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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 Cents

Briefs

Singspiration planned

The Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department is having their annual singspiration on Sunday, Aug. 25 at 3 p.m. at Piney Woods Friends Meeting.

The Firemen Four will be the feature of the day and special guests will be Mr. and Mrs. Billy Old.

Open House planned

Perquimans County Middle School will be having Open House on Sunday, Aug. 25 from 3-4 p.m. All students and parents are invited to drop by to meet teachers, visit classrooms and get acquainted. Light refreshments will be served.

Auditions to be held

The Bootstrap Acting Company will hold auditions for their fall production "Christmas on the Radio-Christmas 1943," an original musical comedy by Robert Fitzsimmons, to be directed by Paul Cowan. Auditions will be held on Sunday, Aug. 25 and Sunday, Sept. 1 from 7-9 p.m. at the Senior Center.

If you can sing or even carry a tune, join in on the fun of community theater. If you can not make these dates, call Mona Sadler, producer, at 426-7044, and a time will be arranged for you to audition.

NAACP to hold meeting

The Perquimans County Board of the NAACP will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Soccer registration

Soccer registration has begun at Perquimans Recreation Department for boys and girls ages 5-15. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 6 and the cost is \$7. To register, come by or call 426-5695.

AARP to meet

Perquimans Chapter 4118 of AARP Inc., will meet Monday, Aug. 26 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. A board meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Billy White of the Hertford Drums and Fifes Corp will be the guest.

Chapter 4118 is open to membership for all of the surrounding counties. We are "Here to serve, not to be served."

Insurance course offered

College of the Albemarle will offer the Life and Health prelicensing insurance program in September at the college's main campus in Elizabeth City.

Classes will meet in room 109 of the C Building from 12 noon-8:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7/8; 12 noon-8:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13; and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14 and 15.

The cost for the course is \$30 and the textbook is available at the COA Bookstore for approximately \$35. Participants are urged to purchase their textbooks early and to begin reading as soon as possible.

Pre-registration by Friday, Aug. 30, is required. No refunds will be given. To register or for more information, contact COA at 335-0821, ext. 250 or 231.

Hurricane Bob threatens Perquimans Sunday

Storm brings Dare evacuees, no damage



(Above, l to r) Stephanie Jones, Jane Wood, Herb Wood and David Bean were four of the 43 people who waited for Bob to hit at Hertford Grammar School Sunday night. The group, from Madison, Va., was on vacation in Corolla when they were asked to evacuate Sunday. At right, the adults try to sleep, but the kids are too excited.

Perquimans County residents tuned in to weather broadcasts Sunday as forecasters updated the movement of Hurricane Bob up the Atlantic coast.

As the storm gathered strength over the open sea and set a course which could have brought damage to the area, bread and milk disappeared from store shelves. Some residents, especially those who live on the banks of Perquimans' three rivers and the Albemarle Sound, moved lawn furnishings and tied down boats.

But Bob confined his visit to dumping more rain on an already-soggy county and sending whistling winds through the trees.

Emergency Management Coordinator Keith Haskett was among those watching the storm's progress. While he said he did not believe Perquimans County would be in the storm's direct path, he decided to open one of the county's designated shelters at Hertford Grammar School where 43 people gathered to ride out Bob.

Most of the guests at the make-shift Hertford Hilton were vacationers asked to evacuate the Dare and Currituck county beaches.

David Bean of Madison, Va. was one traveler who sought shelter. After being told to leave Corolla, Bean said he and his traveling companions spent eight hours on the road in traffic getting off the island and looking for a motel. But no rooms were available. Bean said he heard on the radio that Per-

quimans County had a shelter and he headed for Hertford.

Charles and Linda Lewis of Baltimore, Md. never made it to the Outer Banks to begin their vacation Sunday. They were turned back and finally found refuge in Hertford.

The Beans and the Lewises had plenty of company as they settled into the cafeteria and library areas at the school. Twenty-eight vacationers, including some from as far away as New Jersey, bunked with 15 locals to await the arrival of Bob.

Haskett said he really did not think there would be a need to open a shelter here, but decided that it would be better to open than to realize the need too late. There was a need.

"We have seen a need for it because most of these people were coming or going from the Dare County beaches," Haskett said Sunday evening.

Opening the shelter was a cooperative effort, Haskett said. Firefighters moved cots stored at the Hertford Fire Department, while the Hertford Police Department and Rescue Squad made periodic checks at the site to make sure all was well.

"We appreciate the help from the police department, rescue squad, the fire department for their help and the dispatching service," Haskett said. "We got good cooperation from the people. It went real well."

Perquimans program kicks off rural art project

A special program at 7:30 on Saturday evening, Aug. 24, at the Perquimans Center at the Newbold-White House will kick off a five-county rural arts development project funded by a grant to the N.C. Arts Council by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties will collaborate in presenting the community cultural event, consisting of an evening of musical and reading theatre, titled "Paul Green's Carolina." Claymon Sawyer and John Thomas Vaughan Jr. will perform the musical portion, and local actors will share the reading presentation. Participants will also include Roadside Theatre of Whitesville, Ky., John O'Neal and Junebug Productions of New Orleans, La.

Chris Kornegay of Hertford chairs the area arts project, under the overall coordination of Lottie Lassiter of Ahoskie. Lucy F. Vaughan of Elizabeth City will direct and produce the Aug. 24 presentation.

Tickets or reservations for the Perquimans Center program, priced at \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children, may be purchased from the Newbold-White House (919) 426-7567, Chris Kornegay (919) 426-5663, or Lucy F. Vaughan (919) 335-5505. Space will be limited for the single performance.

