

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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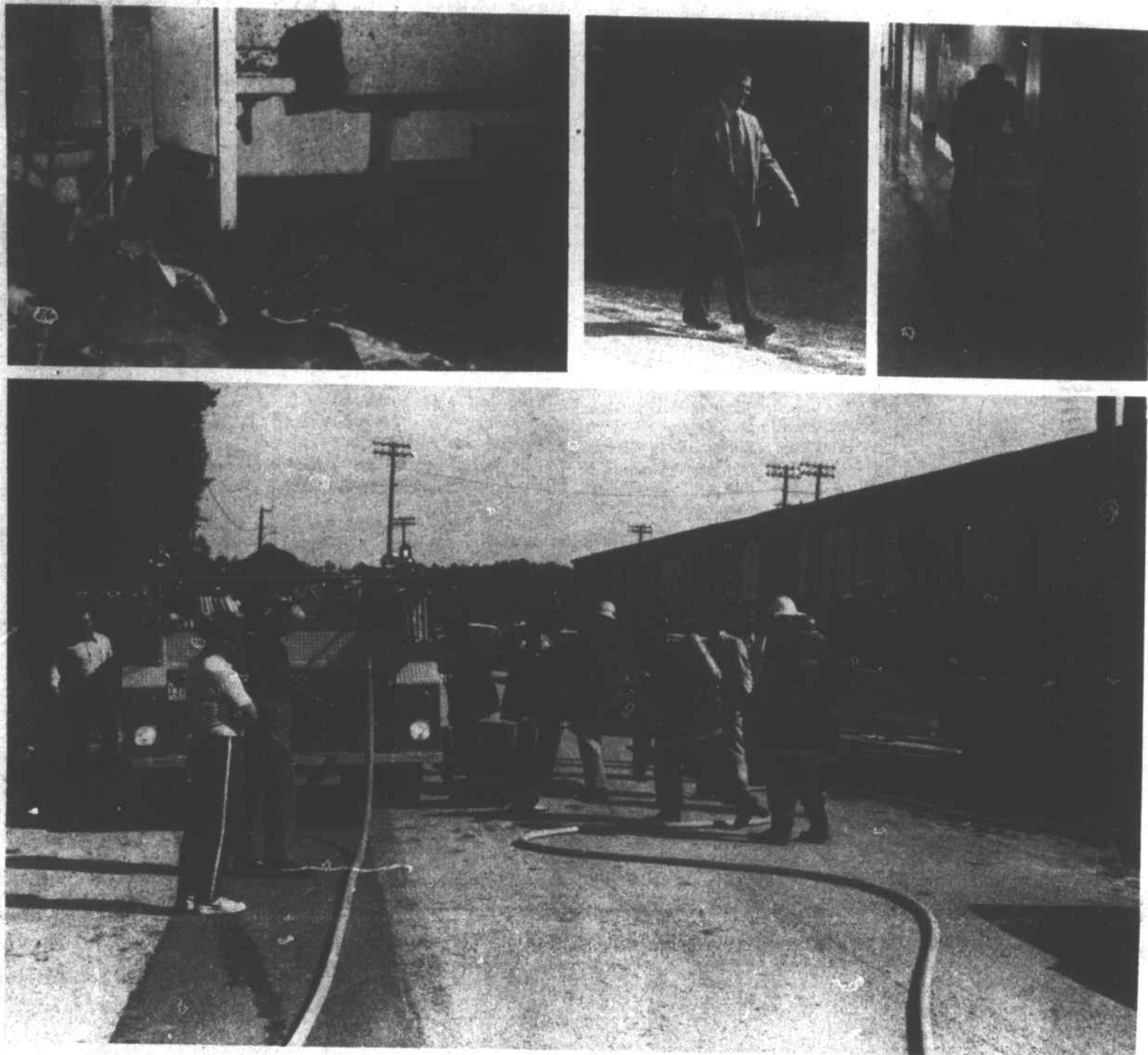
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Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, October 20, 1983

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## Extensive damage reported

# Union School fire being probed



By JANE WILLIAMS

The Winfall Volunteer Fire Department responded at 11:47 a.m. Monday to a fire in the boys' locker room at Perquimans Union School.

The fire was contained in that room with smoke damage throughout the building.

School Superintendent Pat Harrell commended the quick action taken by school personnel in combating the fire and evacuating the students.

