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FEB 16 2005

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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

February 16, 2005

Vol. 73, No. 7 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

35 cents

## Teen arrested for robbery, possession

ERIN RICKERT

A local teen was recently found in possession of marijuana after he was brought in on robbery charges, police said.

Jamar Fletcher, 18, of 405 Dobbs Street, was

arrested and brought into the Hertford Police Department Feb. 4 after he was identified as the individual responsible for a robbery that took place in the Food Lion parking lot.

"While he was being fingerprinted and pho-

tographed he was found to have drugs on him," said Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

Vanscoy said officers found 1.3 ounces of marijuana distributed into 23 small clear plastic bags in the teen's pocket.

Police had arrested Fletcher just a day after he allegedly robbed John Hoggard, 18, of 142 Riverview Drive.

According to police, Fletcher approached Hoggard in the parking lot the evening of Feb. 3 imi-

tating a gun with his hand in the pocket of his coat as he demanded Hoggard give him money. Believing the gun to be real, Hoggard handed Fletcher \$20.

Vanscoy said Hoggard was able to identify Fletcher because he had

attended school with the boy before Hoggard graduated in 2004.

Fletcher was charged with common law robbery and possession with intent to sell and deliver narcotics and is being held on a \$12,500 secured bond.

## Hertford, county mull subdivisions

### Significant growth may be in store for Hertford

ERIN RICKERT

Town council members were faced with requests from two developers Monday night that could increase Hertford's population by 50 percent — stealing three quarters of the additional capacity the town plans to add to the sewer system.

Together, Timberline Land Company and Page Development are requesting close to 450 new residential lots connect to the system.

On Edenton Road Street, Page Development plans for 141 lots while Timberline Land Company plans for close to 300 lots on the corner of US 17 and Harvey Point Road.

"This is not normal," said Hertford Town Manager John Christensen. "This is hugely abnormal. It's a good problem to have, but we have to look at this wisely."

Christensen said in the last three and a half years alone Hertford has only made 14 new connections to the sewer system.

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### County expands subdivision moratorium

ERIN RICKERT

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners recently approved a measure modifying the current six-month moratorium on area subdivisions five lots and larger to include two lots.

"Basically the concern was that they [developers] will do four lots and then go ahead and do four others," said Perquimans County Manager Bobby Darden. "We are trying to keep everyone on the same playing field."

The moratorium, which was originally passed in December 2004, halts subdivision development until June 6.

It was originally initiated to allow additional time for two things: to form plans so the county's two water plants can better accommodate the area's sudden growth and to discuss possible changes not only to subdivision regulations but also the process for approving them.

In the last three years, development of waterfront

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## UP WE GO



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Members from the Blueway/Greenway Steering Committee gathered along with town officials in Missing Mill Park to help Public Artist Maura Bordes Cronin install the first of four risers planned for the county Thursday. The risers, all at least 150-feet in length, will also be placed at the Newbold White House, Winfall Landing Park and Academy Green Memorial Park through March as part of an effort to highlight some of the trailheads for the Blueway/Greenway Plan. Cronin said the riser pattern emphasizes steps being taken in the Blueway/Greenway Plan, which works to develop areas for those interested in biking, kayaking, walking, and canoeing.

## Vacant positions filled across county

ERIN RICKERT

While many thought the start of the New Year was just another year gone by, 2005 brought about many changes and some new faces to Perquimans.

Several vacant positions as well as a few new positions were filled across the county, with talented individuals from both close and far away.

Newly graduated from Virginia's Mary Washington College with a bachelors in historic preservation, Sarah Parr was recently hired by the Perquimans County Restoration Association as the new site manager for the Newbold-White House.

Parr, who succeeds Ann Jones, began her work with the historic Quaker homestead Jan. 13.

"I want to work with the vision of making the Newbold-White House a more cohesive site," Parr said. "I want it to be more interactive for children and families whether it be exhibits in the visitor center or the house itself."

Parr moved to the area from Williamsburg, Va. where she worked as an orientation interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg.

Since her move, Parr said she has been working to learn the area and the demands of a job requiring she keep the oldest brick house in North Carolina open for visitors.

Days earlier, on Jan. 10, Matthew Peeler was hired

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## Educators help residents succeed

ERIN RICKERT

A new continuing education program made possible through a partnership with Perquimans County Schools and the College of The Albemarle is now available to help some county residents finish what they started.

The general educational development program, held at 6 o'clock each Monday and Wednesday evening at Perquimans Central School, has only been available since mid-January, yet already directors are dealing with an overwhelmingly positive response.

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## HGS kitchen steamer catches fire

ERIN RICKERT

Close to 500 students and 50 staff members were evacuated from Hertford Grammar School the morning of Feb. 9 after a steamer caught fire in the school's cafeteria.

No one was injured in the mishap and damage to the school and equipment was minimal.

Cafeteria Manager Marlene Pierce said the steamer caught fire not long after she applied chemical delimer to clean the machine — a task they do a few times a year. Pierce said she and another cafeteria worker were scrubbing the inside of a walk-in cooler when she heard several of her co-workers yelling, "fire."

"I ran out and saw the steamer on fire," Pierce said. "I unplugged it thinking the fire would go down but it didn't."

As the room began to fill with smoke, Pierce said she became concerned because several gas tanks and gas

appliances surrounded the steamer.

Pierce said it was around 9 a.m. when she called the school's secretary, Linda Godfrey, and told her to call 911 and send Janitor Robert Banks to the cafeteria to assist.

Meanwhile Pierce grabbed one of the fire extinguishers from the wall, pulled the pin and began spraying chemical flame-retardant on the flames inside the steamer until Banks could take over.

Once Hertford Fire Department arrived at the scene the flames were under control and fire fighters were able to remove the steamer from the cafeteria.

"The damage is minimal to what it could have been," said Brenda Lassiter, public information officer for Perquimans County Schools. "No one was injured."

Lassiter said the steamer, which the school purchased in 1998 when they remodeled, was valued at \$6,200.



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Hertford firefighters check out a steamer that caught on fire during cleaning at Hertford Grammar School last Wednesday. The school was evacuated, but there were no injuries resulting from the incident.

Each school in the county has just one of these machines and it is used by the school to steam things like vegetables and spaghetti.

Pierce said losing the steamer, which they use everyday, will affect how meals are served at the

school.

"It's going to affect us bad," Pierce said. "We use it like a person."

Lassiter said it could take up to two weeks before they receive a new steamer and until that time, extra people will be needed to do

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 49  
LOW: 26  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 46  
LOW: 30  
SUNNY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 53  
LOW: 35  
PARTLY CLOUDY