This program is one of five

to be conducted within the 16-county region served by the Northeastern Cultural Alliance, a volunteer group seeking to improve arts awareness in this predominantly rural and racially-mixed corner of North Carolina. An additional tour, involving local artists as well as members of the Roadside and Junebug troupes, is scheduled for April 1992.

The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded a \$21,050 grant to the N.C. Arts Council for this rural arts development project. This funding will enable the Council to implement a multi-cultural theater project in underserved counties. One of the project's most outstanding features is its involvement of area artists to stimulate interest in and celebration of the local culture on a community-wide basis.

In addition to the Perquimans event, Roadside and Junebug will perform Aug. 23 in Currituck and earlier on Aug. 24 in Pasquotank. Their schedule also includes a stop on Aug. 25 at the Gallery Theatre in Ahoskie, and on Aug. 26 at the C.S. Brown Center in Winston. On Aug. 27 they continue on to the Canal Center in Roanoke Rapids, to Tyrrell and Hyde counties on Aug. 28, and to Williamston on Aug. 29.

Roadside and Junebug are particularly appropriate collaborators in these performances because both companies have a multi-cultural focus. A prod-



Members of Roadside Theater from Whiteburg, Kentucky, and Junebug Productions from New Orleans, share songs and stories in the co-created original production *Junebug Jack*. Artists shown from left to right are: Tom Bledsoe, John O'Neal, Michael Keck, Angelyn DeBord, Kim Cole and Ron Short.

uct of Kentucky's Appalachia, Roadside performs work drawn from that culture. Junebug specializes in presentations that utilize the rich oral history tradition of American blacks.

The N.C. Arts Council in the past funded a cultural specialist for Northeastern North Carolina Tomorrow, who worked to develop regional arts

programming. The Northeastern Cultural Alliance grew out of these efforts. The goal for the current outreach project is to expand upon those beginnings, strengthen community resources, build bridges between cultures, and act as a catalyst for future cultural programming.

Residents seek ways to send drug dealers packing

By NANCY ROYDEN-CLARK
The Daily Advance

Members of the Hertford Housing Authority Resident Association, the Resident Advisory Committee and public officials met last night at the Wynne Fork Community Building to seek ways to rid the area of drug dealers.

Elaine Stepney, chairman of the resident association's board, said she and other people were tired of drug dealers working around the entrance of the community.

The resident association was formed last fall under the guidance of Harold Lucas Jr., a former attorney with Legal Services of the Coastal Plains in Ahoskie. Stepney said Lucas has since moved to Philadelphia, Pa.,

where he is practicing law.

Stepney said the drug dealers do not live in Wynne Fork, but some are from Dogwood Trailer Park, located across the street from the entrance to the development.

Upon moving into public housing last winter, new residents signed a membership agreement to join the resident's association. The agreement requires that residents "refrain from using or possessing or allowing the use or possession of any illegal substance or drug in their apartment."

The agreement also states that the resident will report the observation of any crime or crime conduct to the board of HARA, or to local law enforcement officials.

Joe Lothian, Perquimans

County sheriff, attended the meeting. He said much of the county's drug problems stem from people who are from other counties.

Imposing a curfew in the community was discussed last night, however, Hertford Police Chief Aubrey F. Sample Jr. and county sheriff Joe Lothian said the community would have to make sure a curfew was enforceable before the idea could be pursued further. Sample said the community would have to give the state strong reasons why a curfew is needed.

John Beers, the only candidate for mayor of Hertford, said residents should ban together in groups, to let the dealers know they're not welcome at Wynne Fork.

"Somebody has to bear the

brunt," Beers said. He told the group about a article that reported a community's efforts to get rid of drug dealers.

"These people were scared but they were willing. They worked together as groups. It's going to take time. It's a hard thing to push," Beers said.

The group discussed issuing photo identification cards to residents. That would make it easier for law enforcement officials to determine who actually lives in the housing developments, and who does not, they said.

Lothian warned that residents should take precautions about weapons in the area. He said the weapons some people own are extremely dangerous.

Sample said the community needs to further pursue a Community Watch program.

D.A.R.E program discontinued

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, known as D.A.R.E., has been discontinued for the 1991-92 school year, Sheriff Joe Lothian announced last week.

"I don't like it, but I don't have any choice in the matter," Lothian commented Monday night. "Having to discontinue the D.A.R.E. program in the schools is probably the most disappointing decision I've had to make."

Lothian drastically reduced the number of hours his deputies are on duty beginning July 1. While the deputies have historically received pay for 174 hours per month, Lothian said they often put in over 300 hours until he put a halt to the practice last month.

"They're (the deputies) being taken advantage of," Lothian said. "It's just not fair."

The cut-back has not only affected the D.A.R.E. program, but has meant that Lothian has been forced to hire off-duty Hertford Police officers to assist his deputies on court days.

The D.A.R.E. program dispenses accurate information about alcohol and other drugs, teaches decision-making skills, builds self-esteem, suggests ways to resist negative peer pressure and offers alternatives to drug use. Locally, D.A.R.E. has served almost 600 middle school students since it was initiated here in 1988. In the beginning, an officer from the sheriff's department and one from the Hertford Police Department worked with the program. In 1990 and 1991, the sheriff's department provided the D.A.R.E. officer, Deputy Ralph Robinson.

Robinson was at the middle school two days each week working with the program. He said other deputies handled part of his work load to help keep the program going.

But it will go no longer.

"I hate to see it go," Lothian said.

DEADLINES FOR THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NEWS DEADLINE: MON. 3 P.M.

CLASSIFIED: MON. 3 P.M.

ADVERTISING: MON. 3 P.M.

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