According to Union School Principal Gary Stubbins the 434 students in attendance were evacuated in 50 seconds.

Winfall Fire Chief Wayne Winslow said the fire was contained to the locker room, totally destroying that room and most of the school's athletic equipment. He estimated damages to be between 25 and 30 thousand dollars.

"Most of the flame had been put out by school personnel," Winslow said.

"The biggest problem we had was overcoming the heavy smoke that occurred when the fiberglass shower stalls ignited. The fire was out in about ten minutes, but it took about

three hours to clear the building of smoke so we could get inside and see what was going on," he said.

Winslow said that the fire was of suspicious origin and that it was one of several set that day at the school.

"The first fire occurred between 8:00 and 8:15 that morning in a trash can located in a bathroom in the east wing of the school. That fire was extinguished by Stubbins," Winslow said.

"At approximately the same time the fire was ignited in the locker room another fire was started in a trash can located in a bathroom in the west wing of the building. It was also discovered that a piece of cardboard had been ignited on the stage area of the gym. This fire extinguished itself," Winslow said.

The fire is being investigated by the SBI and the Winfall Police Department.

Winslow commented that his department received a lot of help from both the Hertford and Belvidere departments. "We also had response from Inter-County, Edenton and Elizabeth City departments.

## Commissioners discuss Community Work Program

By JANE WILLIAMS

Monday night during their regular session the Perquimans County Commissioners were introduced to Betty Heath by Perquimans County Magistrate Broughton Dail.

Heath has been employed by the State as a Co-ordinator of the Community Works Program for the New System under the DWI law.

Heath and her associate, Barbara Woods, will work within a seven county area through the court system. Their function will be to place violators of the DWI law in community work programs.

Immediately after their court hearing, offenders that are found guilty will be interviewed by either Heath or Woods to determine their available talents for community service work.

Heath told the Commissioners that State Statutes required that each individual county provide office space, equipment and a secretary for the Co-ordinators. She told the Commissioners that they did not want an office in each of the seven counties they would serve, but rather a centrally located office in Pasquotank County.

Heath told the Commissioners that if each of the seven counties would give approximately \$200 it would cover the cost of office equipment. Heath stated that they would not have need of a secretary.

Heath also asked the county for the use of the Courthouse Law Library to conduct confidential interviews with offenders after their court case.

The Commissioners voted to grant \$200 for the office and approved the use of the library.

Charles Ward reported to the group that the No Hunting Signs had been

placed in the areas that were requested.

County Attorney John V. Matthews, Jr. told the Commissioners that he had checked into the changing of values on the tax evaluations.

"The law says that the tax supervisor can change values, but should give notification to the party after the fact, but before the Board of Equalization and Review Meeting," Matthews said.

The Commissioners asked Matthews to send a letter to Mrs. Eure informing her of this situation.

The Commissioners heard a letter of thanks from Don Flowers at ARPDC concerning the gardening maintenance and the hiring of a janitor.

Floyd Matthews, Chairman of the Conservation Committee requested by letter \$1000 for work on the Whiteston river project.

Motion was made and carried that the money be funneled through the Soil Conservation Service.

The Commissioners heard a letter from Clayton Gentry, District Manager of Vepeco, concerning the power to the water pumping station in Winfall. Due to the fact that Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation already has equipment near the sight and Vepeco does not, Vepeco has relinquished all rights to service this station to Albemarle EMC.

The Commissioners accepted a bid from Jack Leary for a 1984 contract to spray, prune, fertilize and keep weeded the property at the ARPDC building. The total bid was \$425.

The Commissioners announced that beginning in November until April they would meet at 7:00 p.m.



Chamber member Jeanne White is shown here signing up local merchant Cecil Winslow at Winslow Motor Co. for 1984 membership in the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, beginning their annual drive. (Photo by Ken Castelloe)

## School Board begins plan for high school

By JANE WILLIAMS

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in an early session on Monday to visit the high school

property and discuss possibilities of construction with Sam Ashford, owner of an architectural firm in Raleigh.

The Board discussed with Ashford the basic needs for the new structure to replace the two-story 1924 circa building.

Among these needs was the central placement of a new cafeteria designed to meet the needs a larger student body.

Other needs for the new structure included science labs, additional teaching space and classrooms.

