

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Filing period closes

All local races are contested

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The filing period for the May 7 primary closed Monday at noon, and Perquimans voters will have to make choices in the voting booth in 1996. All local races are contested.

Running for three available school board seats are Cathy Terranova, Helen Shaw, Thomas L. Riddick Sr., Kathy Keefe, and Wallace Nelson. The three top finishes in the May 7 primary will be declared the winners and will be seated in July.

The seats are presently held by L. Wayne Howell, Ben Hobbs, and Wallace Nelson. Neither Howell nor Hobbs opted to seek re-election. Shaw sat on the board briefly when she was appointed to hold the seat created by the 1994 county electoral system revision. She did not run in 1994. Terranova has run for school board before, both under the old and new systems. Keefe and Riddick are political newcomers.

While Howell will not ask voters to put him back on the school board, he has filed as a Democrat for a seat on the board of commissioners. He joins Democratic incumbents Archie Miller and Shirley Yates and former board chairman Leo Higgins.

Another name will appear on the board ballot, if Bert Hays and the Republican Party can get 4 percent of the county's registered voters to sign a petition allowing Hays to run as an unaffiliated candidate. Hays said Friday he had changed his party affiliation to Republican, but did not change in time to run as a Republican candidate. A successful petition drive will allow him to run unaffiliated. Hays said he is a conservative candidate who does have the support of the local Republican Party.

For Register of Deeds, incumbent Deborah S. Reed will face challenger Gregory Barclift.

Storm pounds Perquimans

Ice, snow, frigid temperatures settle in for days

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Perquimans' majestic pines bowed their ice-laden branches in defeat, as a fierce winter storm pounded the Albemarle this weekend.

The first sign of trouble came Friday morning, when the Perquimans County Schools opened two hours late, the result of icy road conditions caused by low temperatures and freezing rain during the night. Students were also released early, as icy rain continued to fall and both Perquimans High School and Hertford Grammar School lost electric power at about 12:15 p.m.

The power outage occurred all over the town of Hertford, according to utilities officials. A tree limb fell across the main line from North Carolina Power, leaving all Hertford electric customers in the dark for about two hours. Utilities director Parker Newbern said there were scattered outages throughout the weekend caused by tree limbs and ice on the town's lines, but no major power lines were damaged.

"We've been fortunate so far," Newbern said Monday. "No major lines have gone down."

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans looked like a crystal wonderland all weekend, with ice coating tree limbs. Children enjoyed playing in the snow, but utilities officials and road crews weren't so happy with the long hours they had to work to restore power and make roads passable.

crews were also out all weekend. At the height of the storm, over 3,000 AEMC customers were without power. EMC General Manager Dorris B. White said Monday that all service was restored by Saturday at midnight.

"We just think our men did a great job (restoring power so quickly)," White said. "We feel that we were real fortunate."

White said work crews were out cleaning up Monday.

North Carolina Power customers fared worst in Perquimans, with some power

not restored until late Sunday or early Monday.

Friday morning's ice was just the beginning, as frozen rain pelted down late Friday evening and early Saturday morning. Some snow fell during Saturday's early morning hours. Snow showered the county off and on all day Sunday. About five or six inches of precipitation landed on the county.

Temperatures dipped into the single digits Sunday night and Monday. Forecasters did not expect it to get above freez-

ing until Tuesday.

Motorists were advised to stay at home unless they absolutely had to travel.

Some businesses in Hertford closed early Friday after losing current.

Schools were cancelled again Tuesday due to treacherous road conditions. While the main thoroughfares were not dangerous, many secondary roads were covered with a thick sheet of snow-covered ice Tuesday morning. Schools superintendent Randall L. Henion said Monday that stu-

Activities cancelled, rescheduled

The weekend storm cancelled or postponed several activities throughout the county. Some program directors called in Monday with reschedule dates.

Recreation League Games: Saturday, Feb. 10: Midget boys - Feb. 19 at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Mites - Feb. 17 at noon and 1 p.m.; Girls - Feb. 10 at 3 p.m.; Juniors - Feb. 10 at 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5 games: To be announced. Local tournament cancelled to allow for make-up games.

Library: Nature program set for Feb. 3 will be held on Feb. 24 at 10 a.m.

NAACP Youth: Program scheduled for Feb. 5 cancelled and not rescheduled.

Court: All courts in Perquimans County cancelled for the week.

Schools: Make-up dates for classes and athletic events will be rescheduled.

