

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



New program about shoemaking in the 18th century. Page 2

"News from Next Door"

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35 cents

Electrocution kills Belvidere man

2nd man burned in home accident

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

One man was electrocuted Saturday afternoon and a second man was burned while trying to install a CB antenna in a tree in Belvidere.

According to Perquimans

Sheriff Eric Tilley, Wilbert Smith, of 488 Sandy Cross Road, was climbing an aluminum ladder and trying to install a cross-shaped CB antenna on a tree when the antenna got too close to a power line causing electricity to flash. A second man, William Park, was standing on the ladder below Smith and was burned on his hands, police said.

Smith's son saw the acci-

dent occur and immediately tried to revive his father at the scene, said Tilley. Perquimans EMS responded and continued CPR as they transported Smith to Albemarle Hospital where he died.

Park was also transported to the Elizabeth City hospital and later transferred to Sentara Norfolk General where, hospital spokesman say, he was treated and later

released.

Tilley said Smith was standing at the top of the aluminum ladder when the antenna he was carrying got too close to the power line that provided electricity to the home. The electricity flashed from the line to the antenna, knocking both men off the ladder, Tilley added.

Chief Bernie Winslow with the Belvidere-Chappel

Hill Volunteer Fire Department, said workers from Dominion North Carolina Power responded and cut the power.

"We were told the antenna never came in contact with the electrical wire," Winslow said.

According to information provided by Dominion North Carolina Power, you must stay at least 10 feet from power lines when

working with ladders or other equipment like antennas.

"Dominion should always be notified anytime you are working within 10 feet of a power line," noted Charles Penn with Dominion Power. "This is the time of year people start trimming trees, doing repairs and spring cleaning.

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YACHT CLUB BUILDS OPTIS



PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON/PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Members of the Osprey Yacht Club are building three small sailboats to help teach youngsters how to sail. Bruce Hobson, (l-r) Terry Facey, Jim Colyer and Vic Galgano have been working on the boats daily in Hertford.

Boat builders helping youth learn to sail

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Members of the Osprey Yacht Club are building three small sailboats to help local youngsters learn the sport of sailing.

The local sailors from Albemarle Plantation are constructing Optimist dinghies; small wooden sailboats better known as "Optis" that are sailed by youth age 8-15. Located in a Hertford workshop, construction of the small boats is known amongst the club members as the Opti Factory, run by two shifts of four volunteer workers each day.

Bob Halter said the boat-building project evolved from the club's desire to find a project that would help the community as well as engage its membership.

"One of our members saw a completed Opti in the back of an art store in Edenton and asked about it," remembered Halter when explaining how the club

initiated the project. "We found out that the Edenton Yacht Club had built three Optis with the assistance of College of the Albemarle's boat-building expert Bob Baker. We made some phone calls for information, and then made a club decision to fund at least one Opti."

However, management at Albemarle Plantation heard of the project and agreed to fund a second boat and managed to land the workshop in which to construct the boats. In addition, the group learned that a local Boy Scout troop could earn badges for small boat sailing.

"With all the necessary pieces in place, we decided to proceed with the project, organizing morning and afternoon volunteer work teams, and using Baker as our expert consultant," added Halter. "We expect to complete three Optis before spring, and we are currently setting up safety

See BOATS, 2



Three Optimist Dinghies, better known as Optis, are under construction by members of the Osprey Yacht Club. The small sailboats, one shown here with Bruce Hobson, will help teach youngsters how to sail.

Grant funds farmer market in Perquimans

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Perquimans County is on track to have a farmers' market operating here beginning in May.

The Perquimans County Restoration Association has received a \$30,000 grant from Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI-USA) to fund the project for one year. A market director must be hired, and a place to hold the market must be chosen.

Glenda Maynard, site manager for the Newbold-White House, said a team of volunteers from around the community has worked for the past year to develop a local farmers' market that will offer fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as a host of other

goods, for sale during the summer.

Sites under consideration include the ARP-DC building/lawn, 2020 Vision lot, and Missing Mill Park. Maynard said the ARPDC building lawn is available only short term.

"We will have to establish a revenue source and other funding possibilities to continue the market a second year," noted Maynard.

A decision on where to hold the market will be made at a later date.

The group's efforts to formulate plans for a farmers' market included research and information gathering from a variety of resources including an organic food buyers club, community-based agriculture,

See MARKET, 2

Census jobs still available

Census forms to go out next week

From staff reports

More than 1,000 Census jobs are still available in the eastern part of North Carolina particularly in Gates and Currituck counties.

The Rocky Mount Local Census Office, which covers 16 counties including Perquimans, Pasquotank and Chowan, continues to hire temporary Census workers. Census forms

will be mailed to local homes March 15-17. An accurate count is critical as recent estimates indicate the state will receive approximately \$15,000 in federal funding per person counted over the next 10 years.

To qualify for temporary Census employment, you must be able to read, write, and speak English; a U.S. citizen; a legal permanent resident, or non-citizen with an appropriate work visa, and you possess a

See CENSUS, 2

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 63 LOW: 44
THUNDER SHOWERS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 59 LOW: 40
SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 58 LOW: 40
SHOWERS



Seniors want more room, newer facility

PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Sidney Perry tries his hand at pool as Marvin Kreutler watches. The pool table, a popular activity at the county Senior Citizens Center, is located in the center's nutrition site (dining room). Local seniors have asked for a new or larger building, citing lack of space and parking.



By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Local senior citizens have asked county commissioners for a larger or new center.

James Griffin, member of the county's senior citizen board, reminded county commissioners recently that their current building and nutrition site located on Grubb Street is outdated and inadequate. Limited parking at the current building is a major problem, he noted, forcing some to park across the busy street which is a safety hazard. Griffin also said some elderly patrons feel uncomfortable parking adjacent to the tennis and basketball courts, especially since several cars have been broken into over the years and one physical as-

sault has occurred.

The building used now has a very small office for staff, and no storage space. The nutrition site's dining room also doubles as an activity room for seniors.

"We feel like seniors pay more taxes to the county than any other age group," Griffin said. "We feel like we deserve more consideration in our golden years."

Commission Chairman Mack Nixon assured Griffin both the senior citizens building and the county library are on their radar screen.

"We do realize the fact that seniors need a new facility," Nixon told Griffin. "We will be looking diligently this year to find some way to accomplish that."

See CENTER, 2