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Tornado awareness week evokes memories of earlier tragedy

By JANE B. WILLIAMS
Almost a year ago a swarm of tornadoes tore through the eastern region of North Carolina leaving 44 people dead, 800 injured and billions of dollars worth of property damage.

In Perquimans County the damage occurred in the resort community of Snug Harbor and the adjoining areas. The tornado touched down in the Yeopim River, crossing the water and raved through Snug

Harbor. After leaving a devastating trail, the tornado lifted and settled again in the White Hat community. The Perquimans County Emergency Board reported that the March 28th disaster damaged

150 homes and mobile homes, 25 cars, 12 farm buildings, and a seed operation. Reports from Snug Harbor indicated that less than 50 percent of the homes there were insured.

County Emergency Management Agency and is available to answer questions regarding tornado preparedness and

emergency shelter locations. Haskett can be reached at the Perquimans County Tax Department, 428-5564.



Disaster struck the Snug Harbor community last March when a tornado surfaced in the county, leaving millions of dollars worth of destruction in its wake. (Staff photo)

With last year's disaster fresh on the minds of many residents of the state, Governor James Martin has declared the week of March 3-9 as Tornado Awareness Week throughout the state.

The week has been designated as a period in which North Carolinians should make a special effort to become familiar with tornado safety measures.

Knowing what to do in the event of an ensuing tornado can, and often does, mean the difference between life and death.

The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and the Perquimans County Emergency Management Agency urge all North Carolinians to take part in the statewide drill during Tornado

Awareness Week and to learn as much as possible about these storms should one threaten Perquimans County.

Keith Haskett is the local coordinator for the Perquimans



Today the homes in Snug Harbor leave few traces of the devastation that occurred a year ago. However, property owners in the area will never forget the impact of the March 28th tornado. (Photos by Edward Leicester)



Athletic field improvements become a priority for school board members

By SUSAN HARRIS
Perquimans County Schools superintendent James P. Harrell updated members of the board of education on the capital improvements projects scheduled for the high school and Union School at its regular meeting Monday night.

Up for bids will be both fencing and lighting projects for the two schools. The board reviewed and approved specifications for the fencing, including the construction of three new backstops, around softball and baseball fields at the athletic complexes.

The lighting projects included taking down 12 existing light poles at Perquimans High School, and erecting and wiring six new poles. Several of the old

poles will be moved to Union School to replace decaying ones there.

Harrell relayed to the board that he had contacted several companies about contracting the job, but thus far had not been able to acquire uniform bid packages on the project.

He stated that a major concern is the weight of the lights on the ends of the poles while they are lifted into place, and where the liability for damages will lie should a mishap occur.

The board voted to purchase six 95 foot creosote poles through Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation. The poles will be delivered on site in 60-75 days at a cost of \$2080 per pole.

In another building improvement area, Harrell stated that Phil Flowers of East

Coast Roofing Company had agreed to help formulate roofing specifications for new roofing on the vocational building at the high school.

Harrell announced that the 1984 Dodge van purchased on state contract had arrived. Board members deliberated over policy concerning the 15-passenger vehicle. Because it is owned by the school system, the state has classified the vehicle as a bus, which will limit the vehicle's speed to 45 miles per hour.

It was decided that only those drivers with valid school bus licenses will be allowed to drive the van, unless the driver is a school board employee, in which case the driver must possess a Class B driver's license.

No formal policy governing the use or rental rate of the van was set.

Harrell said that if all goes well, the board may be in a position to advertise for bids on the construction/renovation project at Perquimans High School by April 1.

In other business, the board: •heard an update by Mack Nixon, member of the local steering committee on the N. C. Career Development Plan.

•was informed of the latest developments in student testing by Paul Ward, county Testing Administrator.

•agreed to advertise for bids to sell four used chest freezers and one double-door cooler.

•appointed Clifford Towe to the Professional Review Committee roster.



Winning isn't everything...

It's How You Play the game, but learning the fundamentals is an important part of any game.

Approximately 40 local youth turned out on Saturday to attend an all-day soccer clinic sponsored by the Perquimans

County Parks and Recreation Department. The clinic was led by John Richards, assistant soccer coach at the

University of North Carolina and two senior players of the Carolina girls soccer team. (Photos by Jane Williams)

FmHA offers credit

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) is making changes in its regulations to encourage commercial lenders to help their farm borrowers, who are having economic problems, by taking advantage of the FmHA's debt adjustment program according to Melvin E. Howell, County Supervisor.

The debt adjustment program is part of the Farm Credit Initiatives announced by President Reagan last September. It is designed to help banks and other lenders reduce the amount of loan payments down to a level farmers can afford.

The program allows FmHA to guarantee a portion of farm loans owed to banks and other lenders under certain conditions. FmHA agrees to make up part of

the loss to the lender if the borrower defaults.

This government guarantee makes it possible for the lenders to stay with their farm borrowers longer than they could otherwise.

The new regulations will help banks and other lenders cooperate with the program by allowing them to write down interest in exchange for the government guarantee.

Previously, they were required to write off a minimum of ten percent of the principal of the loan.

The Agriculture Department is working closely with other federal and regulatory agencies such as the Treasury Department, the Farm Credit Administration, the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

White named to Hospital Board

Chowan Hospital's Board of Directors is proud to welcome W. W. (Welly) White as a new member. Elected to serve a three-year term, White came to the Board as a well qualified leader.

Currently chairman of both the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners and the Perquimans County Communications System, White is also a member of the Chowan-Perquimans Landfill Committee, Hertford Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Committee of 100, and is past president of the Perquimans County Jaycees.

A Perquimans County farmer, White is married to the former Dianne Divers and has two children, Wally and Kelli.

Representation from outlying counties on the Hospital Board began when the Board members, along with the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, realized the importance of inviting the citizens of the counties served by the hospital to

have broader representation in healthcare decisions affecting them.



W. W. WHITE