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THE BIG BANG



Fireworks lit up the night sky over Missing Mill Park on Independence Day. A contingent of volunteers set off the pyrotechnics around 9 p.m. There were a couple of tense moments for the shooting crew, but no one was injured. Those in the park enjoying the show cheered and applauded throughout the approximately 30-minute display. Funds for the fireworks were raised by American Legion Post 126. Donations are still being accepted C/O NationsBank.

Fire destroys Snug Harbor family's home

From staff reports

Roxanne Everett has faced struggles throughout her life but nothing compares with the latest: Last Tuesday, her home and all its contents were destroyed by fire.

Bethel Fire Chief Jeff Proctor said Everett's mobile home, located on Cabot Trail in what's known as the "camping section" of Snug Harbor, was fully engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived shortly after the fire was reported at 5:15 p.m.

"There were two trailers, probably 10 feet from it, that we were able to save ... but it (the fire at Everett's mobile home) was fully involved when it was called in — if that tells you what we found."

Approximately 10 firefighters from the Bethel Department and eight from Hertford Fire Department responded. The cause of the fire is undetermined, Proctor said.

Everett, who was visiting her boyfriend, Rodney Crockett, in Virginia with their 1 1/2-year-old son at the time of the fire, learned of it

while talking to a neighbor by phone.

All of the family's clothes, furniture and belongings were destroyed.

"I haven't even got food. There's nothing, absolutely nothing to be salvaged," she said.

"I only have two pairs of short and shirts and two pairs of socks plus the few things I packed for the baby," Everett said. "I've lost so much I can't replace. I've lost all the photographs of my two older children."

Everett, who is staying in Virginia with Crockett's family, said she does plan to return to Snug Harbor.

Individuals interested in helping the Everett family can contact Kathy Lawhead at 426-7335 or can reach Everett at (757) 874-3913.

Everett wears a size 3 pants, a medium-sized shirt and size 7 1/2 shoes. Her son, Blake Alan, wears size 2T.

Crockett, who lost all of his clothes, wears a size 10 1/2 shoe, a large to extra-large shirt and pants with a 34- to 36-inch waist.

Commissioners to meet to discuss senior center

Policy on senior center use draws fire from NAACP

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

After approving a policy that banned use of the senior center by groups other than governmental agencies, senior citizens groups and recreation groups last month, the county was hit with accusations of discrimination Monday by Perquimans County NAACP president Estelle Felton and Mason James Modlin.

Whether or not to allow civic groups to meet at the county's senior center — and whether to charge a fee for the building's use — will be discussed in a special work session next Thursday night at

7:30 p.m. The NAACP is one of five groups that have met at the senior center during the past year. After the commissioners passed the new policy in June, county manager Paul Gregory sent a letter to the NAACP, Hertford BPW, Woodmen of the World, VFW and Head Start to tell them that the county had passed a policy on building use. The groups were given 60 days to secure new meeting places.

Felton said the NAACP had been meeting at the senior center since 1990, using the nutrition feeding site. The youth of the NAACP used to meet on the other side, but discontinued meeting there when asked to do so by the county, Felton said. Without being told there was a problem, the NAACP received the letter shortly

after the commissioner's June meeting with the news that the group would have to seek a new meeting place.

"We're here now wondering what could have happened from 1990 to 1997" to cause the commissioners to implement the new policy, Felton said. She accused the commissioners of discrimination, although she pointed out that she didn't say racial discrimination. She said there are other forms of discrimination, but did not elaborate.

"I think the action may have been a little bit hasty," commissioners chairman Charles Ward responded. He said the commissioners needed to study the policy. "We want to do the right thing."

Ward was not at the June meeting.

Felton continued her

remarks by telling commissioners that those meeting at the senior center are taxpayers.

Modlin, who said he is a district deputy grand master of the Prince Hall Grand Masonic Lodge, questioned the policy on the use of the courthouse. He said the "white" Masons meet on the second floor of the courthouse. He questioned who pays utilities and upkeep on that building.

Gregory said that the Masons who meet over the courthouse do make a donation back to the county.

Gregory said he has been told that the Masons built the second floor and wings of the courthouse, and that a superior court judge ordered that the Masons be given a meeting room in the courthouse.

Modlin said that the "black"

Masons bought land and pay taxes on their meeting place.

Ward said the commissioners will discuss the issue at their work session next week and make a decision about the senior center policy within 30 days.

Gregory said Tuesday the decision will probably be made at the board's regular August meeting.

Commissioner Shirley Yates was very vocal in her opposition to the new policy. Yates was the lone dissenter when the policy was approved in June.

Yates said she was especially upset to learn that veterans groups are not allowed to meet in the senior center. She said the center was built with taxpayer money and in a county with few resources, the building should be shared.

TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Work began Monday on the major renovations to Hertford's S-bridge. The bridge and causeway are expected to be closed for 8 weeks.

Jackson ups inspection fees

A month after being named the county's building inspector, Izell Jackson made his first request to county commissioners: Implement a fee to transfer building permits and raise the reinspection fee from its present \$15.

Jackson told commissioners

that the amount of paperwork involved in transferring permits warrants a charge. He also said that a low reinspection fee provided no incentive to some to do the work right by the initial inspection. He recommended a fee of at least \$25. The county okayed both.

Outside

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
High: 80s	Low: 60s	High: 80s	Low: 60s	High: 80s	Low: 60s
SCATTERED RAIN		PARTLY CLOUDY		PARTLY CLOUDY	

Perquimans County
 an
All of Us Care
 Community

April's theme:

Value and enjoy our environment
 focusing on

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
 Conserve resources

Incorporate these Healthy HABITS into your daily life and help make our community a better place to live!

For All of Us Care information, contact Dr. Randall L. Henion, Perquimans County Schools 426-5741