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Three injured in New Hope wreck

Page 2

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Page 4

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Page 7

PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

June 21, 2006

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35 cents

Sheriff: New Hope death was murder

SUSAN HARRIS

A new Hope man found dead on the lawn of his home on June 5 was murdered, according to Sheriff Eric Tilley.

Tilley said Michael Archie Wilson, 50, of 2222 New Hope Road, died of repeated blunt force trauma to his head, according to the medical examiner.

Sheriff's deputies and rescue squad personnel responded to a call for help for a possible homicide at the home around 2:30

a.m. on June 5. They arrived to find Wilson lying near the driveway of the home. EMTs determined that Wilson was dead.

Also at the scene was Gloria Jean "Pinky" Thomas, 47, the girlfriend of Wilson who also resides at 2222 New Hope Road, and several of Wilson's relatives, Tilley said.

Thomas told investigators with the local sheriff's department and the state police that she and Wilson had an altercation outside the home around 1:30 a.m. Tilley said Thomas told officials that at some point

during the argument, Wilson fell to the ground face first. She tried to get him up off the ground, she said, but couldn't, Tilley said. Because the phone in the residence was not working, the sheriff said Thomas drove to the home of some of Wilson's family members on Muddy Creek Road and asked them to come back to the house with her. He said when the family members saw Wilson, they called 9-1-1 on a cell phone.

Tilley said a cause of death was not immediately obvious. There are wounds

on the body and evidence at the scene that indicated there was some type of physical confrontation, but Tilley said it could not be immediately ruled out that Wilson died of natural causes. Law enforcement officers, however, suspected foul play from the beginning.

Thomas initially told investigators that only she, her teenaged grandson and Wilson were at the residence at the time of the incident.

Continued on page 9

County budget hearing set

SUSAN HARRIS

County residents can review the county's proposed fiscal 2007 budget in the county manager's office now, and will have an opportunity to voice their opinions about it Monday at 7 p.m. at the annual budget hearing.

Commissioners will vote Monday on the proposed \$11.6 million budget, which holds the tax rate at 67 cents per \$100 valuation.

County Manager Bobby Darden highlighted major items in the budget in his budget message at the commissioners' June meeting.

Darden said that the tax base has grown by 5 percent, mostly due to residential construction. The increase will result in about \$250,000 in additional ad valorem tax revenues.

The manager cautioned that an increase in residents also means an increase in the demand for county services.

Building permit, register of deeds and ambulance fees will rise next year. Building permits will go from 15 cents per square foot to 25 cents, with increases in electrical and mechanical permits also.

Continued on page 10

TROPICAL WEATHER



PHOTOS BY MARGARET FISHER

Storm losses minimal

MARGARET FISHER

Considering high winds and as much as six inches of rainfall in some areas, Perquimans County fared well through last Wednesday's first named storm of the season.

Tropical Storm Alberto was downgraded to a tropical depression by the time it reached North Carolina, causing downed trees, power outages and high water in the area, but no major damages.

Continued on page 9



Last week's tropical depression caused flooding in areas throughout the county, causing some fields to turn into lakes like this one on Center Hill Highway west of Hertford. Soybeans and wheat were damaged, some ruined in the north and west parts of the county, according to agricultural officials. High winds knocked down limbs, caused power outages and blew the tin off a vacant warehouse in Hertford. Limbs littered yards and roadways.

Couple faces more abuse charges

SUSAN HARRIS

A Hertford couple confined to Albemarle District Jail since February were each slapped with 66 more counts of sex abuse charges recently.

Wayne Arthur Foberg, 37, and his wife Krista Renee Foberg, 23, of 120 New River Drive, were each placed under a \$1.2 million secured bond after being charged with 22 counts of indecent liberties and 44 counts of statutory rape/sex offense on June 12.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said the new charges involve the original 13-year-old victim, a family member, and resulted from continued investigation after District Attorney Frank Parrish reviewed the report submitted to his office by the sheriff's department.

The Fobergs were first arrested on Feb. 8 after the parents of a 13-year-old reported to the sheriff's department that she had been sexually abused by the couple. Initially, Wayne Foberg was charged with statutory rape, crimes against nature and two counts of indecent liberties. His wife was charged with statutory sex offense, crimes against nature and two counts of indecent liberties. Bonds were set at \$72,000 secured for each of the Fobergs by Magistrate William Winslow and

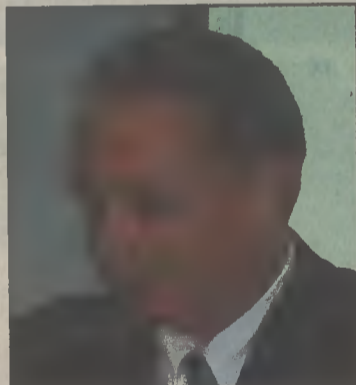
Continued on page 9

Bunch new PCHS principal

SUSAN HARRIS

The last time James Bunch sat in a desk at Perquimans County High School, being in the principal's office wasn't necessarily a good thing. But when he returns later this summer, the permanent assignment of this member of the PCHS class of 1982 will be at a desk in the principal's office.

Bunch was hired by the



school board Monday night to fill the principal vacancy at the high school created by the resignation of present principal Melvin Hawkins. He signed a four-year contract.

"I am looking forward to being part of a team in Perquimans County," Bunch told school board members Monday night. "I went to Perquimans

Continued on page 10

Former textile plant manager saves a stitch in time

MARGARET FISHER

From the outside of the building after dark, the machinery inside 115 Academy Street looks pretty strange. But the multi-armed pieces of equipment are actually silk screen printing presses at Albemarle Screenprinting & Embroidery.

John Wolfe, former plant manager of the now-closed Apricot, bought the printing and embroidery business in December. The company had been operating at Apricot before increased trade with overseas textile industries forced the local textile company to close.

Wolfe moved the printing business first to 302 Dobbs Street and then to its



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Mike McKnight (left) prints a T-shirt as John Wolfe, owner of Albemarle Screenprinting & Embroidery, watches him work. Wolfe recently bought the business, formerly located in the old Apricot textile plant.

present location about a month ago. The company celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting on Thursday.

Two former employees from Apricot were retained. Mike McKnight, a silk screen printer for 12 years, and Tammy Moore, an embroidery machine operator for 10 years. Both are artists in their trades. A third former Apricot employee, Josie Perry, is contracted to do the more detailed artwork.

Wolfe, a native of Pennsylvania, moved to Perquimans County to take a job at Apricot where he worked for 13 years. While there, he took screenprinting classes and worked on the press.

Customers can order garments, such as shirts and caps, through Albemarle Screenprinting & Embroidery or bring in their own. They can do one item or thousands. Usually, orders are completed within seven to 10 days.

"We never miss delivery dates," Wolfe said. He's even brought an order to an athletic field minutes prior to a game.

The company also makes vinyl signs and business signs for vehicles.

They are operating at a fraction of capacity. There are two printers and two embroidery machines in the 1,700-square-foot shop. Three more printers are in a warehouse and another

Continued on page 9

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
 High: 92, Low: 73
 PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
 High: 89, Low: 72.5
 ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
 High: 84, Low: 69
 ISOLATED T'STORMS