for use said Sheriff Broughton. The bombs were disarmed by an SBI bomb squad.

Walker is currently incarcerated in the Albemarle District Jail under \$900,000 bond. According to Broughton the investigation is continuing and additional charges are pending.

Phase II well sites show ample water

By VAL SHORT

A Phase II county water project test well in Winfall is pumping 400 gallons per minute, according to reports made by Ron Sessoms of Rivers and Associates to the Perquimans County Commissioners Monday morning.

Another test well at the Winfall location is pumping 165 gallons per minute and according to Sessoms, an average of 150 gallons per minute is needed for an adequate water supply.

Sessoms told board members that the well drillers would be ready to begin as soon as he received tests results made on the water samples. He reported that no pipe had been laid because of the wet weather.

Sessoms and board members told Joe Robinson of New Hope that residents should be on county water before next winter. "We can't really give a date," said Sessoms, "It's been too wet to lay pipe, but as soon as it clears, we will start laying pipe."

No action was taken on the proposed hunting ban with dogs and trucks in the Bethel and Harvey Point areas. The Board tabled the discussion until the next regular meeting.

The board approved a budget amendment for the Perquimans County Department of Social Services. Director Paul Gregory requested \$1,973 to be used for a seven month social work and food stamp position.

Gregory explained that this was not actually an increase because the department was under budget in several areas. He said he anticipates being able to turn funds back into the county at the end of the fiscal year.

Gregory reported that approximately \$85,000 in federal funds had come into the county to assist with energy needs. He said the county had received an additional \$2,000 in foster care funds and that the county case loads are down from past years.

The director told the board that Perquimans County had 552 food stamp cases as of January 1982 and 465 were reported by January 1983. Gregory said good verification and stricter requirements were two reasons for this.

Gregory reported that the county agency had recently been audited and had received a good report with only minor changes requested.

County Extension Chairman Bill Jester presented an update on Ex-

tension activities in the county. Jester announced plans for a peanut production meeting, the Perquimans-Chowan vegetable meeting, a swine supper, field crops meeting, cotton production meeting and an executive farm seminar.

Jester told the board that quarterly training sessions were being held for county 4-H leaders and he announced the Northeastern District 4-H Horse Show will be hosted by Perquimans County next summer.

Extension homemaker activities reported by Jester included programs in the use and care of food processors and coping with disabilities.

Commissioner Charles Ward was appointed to fill the seat of ex-officio member of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce board. Chamber president Mary Harrell appeared before the board requesting an appointment to the Chamber and asked the Commissioners' cooperation in Chamber activities.

"It's going to take all of us working together," Harrell commented.

Perquimans County Rescue Squad members Annice Peckham and Milton Dail requested the county set up a retirement account for members who also serve on fire departments and are covered under a fireman's pension plan. Peckham explained that members cannot collect twice under the state system.

No action was taken on the request, but the Board approved another request to give credit in the retirement system to any former rescue squad members who had rejoined before June 1982.

Board members voted to give Skills, Inc. \$500. Jimmy Weeks, Skills, Inc. president had requested \$1,050 from the county to help extend the budget of the sheltered workshop program.

Commissioner Welly White reported to the board that the county Dispatch Board had voted to add the new Winfall Police Department to the dispatch system for a \$4,500 fee. White said the board had agreed to provide dispatch service at no charge until July 1, 1983.

The County Commissioners reappointed Bob Spivey to the board of the Albemarle District Jail for a two year term.



It's cold in Perquimans County as this photograph of

the icy waters of the Perquimans River may in-

dicate. Frozen to the water's edge, these boats will

probably not travel far until Spring.

Hertford Grammar School gets nod of approval from school board members

By VAL SHORT

Continuing their tour of the Perquimans County Schools, members of the County Board of Education were pleased with what they saw at Hertford Grammar School Monday afternoon.

Board chairman Clifford Winslow said he was pleased not to see signs of leaks at the school. "Overall, I'm impressed with Hertford Grammar School. I think it looks really good," Winslow commented.

Announcing the finalizing of the window replacement project at Perquimans Union, Superintendent Pat Harrell told the Board of other capital outlay projects that would be necessary including renovation of the high school auditorium and the library at Central.

