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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The PCHS class of 2006 celebrates graduation Saturday morning at Memorial Field with laughter and applause as some classmates spray Silly String. One hundred twenty-six seniors earned diplomas during the ceremony.

## PCHS graduates 126 Saturday morning

SUSAN HARRIS

They marched in to "Pomp and Circumstance," heard speeches, received their diplomas, turned their tassels, and marched back out to "God of Our Fathers."

And with that ceremony, 126 seniors at Perquimans County High School became graduates, and set off to begin the next phase of their lives.

Students reflected on their school years and dreamed of what is to come as their classmates gave the addresses.

"Our lives have been compared to a maze," saluatorian LaReina Jordan said in her address to the class. "We have taken so many turns left and right which has landed us here on Pirate soil celebrating such a joyous day. In your celebrations remember

that none of us were just placed here like little marionette dolls. We all had to work hard to get here and this should be a celebration of our hard work."

Jordan took her classmates on a memory trip through their school years, highlighting the lessons learned at each level, and thanking those who made a difference in the lives of the classmates.

She also left her peers with some advice.

"Never take life for granted and always remember that if it were not for our parents, teachers, and other loved ones, we would not be here today. Always be united, motivated and successful, outstanding class of 2006!"

Valedictorian Patrick Parr exhorted his classmates to remember that success comes with a price.

"We've been working for

about 13 years, and it's not going to stop now," he said. "One of the things that we are all going to have to remember is that to be successful, we are all going to have to work for it. You can't just slack off and hope success will fall into your laps. It takes a lot of hard work in order to achieve your goal."

Parr reminded his classmates that the success they celebrated as they graduated was attributable to all that they have learned throughout their school years, and the fact that they did not give up.

The valedictorian said that examples of working hard, not giving up and earning success included classmate Shaqwita Copeland's three state championships in track, the hunter safety team's trip to the national competition last year, and the Marching Pirates' past

season of earning top finishes in band contests.

Parr quoted Thomas Edison, who once said. "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

"Don't be like one of those people," Parr said. "I believe that everyone of you here today can be successful as long as you don't give up."

Honor students Matthew Perry, Rachel Newbern and Brittany Davenport also had a part on the program.

During the awarding of diplomas by school board chair Helen Shaw, Barbara Warren, mother of slain class member Shakim Warren, received his diploma. A graduation gown and red rose were laid on the seat Warren would have occupied at the ceremony and were presented to his mother.

## Towns okay budgets

MARGARET FISHER

The towns of Hertford and Winfall approved their proposed budgets on Monday night. In addition, impact fees were raised to \$4,000 each for water and sewer in Hertford. Tap fees were also increased from \$800 to \$1,000.

The fee increases only affect new developments. No other fees were increased in Hertford.

Hertford town commissioners were presented with a choice between raising the impact fees to \$3,500 or \$4,000.

"We don't want to have to go back and raise it again," said councilor JoAnn Morris.

Councilors also approved changing the name impact fee to capacity fee after the state Court of Appeals upheld a lower court decision barring school impact fees, or fees imposed on developers to

pay for school construction.

It's simply a name change, said Town Manager John Christensen.

Winfall's General Fund balanced at \$383,000 and water and sewer at \$312,500. Sewer collection fees increased by one dollar each month.

"If we can hold this budget year, we should have \$30,000 set aside," said councilor Kenneth Rominger.

Rominger said that the town saved money by utilizing inmates to do much of the town's maintenance work on roads and grounds.

Mayor Fred Yates said that 95 percent of billed taxes were collected. In addition, 12 new homes were recently built and occupied and three more are hooking up to utilities under the new impact fees.

"I think it's tight. But I think it's a doable budget," Yates said.



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

A fire at this Bethel mobile home has been determined to be arson, but officers do not know who set the blaze.

## Fire intentional

MARGARET FISHER

A fire started in a vacant mobile home has been determined to be arson, but officers have no suspects.

The fire, at 148 Bethel Fishing Center Road, was set under the backside of the home where a pile of wood was discovered.

"Evidence at the scene is consistent with and would lead one to believe that it was an arson," said Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley.

At about 5:50 a.m. last Wednesday, a neighbor called central communications and said there was smoke in the area of the home. At first, it appeared to look like heavy fog, but shortly after looking out a window, the neighbor went outside and smelled smoke.

Bethel Fire Department responded and Hertford Fire Department arrived as a backup. When firefighters arrived, smoke was rising from the back and there were some flames, said Fire Marshal John Long.

"Ninety-eight percent of

the damage was under the trailer," Long said. Damage included ductwork, pipes and insulation.

The investigation was turned over to the Sheriff's Office. There are similarities to some previously set fires in the Snug Harbor area, including wood burning underneath the home, Tilley said. This is the fifth

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## One hurt in wreck

MARGARET FISHER

An Elizabeth City man incurred injuries after speeding on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle and driving into a ditch.

Leonard Karl Hoppe, 37, of 2200 Shady Drive, was traveling north on Woodville Road above the speed limit on Saturday. At about 12:50 p.m., he drove around a corner, ran off the road to the right, hit the ditch bank and overturned.

Hoppe was charged with exceeding a safe speed and was flown to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. Hoppe remained hospitalized in fair condition on Monday. Damage to the vehicle is estimated to be about \$6,000.

## Stolen trimmer recovered in Winfall

MARGARET FISHER

A weed trimmer stolen from Hertford Hardware on March 17 was retrieved by police at a residence in Winfall.

The trimmer was one of about 13 items that were stolen from the hardware store on two different nights over the same weekend.

Hertford police received information that possibly one of the stolen items was at the Winfall residence. On May 17, Sgt. Jeff Johnson talked to the resident, Felix Spicer, 50, at 113 King Ave. The trimmer was recovered from a shed behind the home, said Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy. The serial number on the trimmer

matched one of the stolen trimmers.

Spicer told Johnson he was holding the trimmer for someone, but would not give police any additional information, Vanscoy said.

Winfall Police Chief David Shaffer served Spicer a warrant charging him with possession of stolen goods on May 24. He is to appear at Perquimans County District Court on July 26.

"We're continuing to follow leads and attempt to recover any stolen property and anybody in possession of it," Vanscoy said.

Police said that they have additional information and leads concerning some of the remaining

stolen items.

The break-in occurred in the hardware store's showroom on Grubb Street after thieves broke windows in the building. Six trimmers, five chain saws, a gasoline hedge trimmer and a blower, valued at about \$3,000, were taken.

Erie Haste, owner of Hertford Hardware, is offering a \$500 reward to anyone that can provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible.

Anyone who has information about the two break-ins can call Hertford Police Department at 426-5587 or Hertford Hardware at 426-5211.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 83, LOW: 65  
ISOLATED T'STORMS

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 83, LOW: 65  
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 85, LOW: 67  
PARTLY CLOUDY