



THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Lady Pirates JVs take win

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Eure earns technology award

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Kids have FUN at 4-H day camps

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August 23, 2001

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County gets \$2.7 million sewer grant

Holiday Island, Plantation to be served

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The county is poised to go into the sewer business with a \$2,693,781 grant from the Rural Center.

Perquimans applied for help with the project that will provide sewer service

to residents of both Albemarle Plantation and Holiday Island. The project is known as the Minzie's Creek Sewer District Project.

The funds will be used to purchase and rehabilitate the sewer system at Albemarle Plantation, and extend service to the 614 existing homeowners in Holiday Island.

County Manager Paul Gregory said the county will sit down Friday with engineer Bill Diehl of Diehl

and Phillips in Cary and Dick George, who has served as the county's consultant on the project, to begin final planning on the project, including engineering and re-checking costs. Diehl will be the engineer on the project. George will continue to work with the county as a consultant and planner, and Gregory said Martha Daniel Hobbs, the county planner, will also work on the sewer project.

Gregory said the project

will probably approach \$3.5 million. The county has already contacted the Rural Center about another \$400,000 grant to help defray costs. The application package for that request will be submitted soon, he said.

Holiday Island has long sought help from the county due to failing septic tanks in the subdivision. In fact, there is a moratorium on building in the subdivision because lots there will not perk. Failing septic

tanks in the community, which borders both the river and sound, threaten water quality.

After years of looking for answers, the county was able to negotiate with Albemarle Plantation and make an offer on the subdivision's sewer system. Under the terms of the proposed sale, the county must make sewer service available to all Plantation residents, who will pay tap-on and monthly fees for service.

Only the present homeowners in Holiday Island will be served by the system, which will collect waste through piping from present septic tanks. The system will not clear the way for further building in the subdivision at present.

In preliminary discussions about the sewer project, it was estimated that service will run about \$35 per month. Tap-on fees will be determined based on final anticipated project costs.



Daily Advance photo

Sen. John Edwards talks with Gayle Howe during a visit to the Newbold-White House Sunday. In the background is Hertford Mayor and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sid Eley, dressed in period attire complete with a black hat. Joyce Mitchell (right) works in Edwards' office in Greenville.

Edwards stops in Hertford Sunday

BOB SHILES
The Daily Advance

U.S. Sen. John Edwards says that he enjoys visiting constituents living in rural areas of the state because they remind him of home.

"I grew up in Robbins, a small town in the Piedmont that's very much like the small communities in this part of the state," said Edwards, the North Carolina Democrat. "I feel a kinship with the people living in rural areas. I feel I really know them."

Edwards was on a whirlwind tour of eastern North Carolina this weekend, starting in Pamlico County on Saturday and finishing with a brief stop in Currituck County on Sunday.

During a Sunday morning service at the Shiloh Baptist Church, Edwards spoke about values and his trip to the Middle East.

"The values you get growing up in a small community mean a lot," he said. "They always remain with you."

He described his recent week-long visit to the Middle East — his first as a U.S. senator — as a "tremendous learning experience," and one that provided him greater understanding of that troubled region.

"There is a very bad situation there. There is lots of violence, and lots of people are dying needlessly," he said.

While in the Middle East — a trip many tout as improving the senator's foreign-policy credentials as he considers seeking the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004 — Edwards said he met for an hour with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. He also had the opportunity to meet with other major Israeli, Egyptian and Palestinian leaders.

"But the most moving and meaningful part of the trip for me," Edwards, a Christian, added, "was being able to visit the place where — at least historically — Christ was crucified and died. I was able to kneel and pray at the site for some time. It is something I will never forget as long as I live."

After a stop at Jimmy's Barbecue in Sunbury, Edwards traveled to Hertford and toured the Newbold-White House — the state's oldest brick house.

LuAnne Pendergraft, heritage tourism officer for the state Division of Tourism, noted that the senator's support for developing the Newbold-White House had recently helped secure a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant, she said, will be used to fund the services of 10 scholars working to develop an interpretive program for the historic site.

"This site is so impor-

tant to the history of this area and the state," the senator told about 50 people gathered outside the old brick farmhouse. "This history must be preserved. It's important that people be educated about this."

Edwards addressed the issue of building a strong state economy, one in which all citizens benefit.

"We need to make sure that not only some areas of the state, such as the Triangle, develop," he said. "We have the responsibility to ensure that all North Carolina prospers."

"We need to support our agriculture, tourism and recreation," he continued. "At the same time we need to attract business (to rural areas), something which can only be done if we provide quality education, a well-trained work force and the necessary technology... We must make sure that all of North Carolina is at the table and sharing in the prosperity."

Edwards noted that he has been pushing hard for passage of his number one priority — the establishment of the Patient Protection Act. He is sponsoring the Senate version of the patient's rights bill along with Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

A different version of the bill has been approved in both the House and Senate, Edwards said, and now the bill has been forwarded to a conference

committee where points of disagreement in the two versions of the bill will be worked out.

"There's a simple idea behind this bill. People should have the right to make their own decisions about health care," he said.

Questioned about his position on the type of prescription drug plan that should be available under the Medicare program, Edwards noted that Medicare should include a prescription plan similar to that already available to Medicaid recipients.

"There are seniors now having to make decisions about whether to pay for food or their medications," he said.

The senator also said that he does not support using money from the Social Security Trust Fund to help balance the federal budget.

"When the budget gets out of balance, the only place to go is to Social Security and Medicare. I think that is a mistake," Edwards said. "I believe the government should be run the way the average North Carolina family manages its budget."

Following his stop in Hertford, the senator attended the 67th Daniels Day Family Reunion on Roanoke Island.

With his final stop Sunday in Currituck County, Edwards has now visited 87 of the state's 100 counties.

Locals should be ready for storms

County, Red Cross stress preparedness

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Having escaped the devastation of a major hurricane for so many years may be the undoing of folks in Northeastern North Carolina.

Perquimans County Emergency Management Coordinator Harry Winslow, County Manager Paul Gregory and Red Cross representatives met Friday to share information on hurricane preparedness.

They explained what should happen when forecasters predict a hurricane will make landfall here.

The only Red Cross-approved pre-hurricane shelter in the county is Perquimans County Middle School. The reason is because Central School has too much glass in its design and the two schools in Hertford lie in floodways. While the school property at the Hertford sites is not likely to flood, the streets around both are prone to standing water.

Red Cross has strict criteria for pre-hurricane shelters. Dare and Currituck have none because they are very high risk counties. Perquimans, Chowan, Pasquotank, Gates and Camden are considered high risk. Perquimans, Pasquotank and Gates have one approved shelter each; Chowan has two. Camden has none.

Gregory said as the county plans its community center to be located at the commerce center, officials are taking pre-hurricane shelter criteria into consideration so that there will be a shelter on each side of the river.

All stressed that early preparation is important. People should gather emergency items, including canned foods, bottled water, battery-powered radios and flash lights with extra batteries, blankets, and put them in a water-proof storage area ready to take with them should they have to evacuate.

When a storm is forecast to hit, those items, plus things such as prescription medications and important papers such as insurance stored in plastic bags, should be gathered. Shelters generally open

when the storm is predicted to make landfall in 18-24 hours, and give 5 or 6 hours notice of their opening. The county will publicize its decision to open shelters on DIXIE 105.7 and WTKR, WVEC and WAVY. If shelters open, all people living in mobile homes and in low-lying areas should get out of their homes. Those people should either go to the homes of family or friends or go to the shelter.

People should go to the shelter during daylight hours, not at night with high winds and blowing rains. Often, roads flood early. And hurricanes may spawn tornadoes.

If going to a shelter, bring bedding, important papers in plastic bags, quiet entertainment, medications, diapers and baby products, battery-powered radios with earphones, special foods (such as for diabetics), and snacks. Do not bring animals, alcoholic beverages, drugs or weapons. People caught with those items will be turned over to law enforcement who patrol the site. Animals should be left at home, secured in a garage or other safe area or taken to a vet.

Those who go to a shelter should also inform family or friends so someone will know their whereabouts.

The Red Cross has placed several free pamphlets on preparing for storms at the county library for residents to pick up.

The most important thing residents can do to limit risk to life is be prepared, Winslow said.

"Early preparation is important," he said. "We need to be ready."

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 87
LOW: 70
POSSIBLE SHOWER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 88
LOW: 71
DRY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 87
LOW: 72
PARTLY CLOUDY