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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Cafe robbed

Same robber may have also hit Food Lion

ERIN RICKERT

Police say an armed robbery that took place at Frankie's Hertford Café on Sept. 25 may have a connection to the two Food Lion robberies.

"We are not discarding that it is the same person," Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said. "There is a possibility. The basic description of this [the Frankie's robbery] and Food Lion is similar."

The subject is described as a black male between 5'2 and 5'8 inches tall. He was wearing a white T-shirt, jeans and had a T-shirt wrapped around his head, making only his eyes visible.

According to police, he entered the café through the back door, grabbed Carissa O'Neal, the waitress on duty, showed her a gun and told her to open the register.

Vanscoy said he left through the back door with an undisclosed amount of money.

Authorities were called to the scene and proceeded to search the back alley and a four-five block area around the store for the subject, but were unable to locate him.

Vanscoy said they have picked up a few people and talked to them, but the investigation is still ongoing.

"We are going to need the public's help," Vanscoy said.

He said he wants to remind residents to be aware of their surroundings and if they see anything suspicious to call the police.

"It may help this keep from happening again," Vanscoy said.

Food Lion was robbed on July 27 and Sept. 14, both times in the early morning hours, and both times by a suspect wearing coveralls with a white T-shirt wrapped around his head and face. Each time, the robber entered the front door of the store, forced a clerk to open the cash register, grabbed an undetermined amount of money and ran back out the front door. The clerk in the July incident reported seeing a weapon, but in the September robbery, no gun was seen.

Food Lion, formerly open 24 hours a day, cut back its hours effective Sept. 27. The store now closes at 1 a.m. and reopens at 6 a.m. Store spokesperson Raymond Whidbee said he was not at liberty to say whether the change in hours is a direct result of the robberies.

Anyone with any information on either robbery should call HPD at 426-5587.

Arden woman drowns at park

ERIN RICKERT

Debbie Winstead, 52, drowned Sept. 28 while she and her boyfriend, Robert Lee Brock, were swimming in Missing Mill Park off Grubb Street.

Winstead, Brock and his son William had traveled from Arden to visit Brock's aunt in Hertford.

The two had sent William to the house with their personal belongings before Winstead, who did not know how to swim, entered the water near the dock holding Brock's hand.

Brock told police the two were playing in the water when he slipped on a rock, letting go of Winstead's hand.

City maintenance workers at the park said they saw the couple swimming while on their lunch break, but realized the seriousness of the situation when only Brock came out of the water.

Workers informed authorities and when they arrived a little after 4 p.m. they found 41-year-old Brock, hands cupped over his face, sobbing near the edge of the water.

The Perquimans County Dive and Rescue Team was alerted, but the woman's body surfaced around 5 p.m. before the team was able to respond.

Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said that Brock told him the couple had been drinking before the

accident occurred.

The couple was swimming in an area where Cypress knees and other debris are hidden underneath the water.

Vanscoy said the town has never permitted swimming off the property.

No swimming signs were present before Isabel and new signs have been ordered.

Winstead's body was taken from Albemarle Hospital to Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville Thursday morning where they will complete an autopsy.

Vanscoy said it could take up to two weeks before they receive any results, but right now it appears that she drowned.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Members of the Perquimans County Technical Dive Team prepare to search for an Arden woman who drowned off the shore at Missing Mill Park last Tuesday.

WELCOME TO HERTFORD



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

New gateway signs welcome visitors to Hertford with the official town logo, designed by Hertford native Clark Winslow. The signs, a project of Historic Hertford, Inc., the town's Main Street Program, were made possible by donations from businesses.

Car fire may have connection to Camden blazes

ERIN RICKERT

A 1999 Ford Windstar minivan torched on the front lawn of a Chapanoke Road home on Sept. 23 could be connected to a string of car fires thought to be the work of a serial arsonist.

"We think they are connected," said Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley. "It is the same type of burning."

Tilley said the Perquimans fire is similar to the Camden fires in that they have all been vehicles parked away from owners' residences and unlocked when the fires are set.

The car fires began Sept. 5 in Camden County, and so far there have been six fires

including the most recent fire in Perquimans.

Tilley said he has spoken with Barry Overman, the fire marshal for Pasquotank and Camden counties, but authorities still have no leads in the case.

Carolyn and Jody Cohee, who hung a for sale sign in their minivan just two days before the fire, have been ruled out, according to Tilley, who said the couple owed more on the vehicle than it was worth.

The Cohee's were contacted, but declined to comment on the incident.

A reward of \$6,500 has been offered in Camden for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for setting the fires.

Green found not guilty

Former cop charged with attempted murder

CHRIS WHIPPLE
The Daily Advance

A jury in Perquimans County Superior Court returned a verdict of not guilty in the first-degree attempted murder trial of James Green last Wednesday.

Green, 61, is an Albemarle Plantation resident and retired New York state police officer, was accused of shooting his estranged wife, Cynthia Green, and her friend, Jack Waggoner on Jan. 4 at Waggoner's Holiday Island residence. The jury took an hour and 45 minutes to decide on the verdict.

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A Perquimans County Schools bus was deemed a total loss after a wreck on County Line Road last Wednesday. The driver and two children on board were not seriously injured.

Two injured in bus wreck

CHRIS WHIPPLE
The Daily Advance

Two Chowan County men injured during an accident with a Perquimans County school bus last Wednesday were still being treated at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville Thursday.

Shawn Norman, 28, of Edenton, and Terrence Boyce, 23, of Tyner were

injured when their Barnhill Construction van collided with the school bus on County Line Road at the intersection of Rural Paved Road 1305.

Details about the men's medical condition were not available.

Highway Patrol Sgt. V.E. Burton said witnesses told him that the van, driven by Norman, ran a stop sign at

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Voter registration deadline approaches

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Friday at 5 p.m. is the deadline to register to vote in the November general election.

Board of Elections Director Eula Forbes said last week that those who are not registered in Perquimans County must

meet the deadline in order to be eligible to vote in the Nov. 2 general election.

Potential voters can visit the Board of Elections office in the county office building which also houses the Extension Service on Edenton Road Street. Voter registration forms are

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High school lockers to get facelift

All student lockers at Perquimans County High School will be refurbished and painted during teacher workdays Monday, Oct. 11 and Tuesday, Oct. 12.

Students are requested to remove all items from the lockers at the end of school on Friday, Oct. 8, ensuring personal belongings will not be lost or damaged during the process.

Questions should be directed to Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter, 426-5741.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 76
Low: 54
SUNNY

FRIDAY
High: 78
Low: 55
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 76
Low: 56
PARTLY CLOUDY