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THE PERQUIMANS COUNTY NEWS WEEKLY

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No arrest yet in stabbing incident

SUSAN R. HARRIS

A Hertford man remains in Sentara Norfolk General Hospital recovering from stab wounds he received on Nov. 11.

Roy Powell Jr., 25, is listed in stable condition at the hospital, according to Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

Vanscoy said that his department has developed a suspect in the case, but no arrests have been made. It has been determined that Powell was stabbed in the kitchen of the house at 205 E. Railroad Avenue around 10 a.m. last Monday. There were no witnesses to the incident.

Officer N.B. Krause answered the 911 call the day of the incident, arriving to find Powell lying on the lawn of the property with a knife wound to his chest. Powell was transported by Perquimans EMS to Chowan Hospital and was later airlifted to the Norfolk hospital.

The initial investigation indicates that an altercation that led to Powell's stabbing occurred in the kitchen of the residence. While there were no known witnesses to the stabbing, Krause said there were two people at the scene when he arrived.

Investigation into the incident continues. Anyone with information about the case should call the Hertford Police Department.

County moves on buildings

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The long-awaited county recreation/community center is finally becoming a reality.

The foundation of the community center/gymnasium has been poured, and walls are starting to go up. The center is being constructed at the Perquimans Commerce Centre.

The complex will include lighted ball fields and is phase I of a planned three-phase project to offer health and recreational opportunities at the site.

The county is also poised to order the manufactured addition to the former health department, where all social services personnel should be housed by mid-spring.

County Manager Paul Gregory said the unit should be ordered within three weeks.

PINEAPPLES GROW IN HERTFORD?



PHOTO BY ALICE BREWIN

Some folks just have a green thumb, and obviously Eva Sharp is one of them. Sharp grew this pineapple plant in Hertford, starting it from the top of a friend's purchased pineapple. The plant is so big, Sharp had to cut a lot of the foliage off to get it into her sun porch for the winter.

Sharp grows pineapple

ALICE BREWIN
Staff Writer

If you are looking for something a little unusual to do this winter, perhaps you should try what Eva Sharp did: Grow a pineapple.

But pineapples only grow in Hawaii and a few other warm places, you protest. How can anybody grow one here?

According to Sharp, all it takes is a green thumb and some patience.

Sharp requested the top off a friend's pineapple about two years ago. She had heard that a pineapple plant could be propagated from the cut-off top of the fruit and she wanted to try it.

Not really knowing what to do, Sharp first put the top in water, later putting it in a pot because she was afraid it was going to rot.

Well, she watered and tended that top and later transferred it to her yard to grow during the warmer months.

Now she has a monster of a plant measuring almost 3 feet in height and 4 feet in width. The plant would be wider, but Sharp had to do a little pruning to fit it on her enclosed porch.

Not only is this plant huge, a miniature pineapple sits atop the spiky foliage.

The "mother" pineapple plant has also produce offshoot "baby" pineapple plants, called suckers), which Sharp has given to family members and kept for herself.

In a few months she will enjoy the best pineapple ever grown in Hertford.

While Eva Sharp managed to grow a pineapple with a good bit of luck, a green thumb and some trial and error, here are some instructions for at-home growing. The experts at Dole Food Company, Inc. have the following tips:

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- (1) a fresh pineapple with undamaged leaves on its crown
- (2) an 8-inch terra cotta clay pot
- (3) coarse gravel or small stones
- (4) potting soil

Directions:

1. First, twist and remove the leafy crown from the fruit.

2. Place the crown in a dry, dark place for a full week to allow the bottom end to harden.

3. Layer an 8-inch porous clay pot with an inch of coarse gravel or small stones, then fill with a good, light potting soil. Be sure the pot has good drainage. About a year later, when your plant is larger, you'll need to transplant to a 12-inch pot, again using gravel or small stones and ensuring good drainage.

4. Water the soil once a week and fertilize with a household plant food fertilizer about every 3 months. If you live in a year-round warm climate, the potted plant should do well outdoors. But if your climate turns cold, keep the plant indoors in a sunny location during frost or freezing temperatures. (Note that this tropical plant can suffer from "sun shock" if it is moved directly from indoors to the sun. If you are going to move it outside, let it adjust to the change by sitting in a semi-shaded spot for a few days first.)

5. When the plant is about 18 months old it will sprout a bright red cone. If this hasn't happened by 20 months, "coax" the cone out by putting the entire pot in a large plastic garbage bag. Place a ripe apple in the bag and tie it closed, move to a shady spot and leave for 3 days. Remove the bag and return the plant to its usual sunny location. The bright red cone should appear after about 2 months. The next stage brings row upon row of beautiful, bright blue flowers, which open over 2 weeks. When the petals of the last flower have dried, the fruit begins to develop. When your fruit is 6 months old, it becomes sweeter, turning from green to rich gold on the inside and outside. Then it's time to pluck and enjoy it!

Residents should post assigned 911 addresses

Failure to follow county ordinance could mean slower emergency response time

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Emergency and law enforcement personnel are hampered in their efforts to respond to calls when residents fail to mark their residences with their E-911 addresses as required by county ordinance.

EMS Director Larry Chappell and Sheriff Eric Tilley said many county residents have either kept their former addresses on mailboxes or have no address on the property at all. This makes it very difficult for their personnel to find those who call for help, Chappell said.

When a call comes into Central Communications, dispatchers determine the address of the caller and provide that E-911 street number and address to the appropriate agency, whether it be rescue, fire or law enforcement, Chappell said. When responders answer to the correct road name, but cannot find a house number, they may be delayed as they try to find the correct address.

This is especially a problem at night, Chappell said.

Chappell and Tilley recommend that residents mark their property and that they verify their address with Central Communications when calling for assistance. Giving the dispatcher landmarks to help find the residence can also be helpful, Chappell said.

The county put an ordinance on its books dealing with marking addresses as part of the mapping and addressing project. Residents were supposed to comply with the ordinance within 90 days after receiving written notice from the county of their address change.

The ordinance requires that official street addresses be displayed on the front of addressable structures or at the entrance, whichever is most visible from the road. Addresses should be displayed at the end of driveways or easements at the end of the road that provides access to the structure.

If a structure is within 100 feet of the road and/or not visible from the road, numerical posting is

required at both the entrance or driveway and again in close proximity to the front door or entrance. A minimum of 5 feet in posting height is required close to the entranceway with a post height of 3 feet for all entrances or private drives that require numerical posting.

Owners are supposed to use separate address markers displayed so they can be seen clearly from the road. The numbers should be at least 4 inches in height on a contrasting background. Reflective material is preferred. A mailbox post can not serve as a designated address marker; however, residents who use their E-911 address as their mailing address should also post their address on the mailbox.

Numerical markers for multiple dwelling units and non-residential buildings should be at least 6 inches in height and should be placed on the front of the building facing the road or on the end of the building nearest the road.

All numerals should be constructed of durable material. The color should contrast with the color scheme of the structure and if mounted on glass must be contrasting with the background and clearly visible.

Lots or sites and manufactured home parks or subdivisions should have sequential address numbers assigned throughout the development. Each lot must have a separate address number and lot number assigned. The address number of each lot must be clearly displayed on each lot to be clearly legible from the road rather than mounted on the dwelling unit.

Anyone with any questions about the ordinance or its requirements should contact the county tax office.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 65
Low: 42
SCATTERED SHOWERS

FRIDAY
High: 54
Low: 32
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 54
Low: 47
PARTLY CLOUDY