The Board expressed their wishes to salvage the auditorium located in the back of the old building.

The Board voted unanimously to work with Ashford on developing plans for the new complex, and asked School Superintendent Pat Harrell to meet with Ashford at their earliest convenience to look at the time lines involved and specific priorities for

the plans.

The financial report for September was presented and discussed, no action was taken.

A check was received from PL874-Federal Impact Aid Funds in the amount of \$5,150. The money will be put into the capital operating funds.

The Board voted to insure the computers located within the school system with Pete Overman of Nationwide Insurance at a cost of \$237.90 per year.

Anita Grimes was approved for employment as an aide at Hertford Grammar School.

The Board heard a report from Morris Korenegay and school principals concerning topics being discussed in the Family Life Education program.

The transportation plan was discussed and carried over to the next meeting.

The Board received two bids

concerning the purchase of a walk-in freezer/refrigerator for Hertford Grammar School. LaClaire Rogerson reported that bids had been received from Atlantic Equipment Company of Norfolk and United Restaurant Equipment Company of Raleigh. The bids were \$9446.80 and \$9517.20 respectively.

Board member Mack Nixon suggested purchasing the freezer from United Restaurant Equipment Co. because of their past dealings with the firm and their reputation for service.

After discussion the Board voted unanimously to purchase the unit through United Restaurant Equipment Co.

The Board approved the purchase of venetian blinds at Perquimans Union School from Dize Awning and Tent Company in the amount of \$983.29.

The Board approved to contract with Richard Askew to install the venetian blinds at the cost of \$25.00 minimum charge plus 15 cents per square foot.

The Board approved a motion to contract with Richard Askew to repair the venetian blinds in all the county schools for the contract sum of \$922.00.

The Board elected Clifford Winslow to be the voting delegate at the North Carolina School Boards Association State Conference on November 10-12.

The Board voted to contract Gary Eure to do the rough-end plumbing work on the public restroom project on the football field at a cost of \$1,125.

The Board heard a report from the Superintendent on parent participation in the schools.

"We have had significant parental involvement and participation in our schools during the last week," Harrell said. "During parent conference day on Monday we had 220 parents at Central, 280 at the grammar school, 233 at Union and 180 at the high school. We think that is tremendous interest shown by the parents in the school."

Harrell also commented that during National School Lunch Week last week 370 parents participated.

## Low income households eligible for heating aid

RALEIGH — An estimated 165,000 low-income households across the state will be eligible for financial help with their heating bills this winter through the federal Low-Income Energy Assistance program.

Bonnie Cramer, assistant director for program administration in the Department of Human Resources' Division of Social Services, said Low-Income Energy Assistance provides a one-time payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills. "It's not the purpose of the program to pay all of a family's heating bills, but to provide some relief from the high cost of energy," she said.

Last year more than 145,000 households received assistance under the federal assistance program, with payments averaging \$202 per household. The size of the payment a family receives depends upon the number of people in the household, their incomes, the region of the state where they live, and the

type of heating fuel they use.

County social services departments will determine eligibility. All households will be required to apply at these departments. Elderly or handicapped individuals may send a representative to apply for them or call to make other arrangements.

All county departments are currently taking applications, and will continue to accept applications through November 30. Priority will be given to the elderly and handicapped.

A one-time payment will be made in February after all low-income households have applied and eligibility has been determined.

For more information about the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program contact The Perquimans County Department of Social Services or call CARELINE, toll-free at 1-800-662-7030. Hearing impaired TTY/TDD users may call the same number for information.

## Bloodmobile today

The Perquimans County Jaycess will sponsor an American Red Cross bloodmobile on Thursday, October 20, at the Hertford United Methodist Church from 3-7 p.m. The goal for this drive is 60 units of blood.

This drive is extremely important because many of the October blood drives have had a decrease in blood donors with B and O type blood. O blood type donors are particularly being sought since it is the "universal donor" type and can be transfused when the patient's own blood type is not immediately available.

Traditionally, blood usage increases during the upcoming holidays.

Statistics show that approximately 38 percent of the population has O type blood and 11 percent of the population has B type blood.

Anyone between the ages of 17 and 66, weighing at least 110 pounds and in good health is eligible to donate.

Consumption by the 56 Virginia and North Carolina hospitals in the Tidewater Region requires that 460 units of blood be collected daily to meet area needs.