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**Hertford native honored**

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**Ulman serves in Iraq**

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**JVs clinch conference crown**

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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 cents

## Fire blazes from vacant house Police look into thefts

MARGARET FISHER

Using an abandoned house for drug activity and to keep warm may have caused a fire that destroyed a Hertford house.

The fire broke out at about 8:15 a.m. on Thursday at the back corner of an abandoned house, located at 323 Market St., said Hertford Fire Chief Robert Reed.

"When we got here, the house was fully engulfed with fire," Reed said.

Because of the intensity of the fire, firefighters couldn't enter the house to get it under control. It took about 40 minutes to put the fire out, Reed said.

An excavator was called in to pull the house down to keep it from being a hazard to residents and allow an inspection to take place, said Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

No one was found in the house. There was no electrical power to the house, and neighbors said they didn't see any activity around the house that morning. Around noon, police determined that the fire likely started in a bathtub.

"It appears they were using an old bathtub," Vanscoy said. "They were putting stuff in it and burning stuff."

Hay was found on the



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Firefighters worked to quell a blaze at 323 Market Street last Thursday. Fire and police official suspect that vagrants using a bathtub as a heat source may have ignited the fire in the abandoned structure.

ground near the building.

On a number of occasions, officers had spotted groups of people loitering

on the front porch. When officers tried to question them, they ran through the house and out the back

door, Vanscoy said.

"We've had problems with people going into vacant houses this year.

(The house that burned down was) in a drug area," he said.

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## Police look into thefts

MARGARET FISHER

A rash of thefts over the past two months has Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy urging people to lock their cars and keep valuables out of sight.

Ninety-five percent of the vehicles were not locked, he said. Those that were, displayed valuables in plain view.

It only takes a moment to run inside a shop or home and return to find that your purse is gone, said Vanscoy.

"We started looking at the reports," Vanscoy said, "and what it all came down to is what we call crimes of opportunity."

Items such as purses, camera equipment, cell phones and a laptop computer have been disappearing out of parked vehicles from all areas of town, Vanscoy said.

It's happening at schools, downtown and in front of residences. As many as seven incidents were reported in the last two months at Hertford Grammar School where parents run in briefly to pick up their children.

Some unreported incidents have occurred at local churches, particularly on Wednesday evenings. Police found, too late to apprehend anyone, that persons were seen checking doors on vehicles in church parking lots and on nearby streets.

Officers have stepped up patrols in vehicles and on foot to try to deter the perpetrators, but they hope that residents will help police do their job by reporting suspicious activity.

"If you see somebody that is looking funny, looking suspicious, please give us a call," Vanscoy said.

Some suspicious behavior includes people walking down streets or in parking lots looking into car windows or pulling on door

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## Recycling saves money

MARGARET FISHER

A \$12,000 study of the cost effectiveness of recycling in three counties revealed that recycling saves about \$79 per ton.

The American Plastics Council, a division of Albemarle Regional Health Services, appropriated the funds for the study through the Perquimans-Chowan-Gates Landfill Commission.

The initial part of the study tracked the tonnage collected from October through December, as well as the cost of operating the 13 convenience sites.

Ron Perkins, a consultant with R.W. Beck, Inc.,

sorted and weighed samples of solid waste and recyclables at selected sites in January. The study helped determine how much material is actually recyclable and assess the savings of recycling.

In addition, APC now collects all types of plastic bottles and jugs. Prior to July 2005, the company restricted collection to two types of plastic, numbers one and two.

Also, residents who bring their recyclables to any of the convenience sites do not have to sort them into different containers. Now, plastics, cardboard, steel and aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, mail, office

paper, phone books and paperboard (cereal and shoe boxes) can be placed in one container. Only glass is collected in a separate container and taken to an Elizabeth City company.

"They're making it a whole lot easier for residents to recycle," said Anne Blindt, recycling coordinator with Albemarle Regional Solid Waste Management Authority, which covers seven counties.

The APC study found that Perquimans County receives about \$20 from Tidewater Fibre Corporation in Chesapeake, Va., for each ton of recyclables collected

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A recycling system implemented last year allows residents to put all materials for recycling except glass products in one container, rather than having to sort each type before delivering it to a convenience center. Once collected from the convenience centers, the materials are taken to a central warehouse for processing.

## Brinn house sold, to be moved in April

MARGARET FISHER

The Brinn house at 1010 W. Grubb St. may finally be moving so the town can use the property as a spray irrigation site for wastewater.

For about two years, the town of Hertford has been trying to get the house sold, but the deal went sour within the last few months.

Now, a new bid has been accepted by Dennis Williams of Virginia Beach, Va. Town officials are anxious for the house to be moved.

"We'd like to have the house moved," said Town Manager John Christensen. "It's not doing us any good sitting there."

Williams gave the town a

deposit of about \$750 after his \$15,000 bid was accepted. The sale price is \$5,000 less than the previous potential homeowner was willing to pay.

The first accepted bid came about a year ago from Hattie McEwan of upstate New York.

McEwan said that she has property on Pender Road where she planned to have the house moved. She had been in contact with Worth H. Hare & Son House Moving in Edenton, who said that they couldn't move the house across one of the bridges on the way to her property. Hare could not be reached for comment.

McEwan asked realtors for help in finding a closer

piece of property, but she wasn't able to find anything suitable, she said. Living out of state made the process more difficult.

"I tried very hard to get land, but I couldn't get any," McEwan said. "...I guess I didn't know the right person to call. I never could reach anyone. I was told there was no property available."

The Perquimans County native had planned to use the house as a vacation home.

Williams plans to move the house to a canal-front lot in Riverwood, which he said that he purchased on Sunday. The house, built in the 1940s, was just the project he was searching for - a

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## Local candidates for May election

as of the end of the filing period Tuesday at noon

**Clerk of Superior Court**  
 Sheila H. Onley  
 Todd W. Tilley

**County Commissioner**  
 Ben Hobbs  
 Tammy Miller-White  
 Charles Ward

**School Board**  
 Wallace Nelson  
 Walter Leigh  
 Vivian Bean Winslow  
 Gary Saul  
 Gloria Mason

**Sheriff**  
 David Layne  
 Eric V. Tilley

**N.C. House of Representatives**  
 T. Kyle Jones (filed in Perquimans)

## WEEKEND WEATHER

**THURSDAY**  
 High: 76, Low: 45  
 PARTLY CLOUDY

**FRIDAY**  
 High: 59, Low: 36  
 MOSTLY SUNNY

**SATURDAY**  
 High: 54, Low: 37  
 SUNNY