Also on the list were repairs of the ceiling, walls and floors at the high

school as well as purchases of furniture and chalk boards and a mower.

The Board agreed that the auditorium renovation and purchase of a mower were priorities.

In his legislative report Harrell told board members that people were "very optimistic" about Senator Ken Royal's bill to increase sales tax by one cent. Harrell said the increase will provide funds for school construction which could mean approximately \$160,000 for Perquimans County.

Harrell told the board that school bus driver training representatives now had the authority to approach a bus at its next stop, hold the bus and contact a school official when he observed a problem. Harrell said the county bus drivers had been alerted.

"The state is concerned with safety as we all are," said Harrell, who also

told the board that the county bus drivers had no chargeable accidents last year and the first five months of this year. He said a bus driver was charged in a recent accident involving a parked car.

Harrell gave a report on the law conference he recently attended at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill with attorney John Matthews. Custody cases, search and seizure laws, health law issues and use of school facilities by outside groups were among the topics discussed said Harrell.

The chairman presented a report of the National School Boards Association Federal Networks meeting he attended in Washington. He said federal funding, tuition tax credits, a department of education and the national education and economic development bill were important issues at the meeting.

While in Washington Winslow was able to talk with Congressman Walter B. Jones about educational issues, he told the board.

In other business at the Board of Education meeting:

- Harrell announced the arrival of a school bus with a lift.

- Harrell announced champagne colored panels had been selected for the window replacement project at Perquimans Union.

- the board discussed participation in the PIK program, sponsored by the ASCS.

- the board approved the resignation of Valerie K. Price, tutorial aide at Hertford Grammar School and the employment of Jean Chappell as interim tutorial aide.

- the board granted six weeks sick leave to Claudia Hurdje, aide at Central.



Mrs. Sarah Meads' sixth grade class at Hertford Grammar School recently received a certificate from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for their participation in a cherry-

dogwood seed exchange between the United States and Japan. The class collected 8,000 seeds for the project. Among those participating were: left to right,

Nicky Morgan, Robert Boyce, Duane McDilda, Jay Corprew, Mrs. Meads, Amy Lavezzo, Darby Ward, Teresa Powers and Lisa Matthews.

Local man dies in shooting

A 36 year old Hertford man died Monday after being shot in the head while standing outside a Currituck County nightclub Saturday morning.

According to Currituck County Sheriff Norman Newbern, Clarence Hinton McPherson, of Route 3, apparently accidentally shot himself just below his ear while standing outside the Watering Hole, a nightclub located on the U.S. 158 near Barco.

Although the case is still under investigation by the Currituck County Sheriff's Department, Newbern said, "Unless new evidence comes up, it was accidental."

According to Newbern, his department received a report around 12:47 A.M. Saturday from the nightclub. McPherson was taken to Albemarle Hospital by the Currituck Rescue Squad and later transported to Norfolk General Hospital where he died Monday morning.

A native of Camden County, he was the son of Mrs. Ruth Kight McPherson of Camden and the late William Douglas McPherson and the husband of Mrs. Linda Perry McPherson.

He was employed by the E.S. White and Son Deep Well Drilling Co. of Camden.

Besides his wife and mother, he is survived by a daughter, Melissa Colleen McPherson, and two sons, Jonathan Perry McPherson and Andrew Ryan McPherson, all of the home; two brothers, William Douglas McPherson, Jr. of Elizabeth City and Ronald Glenn McPherson of Camden.

Swindell Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements but funeral arrangements were incomplete at press time.

The family requests no flowers. Contributions may be made to either the Perquimans County or Pasquotank County rescue squads.

Chamber to appoint new director

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce is still searching for a new director and vice president, according to Chamber president Mary Harrell. But no decision was reached at Monday night's board of directors meeting.

The appointment will be made by the board, according to Harrell, to fill

the post vacated by Allan Asbell, who resigned his positions with the Chamber and the Bank of North Carolina to accept a position in Kinston.

Belvidere director Shirley Perry reported on the public hearing held in Elizabeth City recently on the proposed telephone rate increases.

Perry served as spokesperson for the Perquimans Chamber. She told the Chamber board that she presented issues that would effect the people of Perquimans.

Harrell presented a report to the board on the meeting she attended

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