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 AUG 17 2005

Sullivan wins library contest

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PQ team third in state

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PCHS band to be in concert

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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

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## Few clues in shooting of Hertford man

ERIN RICKERT

Police have no strong leads in the case involving the shooting death of a Hertford man on Market Street early Thursday morning.

No suspects have been arrested and police have yet to develop a solid lead surrounding the motive for the attack.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said Friday little is known about the shooting of 43 year-old William Stanley Johnson of 415 Dobbs St., an incident reported to the police department at 1:24 a.m. Thursday.

"When we first arrived we found a black male laying on the steps of 329 Market Street suffering

from a gunshot wound to the chest," Vanscoy said.

At that time, Vanscoy said Johnson was still breathing. It was not until the second officer arrived moments later that Johnson's breathing stopped.

"They attempted to revive him with CPR," Vanscoy said.

However, all attempts

were unsuccessful and Johnson was pronounced dead on arrival at Chowan Hospital.

That morning, Hertford officers as well as members of the State Bureau of Investigation conducted an inspection of the crime scene.

Vanscoy said officers also canvassed the neighborhood Thursday, knock-

ing on neighbors' doors and conducting interviews, but in the end few details were revealed.

"There are no witnesses at this time," Vanscoy said.

While no descriptions of a possible suspect or suspects are available, Vanscoy said, officers have determined no vehicle was involved in the shooting.

"From what we gathered

at this point, everyone involved would have been on foot," Vanscoy said.

Johnson's body, Vanscoy said, has since been transported to the medical examiners office in Greenville for an autopsy.

Anyone with information about the shooting is urged to contact the Hertford Police Department at 426-5587.

### MONDAY BLAZE

## New Hope home destroyed by fire

ERIN RICKERT

Fire officials are unsure what caused the blaze that left an abandoned two-story farmhouse in rubble Monday.

No one was injured in the fire and firefighters worked to extinguish the flames for close to an hour after arrival.

Neighbors called to alert fire officials around 1:40 p.m.

However, when firefighters arrived, the home, a nearby shed and a garage with two cars still inside was already fully engulfed.

The fire burned with such force and heat, vegetation in at least a quarter-mile radius surrounding



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Durants Neck and Intercounty volunteer firefighters battled a house fire in New Hope Monday afternoon. The unoccupied house, a nearby shed and a garage with two cars inside were completely destroyed.

the home was scorched.

Dominion Power was also called to disconnect the live power line torn down as a result of the fire.

Dominion spokesperson

Chuck Penn reported no other outages in the area related to the down line.

Neighbors at the scene, who refused to be identified, said the New Hope

Road home had been vacant for close to 10 years.

Durants Neck and Intercounty volunteer fire departments responded to the blaze.

## Bus service no longer available

### Greyhound cuts service schedule

ERIN RICKERT

A plan to increase Greyhound Lines' profits will leave Hertford bus travelers in the dust when the company cuts 83 cities from their service schedule Wednesday.

Greyhound, which provides bus transportation to more than 3,100 destinations in North America, announced the plan to discontinue service in Hertford and other cities as part of an effort to reduce the number of stops on several of the line's "longer" routes.

"We are changing to better suit our customers," said Anna Folmsbee, spokeswoman for the Dallas-based Company. "Surveys show our customers want faster service with fewer stops in between."

Folmsbee said the line is trying to do away with "longer hauls" — cutting routes to 450 miles or less or those three-quarters of customers already take.

"We are just trying to eliminate locations with low and sometime non-existent customer demand," Folmsbee said. "Those areas of weaker participation."

Folmsbee said records indicate last year alone only 130 travelers left Hertford on either a Greyhound or their sister line Carolina Trailways, and only a few more, 281 passengers, chose Hertford as a destination.

"That's less than 1 percent traveling [from that location] a day," Folmsbee said of the low ridership.

Up until Wednesday Hertford was considered a

"flag stop." A more limited service offered by the line requiring, Folmsbee said, "bus travelers stand and wave down drivers before they can board."

