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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

September 14, 2000

Vol. 68, No. 37 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

SEP 13 2000

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## Virginia Beach man holds family at gunpoint

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

A Virginia Beach man remains in Albemarle District Jail on charges that he held his girlfriend's family at gunpoint in Perquimans County.

Jason Scott Romhan, 27, of Virginia Beach allegedly held his girlfriend and four of her family members at gunpoint on Sept. 2 in an unfinished house on Puddin Ridge Road.

According to Perquimans County Sheriffs Investigator Nate Zachary, the girlfriend told him she had escaped from Romhan and called law officials. She told Zachary that she and Romhan had come from

Virginia Beach to stay in her grandparents' unfinished house in Perquimans County several days earlier while they fought drug addiction.

The girlfriend told Zachary that Romhan got drunk, prompting her to call her family to come and get her. He, she said, did not want her to leave, and allegedly held the family at gunpoint. She was able to slip away and call for help around 8:30 p.m..

Zachary said he arrived to find Romhan getting out of a small pickup that had run into a ditch on Puddin Ridge Road. The investigator said Romhan was bleeding from his head and left hand. Zachary was later told that Romhan was

injured when a family member tried to get away from him, cutting Romhan's hand with a butcher knife and hitting him over the head with a flashlight.

In the truck, Zachary said he found items reported stolen from a residence on Mill Road on Aug. 31. Other items were later recovered at the Puddin Ridge Road house.

Romhan told Zachary that Romhan left the residence around 10 a.m. on Aug. 31 and returned after 5 p.m. with several items, including perishable foods, that he had not had when he left.

All but three of the items that were stolen, which included two guns which were in the truck, were recovered. Zachary

said the items, the guns, a camcorder, money, fishing equipment, lawn equipment, a vacuum cleaner and food, were valued at around \$5,000. Further investigation also showed that the truck Romhan apparently ran in the ditch was stolen from Virginia Beach.

Romhan was arrested and charged with felonious breaking and entering, felonious larceny, felonious possession of stolen goods, three counts of assault while pointing a gun, assault on a female, simple assault and injury to personal property. He was placed under a \$65,000 secured bond and taken to Albemarle District Jail. He was bound over for trial, set for Sept. 20, at his

Sept. 6 first appearance in Perquimans County District Court. He was still in custody last week.

In a separate incident, officers arrested a Perquimans County woman and charged her with possession of cocaine, marijuana and drug paraphernalia, as well as maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of selling/manufacturing a controlled substance.

Melva Boyce Cartwright, 31, of Lot 15 Longview Estates, Hertford, was charged on Sept. 5. Also arrested was Jamie Curtin, 17, who was apparently living in the home with Cartwright.

The investigation was the result of information from a

confidential informant that led to the issuance of a search warrant. Zachary said officers executed the warrant around 6:30 p.m. and found cocaine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and unidentified prescription pills which had been placed in plastic bags. All the drugs were sent to the state crime lab, he said.

Cartwright posted her \$10,000 secured bond through a bail bondsman later that evening. Curtin was granted pre-trial release program by District Court Judge J.C. Cole.

Zachary said there were young children at the home who fled when officers arrived. They were later released to a neighbor.

## Festival weekend is sunny, fun-filled

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

Folks tired of rainy days and spoiled plans were happy with the sunny, dry weather for the 20th annual Indian Summer Festival and the Hearth & Harvest Festival.

Most also seemed quite pleased with the quality and variety of items offered by the vendors whose booths lined Church and Market streets in the downtown district. Many vendors, as well as downtown merchants, reported brisk sales during the event.

Children flocked to the game area, which was expanded from years past. Tykes kept parents heading for the moon-walk, while older children and adults tended to hang out at the dunking booth.

Everyone lined up at the food booths, which were busy all day.

As has become customary, the Marching Pirates opened the entertainment. A wide variety of musical styles was performed on the courthouse lawn during the rest of the day.

