

## Little-Williams speaks out

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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Accused sex offender faces 132 charges

### Lucas's bond set at over \$5 million

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
A Belvidere man is awaiting trial on child sex

offense charges in Albemarle District Jail in lieu of a \$5.775 million bond.

Michael Lucas, 39, of 1507 Belvidere Road, Belvidere was charged with 33 counts each of indecent liberties with a child, attempted sex offense by a substitute parent, first

degree attempted statutory sex offense and first degree attempted statutory rape on Aug. 8.

Lucas was first arrested and charged with two counts of sexual offense by a substitute parent in June.

That arrest came after Deputy Marlo Reel and Department of Social

Services personnel went to Lucas's home to investigate the possible sexual abuse of children in the home.

Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley said at that time that Reel and a social worker had statements from two of Lucas's stepchildren that they had been sexually abused by Lucas. Both chil-

dren were under age 12, and alleged that Lucas had abused them on more than one occasion.

Reel tried to speak with Lucas during the first visit to the home, but Tilley said Lucas would not allow himself to be interviewed.

Reel and the social worker determined that it would

be in the best interests of the children and the agencies involved to remove Lucas from the home. His bond on the initial charges was set at \$30,000.

Tilley said that he has been told that since the initial charges were filed, the children and their mother

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## Dogs' owner charged in pit bull attack case

### Foreman can only be charged with Class I misdemeanor

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The owner of four pit bulls who allegedly savagely attacked a Perquimans County woman turned himself in to authorities on Aug. 13.

Vashawn Foreman of 117 Third Avenue, Hertford, was charged with four counts of attack by a dangerous dog. The charge is a Class I misdemeanor. Bond was set at \$2,000 unsecured.

The charges stemmed from the July 25 attack of Zalene Bunch, 44. According to Sheriff Eric Tilley, Bunch's scalp was pulled away on the crown of her head, she had severe lacerations about her left elbow and left knee, and had bite marks and cuts all over her legs.

She was first transported to Chowan Hospital, but

was transferred to Pitt Memorial Hospital due to the extent of her injuries. She was placed on the critical list after her initial treatment.

Sheriff's deputies traveled to Greenville twice before Bunch was able to be interviewed. Tilley said on the first visit, it appeared that the medication given to Bunch made it difficult for her to answer questions.

But at the second visit, Tilley said Bunch was able to be interviewed, and that her story was clear and concise.

Bunch told officers that she parked on one street and walked across the Foreman property to a residence on another street to collect rent. She said that she had done that before, because when the tenant from whom she tried to collect rent saw her car, he would not answer the door.

Bunch said she saw the dogs on the chain, and had in fact spoken to the dogs on previous occasions. She said the dogs were barking fiercely. She began to walk around the mobile home and the other three dogs — Continued on page 12

## BALLANCE VISIT



Congressman Frank Ballance looks over a quilt and wallhanging celebrating the county's African-American heritage during a visit to Hertford last Tuesday. Ballance was on hand to discuss tourism, and chose to meet with locals at the monument to African-American Civil War soldiers on Academy Green, one of the sites highlighted in plans by local heritage tourism groups to increase heritage tourism here. The monument is one of very few of its kind in the country. The quilt and wallhanging were made by community members desiring to focus attention on the contributions of African-Americans in Perquimans County. Tourism plays a big role in the local economy and it is expected to continue to grow.

## Town moves to remove subpar buildings

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Hertford Town Council got an update on properties on its condemnation list last Monday night.

Town Manager John Christensen said some buildings have been demolished, some are under renovation and others are set for hearings.

On the list are:  
307 Market Street: The owner has contracted with a demolition firm.

205 King Street: The house was demolished by the owner.

317 Dobbs Street: The property went all the way through the process and was torn down by the town. The town will bill the owners for the demolition costs through the town's attorney. The costs will become a lien against the property and ultimately, the town can petition the court to take ownership of the property and sell it to recoup its expenses if the cost is not paid by the owner.

320 Dobbs Street: same process as 317 Dobbs.

110 E. Railroad Avenue: This property is in the research phase.

106 W. Grubb Street: A hearing was held. The owners said they will improve the property. The building inspector gave them 90 days to do so.

408 Cox Street: A hearing was held. The owners said they will improve the property. The building inspector Continued on page 12

## Martin's Landing: coffeehouse, deli, desserts mecca

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Offering more variety in his adopted hometown led Darian Martin to open Hertford's newest eatery, Martin's Landing.

The eatery held its grand opening last Friday with a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

The coffee house and deli offers a wide variety of coffee drinks, including exotic blends, lattes and cappuccinos. Diners may enjoy sitting at the bistro tables to enjoy their favorite hot or cold beverage, or may relax in a lovely sitting area furnished with a leather sofa and side chairs. There's even a checkerboard for those who'd like a friendly game with their drinks.

And if you're hungry, Martin's Landing serves delicious deli sandwiches and salads to please every palate, in addition to garden salads. And from muffins to pasta salad to salad dressings, everything is made fresh on site.

"I thought that there was enough of a need in this



Darian Martin celebrates the grand opening of Hertford's newest eatery, Martin's Landing at Ward Shopping Center, during a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting last Friday.

area because of the influx of people from outside the area (to open this type of eatery)," Martin said.

"I thought it would offer a change from Southern food, to have some variety and choice.

"I wanted to bring a little bit of Starbucks to

Perquimans County. I figured there wasn't one here, so I would go ahead and open one up."

For those who care to indulge a sweet tooth, Martin's Landing offers fine pastries by pastry chef Sandy Fortier and Carol Hammer of the Lovin'

Oven.

Carrott cake, peanut butter pie, key lime and raspberry tarts, cheesecake, chocolate cheesecake, gingerbread cakes and more are available in the shop.

And for special occasions, patrons may serve the delightful desserts at home by placing an order through Martin's Landing in advance.

The restaurant is not only an in-eat establishment. For quality deli meats and cheeses by the pound, Martin's Landing is the place to shop.

Martin's Landing's hours are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.—5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Wheel the deli closes at 5 each business day, the coffeehouse has extended hours on Friday and Saturday evenings.

What Darian Martin wants to be known for in the business community is great coffee and excellent deli food. Stop by the eatery at Ward Shopping Center and enjoy a sandwich, salad, breakfast, dessert or just a good cup of coffee.

## Festival talent sought

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The favorable response of participants and the audience last year will bring the second annual singing contest and the dueling diversity session to the Indian Summer Festival.

Coordinated by Connie Townsend and sponsored by The Heritage House, the contest is open to the first 20 contestants to enter by the Aug. 23 deadline.

The dueling diversity portion of the show offers a variety of music from the '50s to today.

Singers of all ages and musical backgrounds may try out for the contest and show.

Sign up and rehearsal day is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 23, 2-8 p.m. at the Snug Harbor Clubhouse.

Don Evans of Backroads Karaoke will provide music.

For more information, call Townsend at 426-1660 or Mary White at 426-5973.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 89  
Low: 72  
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY  
High: 91  
Low: 73  
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
High: 85  
Low: 70  
SCATTERED T'STORMS