Folmsbee said this is similar to what it was like to catch a bus in the "old days" when the line was first founded in 1914.

"It [flag service] is not something our customers use anymore," Folmsbee said.

Unlike larger stations, no tickets or specific times have been available for those interested in catching a bus in Hertford.

Travelers would have to wait near where the bus passed through twice a day between morning trips from Elizabeth City to Edenton and evening travel between Edenton and Elizabeth City.

Since Hertford was the only bus stop in Perquimans County, those still interested in catching the line must do so in either Chowan or Pasquotank counties.

The two closest locations are in Edenton at Joe Lee Company on Virginia Road or at the Elizabeth City Exxon Station on South Hughes Boulevard. Both are full service stations that offer ticket and baggage services.

"They're [Perquimans County residents] are still within reach of the Greyhound network at these locations," Folmsbee said.

Greyhound started aggressive cost cutting measures in 2001 and has already eliminated close to 750 cities from its service.

"Plans to reorganize the network are 62 percent complete," Folmsbee said. "Everything on the I-94 travel corridor, from Delaware to Florida and points in between is being restructured."

## Football kicks off Friday night at Memorial Field

### PQ assigned to new athletic conference

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Are you ready for some football?

If so, be at Memorial Field at PCHS Friday night when the Pirates host the Edenton Aces in the 2005 season gridiron opener with kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

The non-conference outing will pit the rebuilding 1-A Pirates against next-door rivals, the 2-A Aces, coming off a season they had hoped would take them much further in the playoffs.

All fall sports are about to get underway, as the high school volleyball team scrimmages Thursday in Williamston before hosting Edenton next Tuesday for JV and varsity matches at 4 and 5.

Soccer opens Sept. 7 and cross country is still up in the air right now.

With the new season comes a new athletic conference. Realignment takes place every four years, and Athletic Director Susan Cox said Perquimans has been assigned to the Albemarle Conference. Other teams are Camden, Manteo, Gates, Columbia, Creswell and Cape Hatteras.



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Perquimans football players prepare for Friday night's season opener against Edenton in Hertford at 7:30.

The Atlantic 8 conference is composed of other northeastern North Carolina teams, some of which were formerly in the same conference as Perquimans. A-8 is made up of Roanoke, Williamston, Bear Grass, Jamesville, Northside, Southside, Mattamuskeet and Plymouth.

The teams in each conference will duke it out for conference championships and the chance to advance to post-season play — at least in most sports.

Cox said there is a twist to the conference, which was initially set up based on school enrollment and

on geography. It is best not to have to travel so far to play, because of taking students out of class to travel and travel expenses.

Because of the disparity in size of the schools in the two conferences, football schedules and standings will be calculated a little differently.

Four Albemarle Conference teams — Perquimans, Camden, Manteo and Gates — make up the Albemarle Football Conference. Five Atlantic 8 teams — Northside, Southside, Plymouth, Roanoke and Williamston — make up the Atlantic Football Conference.

Those two conferences have cross-scheduled to create one league for play-off purposes.

The smaller schools in the two conferences — Creswell, Columbia, Jamesville, Mattamuskeet and Cape Hatteras (Bear Grass does not field a football team), will play football as the Atlantic 5 conference.

Each conference will have its own conference champion and All-Conference team, Cox said.

The disparity in school size has been a problem in negotiating 1-A conferences for several years. At least during the last three realignment processes, the smaller schools have balked at being placed in the same conference with the schools with larger student populations because of the inequity they felt it would create in football.

Several alternatives have been tried, including a 1-, 2- 3-A split conference, and creating longer travel distances to group the larger schools and the smaller schools. The special football concession is the latest method f choice.

Cox said the arrangement will be tried for two years, and if the schools in the conferences do not like it, they can take their concerns to the North Carolina

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 HIGH: 88, LOW: 73  
 MORNING SHOWERS

FRIDAY  
 HIGH: 88, LOW: 74  
 SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
 HIGH: 89, LOW: 75  
 SCATTERED T'STORMS