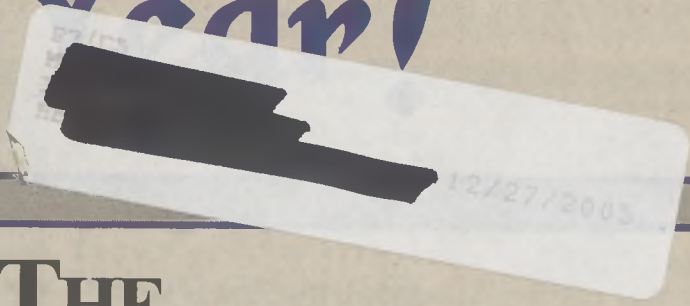


Happy New Year!



Snug Harbor honors bus survivors

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Rely on God's strength

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Market Street murder suspect indicted

From staff reports

Clarence Aries Chestnut, 26, of Lot 15 Hollowell Mobile Home Park, Winfall, was indicted for murder by a grand jury earlier this month.

Chestnut had been charged with first-degree murder for the Aug. 11 shooting of 43-year-old

William Stanley Johnson of 331 Dobbs St.

Johnson was found just after 1 a.m. on the steps of 329 Market St. suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest. Hertford police said they believe Johnson was shot elsewhere and ended up at the residence only after he stumbled toward the home's lit porch light looking for help.

When the first officer arrived, Johnson was still breathing and had a faint heartbeat, Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said. It was not until the second officer arrived, moments later, that Johnson's breathing stopped. Officers administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation until the rescue squad arrived. Johnson was later pronounced dead on

arrival at Chowan Hospital.

Police 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 shoot-

ing after his name surfaced during several interviews throughout the course of their investigation.

Police have not been able to locate the small caliber handgun that Chestnut is alleged to have used to shoot Johnson, nor have they uncovered any additional details about the incident, Vanscoy said.

Man charged with rape

Margaret Fisher

A Hertford man was charged with two counts of rape after he allegedly sexually assaulted his 14-year-old niece.

Conan Vernell Warren of 318 King St., was charged with second-degree rape and statutory rape.

An Elizabeth City woman brought her daughter to Hertford to visit a relative on Dec. 2. The mother returned home assured that her daughter would have a ride home.

Warren, the girl's uncle, told his niece that she could spend the night at his house, and he would take her home in the morning because it had become late.

The alleged rape is estimated to have occurred sometime between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m., according to Hertford Police Department records.

At about 11 p.m. on Dec. 3, police were contacted by Albemarle Hospital after the mother took her daughter there. The daughter was treated at the hospital and released to her mother.

Warren was taken to Albemarle District Jail under a \$175,000 secured bond.

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ELVES AND ANGELS



In an effort to help students understand that there is a responsibility to those communities in which we live and work, students attending Perquimans Schools were encouraged to participate in a number of community outreach activities for the holiday season. Third graders from Hertford Grammar School visited the historic Newbold-White House to make ornaments of yesteryear (top left). The Perquimans FFA Chapter was able to distribute 10 baskets to families in Perquimans County which were identified by the Department of Social Services (bottom left). The Perquimans High School SURGE team collected toys, canned goods and clothing at the local high school and donated items to the Open Door in Perquimans County (top right).

RHEMA awarded \$18,000 grant

Margaret Fisher

A local faith-based agency is the recipient of an \$18,000 grant awarded to organizations that have developed resources and strategies to close the student achievement gap.

Rhema Ministry Institute, a nonprofit agency, received the grant for their after-school tutorial and remediation program for third- through fifth grade children.

The grant was provided through River City Community Development Corporation in Elizabeth City and the Historically Minority College and University Consortium, which is in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. River City CDC provided oversight and technical assistance to grant recipients.

Three certified teachers and two high school students serving as mentors are assisting 12 students who are having difficulty passing their end-of-grade tests.

The students receive assistance with their homework in core courses, as well as writing activities, real-life math skills, testing skills and community service.

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Wells named chair of NCCAT trustee board

Margaret Fisher

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Kenneth W. Wells has been named chairman of the Board of Trustees for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

In addition, the NCCAT, a 20-year-old program offering continuing education for teachers, is preparing to

build a new facility on Ocracoke Island.

Wells will be leading the board in expansions, contracts and lobbying efforts, he said.

"The primary focus is, of course, teacher retention," Wells said. "NCCAT has a good record of that."

About 13 percent of teachers are lost every year, he said. Four out of the last five years have been in the

singles digits, except last year when it was 11 percent because of a greater number of teachers who retired, he said.

Of the teachers who attend training at NCCAT, 97.5 percent stay in teaching in North Carolina, Wells said.

The NCCAT seminars immerse teachers in topics that span all the core public school courses and provide

hands-on experiences for them.

One topic is currently offered which will be an ideal one to offer when the new facility opens on the Outer Banks. Called Salty Dogs and Lore of the Sea, this week-on-the-beach seminar includes a study of hurricane impacts on barrier islands, commercial fishing and literature about

Continued

Girls donate birthday gifts to Hopeline

Margaret Fisher

Three fourth graders held a combined birthday party, but decided to forward their gifts to needy children who attend Hertford Grammar School. The school opted to pass the gifts on to a women's shelter.

The girls—Holly Hunter, Savannah Duncan and Hannah Lane—all turned 10 within a week of one another. In previous years, they had held separate birthday parties. This time, the Perquimans residents decided to combine their celebrations into one big party on Dec. 16.

When one of the mothers suggested that the girls donate their gifts and make

that request in the invitations, the girls agreed.

"I thought it would be nice if they let the guests bring one gift—it didn't matter if it was for a boy or a girl—for a needy child," said Hunter's mother, Helen L. Hunter. "They were all receptive to it, and it worked out really well."

About 40 children showed up at the co-ed dance party held in a farm shop at a residence on Lake Road. They brought as many as 50 gifts. Some were wrapped and some weren't. On Monday, the girls brought the gifts to their school.

School counselors Bonita Williams and Rebecca Martin accepted the gifts on behalf of chil-

dren in need. But they decided there was a greater need elsewhere. Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation had recently donated toys to the school. So, the councilors thought about the families that would be staying at Albemarle Hopeline, a domestic violence shelter for women.

The next day the students participated in a sing-along at school. There, Holly Wilson, clinical coordinator for Hopeline, told the students how Hopeline works with families that experience worries leading to domestic problems, especially during the holiday season. Wilson accepted the gifts from the three girls.

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Holly Hunter, Savannah Duncan and Hannah Lane celebrated their December birthdays by asking for presents for needy children. The 40-plus friends who attended their joint birthday party brought gifts to be donated to Albemarle Hopeline for distribution to children who have fled domestic violence or are in counseling through Hopeline.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 64, LOW: 40
AM T'STORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 60, LOW: 42
SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 64, LOW: 40
SHOWERS