Students would not return to classes until officials felt there was no danger to any student travelling on a bus.

Hertford Rotary Club spearheads project

Using local resources is focus of program

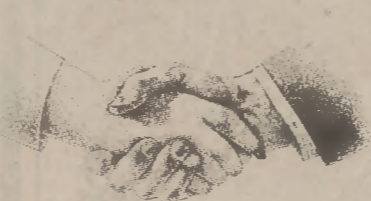
By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Using local resources to enhance the community is the focus of a new program coming to Perquimans County.

Spearheaded by the Hertford Rotary Club, the Perquimans Resources Project has gained support and assistance from the Perquimans County school and public library systems.

The basic premise of the Resources Project is neighbor helping neighbor, according to Rotarian Jack Taylor. By identifying county residents with skills and knowledge in specific areas and making a resources list available, businesses, schools and civic groups would be able to access previously untapped local resources.

According to Taylor, an



Albemarle Plantation resident, the idea of composing a list of local resource people was actually sparked by Rotary members who were charged with getting speakers for the club's weekly meetings. Members knew there were those in the community with knowledge to share, but finding those people was sometimes difficult. With a resources list, Rotary members believed any group or agency needing information in a specific subject area could receive assistance. Thus, the Perquimans Resources Project was born.

Taylor said both the schools and the library are very interested in the project. An informal partnership was formed between the groups. The Rotary Club is the lead agency,

and supports the undertaking financially. The public agencies have provided in-kind service support and materials.

Those willing to participate in the project might be asked to speak at a school to share their experience in a particular field with students interested in pursuing a career in that field. Or, resources participants with a skill in a technical area might be asked to assist a business in upgrading technology. A civic group interested in learning more about a topic such as recycling could find someone with a background in that area to come and speak at a meeting. Resource people could be asked to help by speaking with a group or individual consultation. All services would be provided by resources volunteers at no cost.

County residents interested in sharing their skills and knowledge with others should call Taylor at 426-1012 or Jeri Oltman at the library at 426-5319. Participation forms are available at the library.

County complies with ADA

Emergency services for deaf in place

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Perquimans County was ahead of the game when U.S. Attorney Janice Cole reminded all 911 and emergency services in the state's Eastern District of their legal obligations to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Cole specifically said that under Title II of the ADA, counties and towns must provide direct access to individuals who use TDDs, or telecommunications devices for the deaf. TDDs allow those who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired to communicate by telephone. The TDD user types his or her message, which is read on a display by the TDD user on the other end of the line. Both the caller and the emergency services center must have TDDs in order for the system to work. Often, Cole stated in a news release, 911 centers do not have TDDs or trained personnel who

know how to recognize and respond to TDD calls.

Perquimans County does not fall into that category. According to Homeria Jennette, Perquimans County's chief dispatcher, her department has owned a TDD for several years. Although Jennette said she had never had occasion to use the equipment, it is tested each month to ensure that if it is ever needed, it will be in working condition.

Jennette said the TDD looks similar to an adding machine. She estimated the cost at \$200-300.

Cole's contact with emergency services departments is part of Attorney General Janet Reno's national campaign to educate Americans about their rights and obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For information about the ADA, call the toll-free ADA information line at 800-514-0301 (voice) or 800-514-0383 (TDD). Callers may access recorded information any time or speak with an ADA specialist Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (EST), except Thursday, when hours are 1-6 p.m.

Board split on grant application support

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Perquimans County Commissioners gave their blessing to some projects Monday, but denied other requests when they met in regular session Monday.

The board approved sending a letter of support to the state for a proposed business incubator grant being written by Perquimans 2020 Vision Coalition after a lengthy

debate, sometimes heated between commissioner Charles Ward and Economic Development Director Robert Baker.

Ward scoffed at Baker's statements that the county would not have to put cash funds into the project. Baker said the only request from the county would be a parcel of land in the Perquimans Commerce Centre on which to construct a building. The building and the first two

years of operating costs would come from grant funds, Baker said.

The county did not support a request from the Perquimans County Schools for a grant from the Governor's Crime Commission to help at-risk youth. County manager Paul Gregory said his office has been burdened with administrative duties for grants that are not requested by the county, but which by law must be

administered financially by the county. Gregory said his staff was not large enough to oversee the programs' finances. Gregory said if his signature on program documents indicated his guarantee that the program funds were being properly handled by the agencies to whom the funds were granted, he was not in favor of the county approving any additional applications.

The board denied its support to the program.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 50s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 60s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 50s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY