

SPCA puppies for adoption

Page 4

Athletes of the year

Page 7

Seniors win medals

Page 3

# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

June 19, 2002

Vol. 70, No. 25 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

35 cents

## Winds rip through Hertford Friday

John Moore described the winds that hit Hertford Friday as blowing "real, real, real hard."

The resident of Miller and Meads Mobile Home Park said he was outside Friday afternoon when hard rains sent him running into his mobile home. While inside, he heard hard rains and wind, but stayed away from the windows of his home, so he did not see the storm pass through.

When he went back outside when the weather cleared, he saw that his next door neighbor's mobile home had suffered damage to its siding, and another's steps had been completely blown away.

Soon, the mobile home park was filled with people surveying damage and checking on friends and family in the neighborhood on Hertford's western edge.

"We are blessed," Moore said. "We don't have any electricity, but I told my wife we've still got our lives and that's the most important thing."

A couple of doors down, Charlene Brothers had gathered with her neighbors. She said she looked at her window as the brunt of the storm passed and saw hail as big as her fists. Her home did not sustain any damage.



Family and friends try to cover the damage done to the mobile home of Richard Gilbert after Friday's thunderstorms, which spawned strong winds, ripped through Miller and Meads Mobile Home Park. The winds cut a swatch about a mile wide, starting behind the Riverwind Subdivision and stretching north to Belvidere Road and south to Ballahack Road. The wind moved all the way through Hertford and Winfall.

Throughout the park, residents were covering gaping holes where roofs were ripped off, windows blown out and siding pulled off. Many homes had lost or damaged skirting. One was

knocked off its blocks.

Mobile home park owner Joe Meads said at least three home sustained heavy damage, with a total of about 20 of the 80 homes in the park receiving some

kind of damage.

Meads' home is at the edge of the park, and his roof was peeled back in places, with shingles broken off by the force of the wind. He said he didn't

realize the extent of the damage the evening of the storm. It was later when he was trying to repair the damage that he realized how bad it was.

"I'm going to have to call

my insurance company," said the former building contractor. "I thought I could just repair it, but it's going to have to be replaced."

Meads, who also owns a convenience store on the east side of the park, said he was outside the store when he saw the storm coming. He said he hurried into the store and then struggled to keep the door closed as the winds created suction that kept pulling it open.

"I've never had a man pull on a door that hard," he said.

Another man was helping him to keep the door pulled shut. Just as Meads reached for his keys to lock the door, the winds subsided. He said the winds were gone in about 3 minutes.

Two electric poles in the park were toppled.

Meads said he does not have an estimate of damages in the park, but continues to find more as days go by.

Still, Meads said, the community is fortunate that there were no injuries to people in the violent episode.

Perquimans County Emergency Management Coordinator Harry

Continued on page 8

## Hertford to get new fire pumper

SUSAN R. HARRIS

They were ready to move quickly when grant money was available, and now the Town of Hertford will be rewarded for its preparation with a new fire truck.

The town received a grant for \$125,000 from USDA Rural Development to purchase a new pumper. The total cost of the truck will be \$190,000.

"The town was very fortunate, the timing was good," said Town Manager John Christensen.

Christensen said town officials knew the Hertford Fire Department's 1962 pumper needed to be replaced, but couldn't afford to purchase one from its general fund budget.

Rural Development was near the end of its funding year, and district offices were turning back in unused funds and they were being reallocated on a need basis. This district got \$125,000 for redistribution. Christensen and fire department personnel moved quickly to complete a grant application.

Christensen said he even went to Raleigh to lobby for funds. Hertford was rewarded for its efforts with the entire \$125,000.

The town will borrow the remaining \$65,000 to buy the truck.

Christensen said that each year the pumper had to be tested to certified. And each year, firefighters held their breath, knowing that it might not pass the test.

Had the pumper not passed its certification test, Hertford's protection rating would have risen, thereby causing insurance rates for local residents to rise dramatically, Christensen said.

With the age of the truck, spare parts are not available, and keeping the pumper in working order has been challenging at times.

## BOWLES STRIKES HERTFORD



Erskine Bowles, a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, addresses a crowd of about 75 supporters at Captain Bob's Restaurant in Hertford Saturday morning.

## Bowles casts difference with Dole

ROBERT SHILES  
The Daily Advance

While he still has to win the Democratic primary to become his party's nominee, U.S. Senate hopeful Erskine Bowles is already making sure people understand there are major differences between him and Republican Elizabeth Dole, the likely Republican nominee to

replace retiring Sen. Jesse Helms.

During Saturday's campaign stop at Captain Bob's Restaurant in Hertford, Bowles told a crowd of approximately 75 people about his views on three issues — Social Security, the environment, and prescription drugs.

On each issue, Bowles said he believes his ideas would be more beneficial to the nation than the

ideas of Dole and the Republican Party.

Social Security needs to be protected, he said, and to accomplish that there must be "fiscal responsibility." This fiscal responsibility requires extending the life of the Social Security Fund, Bowles added, not privatizing the system as Dole advocates.

Continued on page 8

## Hertford raises utility rates

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Hertford taxpayers will face no ad valorem tax rate increase next year, but electric and water and sewer rates will rise and a new garbage collection fee will be implemented.

A new \$4 per can per month per household garbage collection fee will be charged as of July 1.

Also coming in July 1 will be a 5 percent water and sewer rate increase and a 6.5 percent electric rate increase.

Town Manager John Christensen said several factors were considered when Council made the

Continued on page 10

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 86  
Low: 62  
PM T'STORMS

FRIDAY  
High: 87  
Low: 64  
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY  
High: 89  
Low: 67  
PARTLY CLOUDY