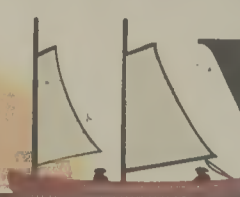


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Who's making news in your community? Page 4

"News from Next Door"

FEBRUARY 5, 2014 - FEBRUARY 11, 2014

50 cents

RESIDENTS HAVE A LITTLE FUN IN THE SNOW

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade. When Mother Nature handed them up to eight inches of snow with freezing weather behind it, Perquimans County residents appeared to have made it into a game, not a chore, according to Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley.

"Folks got out and enjoyed this storm more than I've ever seen," Tilley said last week as the thaw started.

The sheriff and his wife Sherry were among those that had a little fun in the wrath of Mother Nature. They built an upside-down snowman in their yard.

The key, Sheriff Tilley said, is to use more ice than snow when creating the head since all the rest of the structure will be resting on it.

"You have to really pack it on the bottom," he said.

It wasn't Tilley's first snowman.

"Two or three years ago we built one that was about six and a half feet tall, but as soon as it started raining, it didn't even last an hour."

The sheriff likes to believe that people listened to the warnings to stay home and avoid the roads.

"The accidents were very few. I think when the control group put out the call to stay inside, people actually listened."

The control group consists of leaders from the county, the towns and local law enforcement.

Tilley said the county reported more wrecks the week before than it did during the period during and after the snows of Jan. 28.

"There were patches here and there, but it wasn't that bad as long as you paid attention to what you were doing," Tilley said last week.

James Finley, one of the board members of the Minize's Creek Sanitary District in Holiday Island said residents there appeared to have adapted well. He hadn't ventured out much.

"Everything is moving here," he said Friday morning. "We had local volunteers that bulldozed a lot of the streets. One guy I talked to said he took his wife to work at Wal Mart and he said it was great once they got out of Holiday Island."

Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf also said people seemed to get around OK.

"We didn't have a lot of ice, and that's where we have issues."



Sherry Tilley, wife of Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley, kneels beside an upside down snowman her family built in their yard after last week's big snowfall. See more photos from snowfall, page 7

Crews, volunteers clear roads

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

State road crews as well as Good Samaritans pitched in last week to make frozen roads in Perquimans County passable in the wake of the snowstorm.

While the N.C. Department of Transportation drew praise from several local officials, area farmers were also cited for pitching in to help, according to Jarvis Winslow, the county's emergency management director.

"We need to give kudos to our area farmers who got their equipment out and

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

An NC Department of Transportation grader pushes snow to the outside lane of US Highway 17 between Hertford and Edenton, Wednesday. MORE INSIDE: Schools move grad date back to make room for snow days, page 2

Four charged in armed robbery

From staff reports

EDENTON. — Three Perquimans County men and one from Chowan County have been charged with the armed robbery of a man in the McDonald's parking lot in Edenton on Thursday.

The arrested men include: O'shea Lee, 21, of Chapanoke Road, Hertford; Shakir Laquan Archer, 23 of 303 Stokes Drive, Hertford; Stephen McGillberry, 23, of 308 Stokes Drive, Hertford and Montelli Laquan Privotte, 24, of Wildcat Road, Edenton.

Hertford Police Chief Doug Freeman said three of the men had arrest records. Privotte was arrested for speeding to elude arrest and disorderly conduct.

Lee was arrested on three counts of trespassing, plus possession of cocaine, probation violation, illegal discharge of a firearm and simple assault. Archer had been arrested for assault on a law enforcement officer.

McGillberry had no arrest record.

Privotte is scheduled to appear in Perquimans County court on Feb. 12 on a probation violation according to the office of the Perquimans County Clerk of Court.

Lee served 30 days on a communicating threats charge plus 45 days for injury to real property. Archer has a pending probation violation case from another jurisdiction.

All four were charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon and conspiracy to commit robbery for the crime Thursday, according to Police Chief Jay Fortenberry of the Edenton Police Department.

The robbery occurred around 3 p.m., according to police, and the victim was identified as Javon Freeman of Bertie County.

Freeman told Edenton police he was robbed of \$500. So far, no money has been recovered, Fortenberry said.

Police have recovered a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun believed to have been used in the robbery.

According to police, Freeman was in his car talking with

See ROBBERY, 2



ARCHER



LEE



MCGILBERRY



PRIVOTTE

DOT board member promises to try to help region

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The northeast region's new voice on the N.C. Department of Transportation told Perquimans County leaders Monday plans to replace the S-Bridge in Hertford shouldn't have to compete with road projects for state funding.

But Malcolm Fearing

couldn't promise much else and didn't try to.

Fearing was appointed in April to represent DOT's Division I — a 14-county region that includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties.

In a self-deprecating tone, Fearing told the Perquimans County Commission and leaders from Hertford and Winfall who were in the audience that he didn't seek out the DOT post. Gov. Pat



FEARING

MORE INSIDE

■ DOT regional meeting now set for Feb. 17 — page 2

McCrary called him last year and asked him to take the post and Fearing said he was shocked.

Fearing calls himself an independent — not a Democrat or a Republican.

He fully admitted that he didn't do well in high school. He didn't go to UNC-Chapel Hill or Duke. Instead he lurked out because he was allowed to take a vocational

course in high school that trained him to be a helper for a block mason.

As the region's DOT board member, Fearing did promise to work as best as he could for the people of that region.

"I pull for all people," Fearing told the county commission. "I'm not running for anything and don't want to run for anything."

He joked that just 12 days

into his term last year, he had a newspaper reporter ask him a complicated question about the impact of funding changes within the General Assembly.

"I didn't have a clue and I don't have a whole lot more now."

But Fearing said plans to replace the S-Bridge should not have to go back and compete with other regional road projects. The S-Bridge replacement had been on DOT's long-range Transportation Improvement plan. Then the state had changed road-funding rules and road

projects that aren't under construction by 2015 will have to be prioritized. It could be 2018 before construction starts in Hertford.

But replacement of the S-Bridge is a bridge project, Fearing said, not a road project.

Still the project carries an "R" designation for "road" vs. a "B" for bridge. Fearing said that's because once upon a time replacement of the causeway — a road — and replacement of the bridge were considered two

See FEARING, 4



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