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4-H sells wreaths

Page 3

Youth make donation to DSS

Page 4

Pirates fall in season opener

Page 7

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Arrest made in Market Street murder

ERIN RICKERT

Police arrested a Winfall man in connection with last week's shooting death of a Hertford man on Market Street.

Clarence Aries Chestnut, 26, of Lot 15 Hollowell Mobile Home Park, Winfall, was charged

with first degree murder Thursday for the Aug. 11 shooting of 43-year-old William Stanley Johnson, of 415 Dobbs Street.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said Johnson was found just after 1 a.m. on the steps of 329 Market Street last Thursday suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest. Police believe

Johnson was shot elsewhere and ended up at the residence only after he stumbled toward the home, where witnesses said there was a light on.

Vanscoy said when officers arrived Johnson was still breathing. Shortly afterward, however, his breathing stopped.

Officers tried to perform

cardiopulmonary resuscitation to revive Johnson, but were unsuccessful. Johnson was later pronounced dead on arrival at Chowan Hospital.

Though Vanscoy said police have yet to determine the specific details leading up to the attack, they believe Johnson and Chestnut were involved in

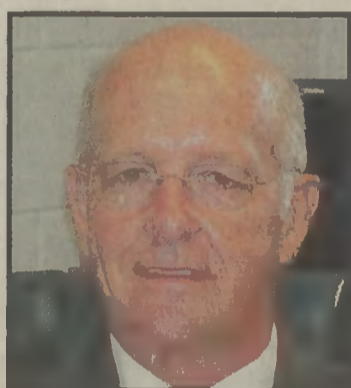
a dispute earlier in the day. "Based on what we have determined," Vanscoy said, "there was some sort of altercation earlier that evening that resulted in the shooting."

Vanscoy said police were able to link Chestnut with the shooting after his name surfaced during several interviews throughout the

course of their investigation.

Police are still looking for the small caliber handgun Chestnut is alleged to have used to shoot Johnson, Vanscoy said.

Chestnut is currently being held in Albemarle District Jail without bond awaiting his first appearance.



William Byrum

Byrum to head Camden High

ERIN RICKERT

A retired local educator will have the opportunity to put his nearly 40 years of experience to use this year as the interim principal at Camden County High School.

Belvidere resident William Byrum, 67, was named interim principal last Wednesday after the school's 49 year-old principal, Vann Pennell, offered his resignation Aug. 3 to accept a similar position at Brunswick High School in Southport.

Camden County Schools Spokeswomen Paula Mackey said Byrum will stay with the school until they are able to find a replacement, but could not give a set time the school system would require his services.

Continued on page 8

County schools start Thursday

ERIN RICKERT

School officials say when the new school year starts Thursday, the nearly 1,750 children in the Perquimans County school system should be prepared to come back to a lot of changes.

Perquimans County Schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter said calendar adjustments, meal price increases and construction at two campuses in the school system will all welcome incoming students this year.

Though the school year does not start until Thursday, over the last few weeks students, parents and staff have already been adjusting to one change after recent state legislation pushed back this year's start date 20 days.

Instead of heading back Aug. 5 as the school system has done for the last five years, Lassiter said, the new law calls for classes to begin on Aug. 25. Schools will get out later also, June 9 rather than May 25.

"Legislation changed the calendar and mandated we could not be out before June 9," Lassiter said. "It's not what we have been used to in years past, but we are going to have to adjust to this calendar."

As a result, Lassiter said, nine-week breaks as well as athletic practices and high school

Continued on page 8



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

First grade teacher Holly Weeks cuts out several laminated strips of construction paper highlighting her classroom rules Friday. Weeks was just one of many teachers who worked tirelessly last week to prepare their classrooms for students arrival Thursday.

Dog hung by leash

SUSAN HARRIS

An ongoing dispute over a dog in the Little River Shores neighborhood has left one resident's pet dead and two others facing felony animal abuse charges.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said his deputy's formal report had not been filed at press time, but he verified that an incident regarding killing a dog was under investigation, and that those responsible could face felony charges.