Meanwhile, those who either drove or took one of the free shuttle buses to the



People poured into Hertford Saturday to enjoy the 20th annual Indian Summer Festival downtown and the Hearth & Harvest Festival at the Newbold-White House. Downtown (above left) was packed with people enjoying browsing at the booths and in stores, food, entertainment and games. At the Newbold-White site, Perquimans' rich history could be relived with several displays and activities including cooking Brunswick stew over a fire (above right) making candles (below right) and spinning and weaving (below left).



Newbold-White House stepped back into the 18th century. Artisans demonstrating old time crafts were scattered across the lawn. A display of antique farm equipment was on site. Period entertainment was performed in the house, which was open for tours.

Those who wished tried their hands at making corn shuck dolls, candles and butter; trying out old-fashioned games; writing with a quill pen; and grinding corn in a hand grinder. Lunch sold at that site was Brunswick stew cooked over a wood fire and a

slice of baked cornbread. Festival day ended with a street dance at Missing Mill Park featuring Carolina Beach Club.

The Indian Summer Festival is organized by the Historic Hertford Business Association with assistance from the Chamber of Commerce. The Hearth & Harvest Festival is sponsored by the Perquimans County Restoration Association.

Both festivals seek to promote Perquimans County as a heritage tourism destination and shopping stop.



## Upcoming ALS events promise to be successful

Over 320 people will *Walk to D'Feet ALS* in Hertford on Sept. 23.

The fund raiser is being sponsored by the ALS Association North Carolina Chapter. Hertford will be one of six walk sites across the state participating in the National ALS Association inaugural Walk to D'Feet ALS.

Locally, the walk is being organized by people very close to Jim "Catfish" Hunter, who lost his life last year to complications of ALS. His widow, Helen, daughter Kim Hunter-Layne, and family friend Leah Robertson have been instrumental in organizing the local effort.

Hunter-Layne said Monday that people continue to request registration forms. There are also those who wish to make

contributions who cannot walk that day. Yet others have told Hunter-Layne they are not good at asking others for money, but would themselves like to make a donation and walk. The daughter of the late Baseball Hall of Famer said it doesn't matter how people participate, as long as they do what they can to help fight the deadly disease.

Funds from the walk will go to the ALS Association North Carolina Chapter. Hunter-Layne said the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation works hand-in-hand with the state association to provide support to ALS patients.

Those who wish to participate by walking, donating money or volunteering to man break stations or other duties on walk day may call Hunter-

Layne at 426-1559.

Corporate sponsors for the walk are Mercedes Benz USA LLC, UPS, Aventis, Oakland Athletics Baseball Co., Carolina Hurricanes and Par-One Mortgage.

The same weekend will bring the second annual Men's Softball Tournament to benefit the Hunter ALS Foundation.

Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Athletic Director Guy Webb said that the 12-team tournament will get started on Friday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. on the county softball fields. Games will continue and 8 and 9 on Friday. Saturday's games will begin at 10 a.m. At 4 o'clock, there will be a homerun derby. The fee is \$10 for five swings. One of the highlights of the tournament will take place at 5 p.m. when

the WVEC-TV team takes on the Hunter Boys, a team composed of Hunter's family members.

Play on Friday and Saturday will take place in three brackets. The top two teams from each bracket will play in a double elimination tournament on Sunday beginning at 10 a.m.

Concessions will be available throughout the tournament, as will tournament T-shirts and hats. There will be raffles during the tournament also.

A challenge has been issued to eight Albemarle area high schools to raise money for the Foundation. Perquimans, Gates, Camden, Northeastern Pasquotank, Currituck, Manteo and John A. Holmes high schools have been invited to participate in competition

for the "Catfish Cup." The winning school will keep the cup until next fall when a new winner will be announced. Webb said the idea came about because Hunter did so much for sports not just in Perquimans County, but across northeastern North Carolina. For instance, Hunter played a valuable role in landing the Babe Ruth World Series for Manteo several years ago.

Hunter's niece, Joan Rountree, is the tournament organizer. Webb said the Recreation Department agreed to assist Rountree because of the positive role Hunter played in athletic programs in the county.

To volunteer to work in the concessions stand or donate baked goods for sale, contact the Recreation Department.

### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 High: 83  
 Low: 66  
 PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
 High: 84  
 Low: 63  
 ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
 High: 77  
 Low: 57  
 SCATTERED T-STORMS