Tilley said the dog's owner and the two adults who allegedly killed the dog, a pit bull, had been in court recently in a matter involving the animal.

Tilley said the initial investigation suggests that a department of social services employee was at the home of the alleged dog killers when the animal, owned by a neighbor, came onto the property. The man who occupies the property allegedly told children at the scene to get in the house because he was going to kill the dog.

Neighbors reported that the woman at the residence pulled the dog up the front steps by its leash, with the dog fighting her, but showing no signs of aggression.

"There's no sign of aggression from the dog," Tilley said. "There was no aggression shown before he made the statement that he

Continued on page 4

Efforts underway to re-establish OLF resistance group in Perquimans

ERIN RICKERT

The Baker family never imagined the life they made for themselves in Perquimans County years ago could ever be in such jeopardy.

However, in the last four years the family has twice been left pondering what they would do if the Navy were granted permission to place an Outlying Landing Field in the county.

That authorization would allow Navy pilots to practice landings using F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet aircrafts in their backyard, stripping the Belvidere family of close to 300 acres of farmland, a home and toppling one, man's more than 40-year farming career.

"All I've ever wanted to do is farm. That's all I've

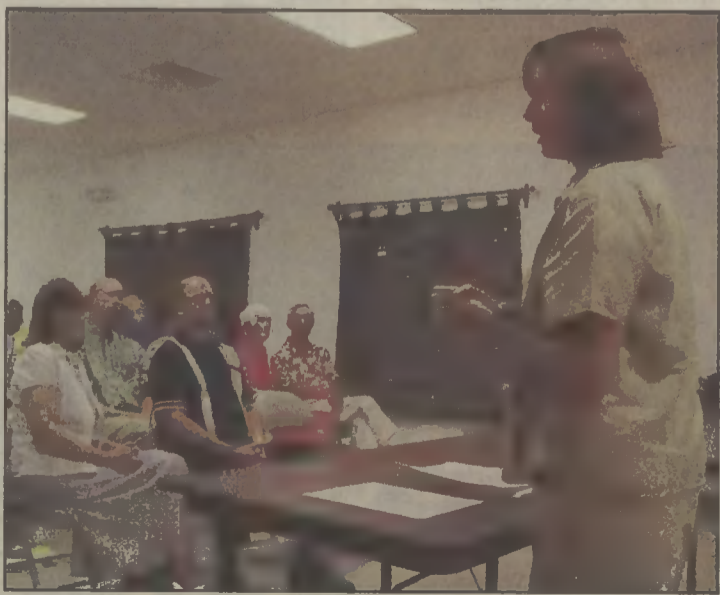


PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Jennifer Alligood, No OLF chairperson and Beaufort resident, speaks to close to 50 residents at the Belvidere-Chappell Hill fire department during a meeting designed to reorganize the Perquimans County No OLF Thursday.

ever known is farming," said 52 year-old Julian Baker. "If they take it [the land] it will change our lifestyle, the way we make our living."

For Julian's son Charles, who has five acres adjacent to his father's land, the threat of an OLF in Perquimans nearly four years ago caused him to stop plans to build a home on his property.

It was not until the site in Washington and Beaufort counties was selected almost two years ago, Charles said he finally began building his home.

And after moving in just over a month ago, the threat of again losing his land and now his newly built home is weighing heavily on this family's piece of mind.

On Thursday evening,

Julian, Charles and close to 50 other OLF opponents gathered at the Belvidere-Chappell Hill volunteer fire department, many outfitted in stickers, hats and other anti-OLF paraphernalia, in the hopes they could revive an organized resistance in Perquimans County — efforts that crumbled in 2003 when the Navy went on record as choosing 30,000 acres in Washington and Beaufort counties to practice landings.

Concerns over an OLF, which would take away acres of farmland from several county residents and add jet noise to an otherwise peaceful community, were re-ignited this year after a court order blocked the Navy from building on its preferred site.

A month later, in June,

the Navy announced its plans to review Perquimans, Bertie, Beaufort-Craven, Hyde and

Continued on page 8

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 85, LOW: 68
SUNNY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 88, LOW: 70
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 87, LOW: 71
PARTLY CLOUDY