

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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SEP 27 2006

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35 cents

## Youth detention facility blazes

CRIS WHIPPLE  
The Daily Advance

Residents at a juvenile detention facility in Perquimans County had to be moved after a fire broke out in a laundry room early Monday, officials said.

The Winfall and Hertford volunteer fire departments responded to the 1:20 a.m. fire after the alarm went off at the Perquimans Juvenile Detention Center, according to Kim Yonkers, a spokeswoman for the N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, located in Raleigh. The fire originated in a gas-powered dryer in the north wing of the building, located at 125 Jessup St., Winfall, Yonkers said.

There are 18 juveniles living at the 24-bed facility, and those living in the north wing were moved to the opposite, southern wing as a result of the fire, Yonkers said.

There was no information available on how long it took to put out the fire.

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## History ablaze



STAFF PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

The old mill house at 111 Loomis Street is the first of three to be burned to the ground by Winfall Fire Department during a training session. The homes housed workers employed at Major and Loomis Company in the early 20th century when lumbering was at a peak along the Perquimans River.

## Piece of Winfall history burns with mill houses

MARGARET FISHER

Three dilapidated remnants of a booming lumber industry along the Perquimans River were reduced to piles of smoking rubble when Winfall Fire Department participat-

ed in a controlled burning exercise on Saturday.

The old mill houses — eyesores in the community these days — provided an opportunity for the town's firemen to practice their skills in the event that an uncontrolled fire

threatens life and property.

As the houses, once occupied by workers at Major and Loomis Company, burned down one by one, those old enough to remember Winfall the way it used to be might

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## Vehicles stolen in Hertford

MARGARET FISHER

Two vehicles were stolen and retrieved and another broken into this month by a 16-year-old who was staying in Hertford to avoid being arrested for crimes committed in Elizabeth City, said Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

At about 10:50 a.m. on Sept. 8, a 1995 Toyota Corolla was reported missing from the back parking lot of the Communications Dispatch Center on Grubb Street. Another vehicle was broken into, but nothing was taken from it.

The stolen car, owned by William Taylor, a dispatcher who was working at the time, was unlocked and the keys were out of view inside the car.

At about 3:30 p.m. that day, the car was found in the backyard of 315 Market St. The resident, Clinton Brickhouse, was not home. There was no damage to the vehicle and nothing was missing from it.

Neighbors told police that they saw Johnnie Ace Foster Jr., who was residing with his grandmother in Hertford, allegedly park the car behind the house and leave. Officers were not able to locate Foster at the time.

On Sept. 19, a 1992 Ford Aerostar van was reported stolen from the front of First Baptist Church on King and Hyde Park streets. Construction workers from Autryville were inside the building working, including Kelli McPhail, the owner of the van, and Brian Sharpe, who had been driving it. The van had been left unlocked with the keys out of sight.

Police received information that the van was allegedly taken by Foster. They broadcast news of the stolen vehicle over about a 50-mile radius, Vanscoy said. At about 10 p.m. the same day, Foster was apprehended in Elizabeth City while riding a bicycle with another person sitting on the handlebars. The van was found parked behind KFC on Pritchard and Church streets. Nothing was stolen from the van, nor was it damaged, Vanscoy said.

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## Resident hopes sign will inform buyers

MARGARET FISHER

Residents may have noticed a truck with a sign warning people not to buy a modular home from Albemarle Home Sales. Last month, Richard Buonaiuto requested a permit to park in front of the business located on U.S. Hwy. 17 across from Food Lion.

For Richard and his wife, Ginger, it's not so much what they live in

now, it's what they went through to get it. They purchased a home at 148 Tuscarora Trail in Little River Shores. While they are disappointed with some of the cosmetic faults, they worry if some of the problems, like cracks in the foundation, will become bigger problems after the one-year warranty runs out.

"We bought a new house from the factory," he said.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Scott and Sherry Burgess say shoddy workmanship and poor quality resulted in damage such as the roof of their modular home not meeting properly. Almost a year after ordering their home from Albemarle Home Sales, they can not live in their home.

## PCHS students take world test

Perquimans County High School is one of 150 schools that will represent the United States in the Program for International Student Assessment science literacy testing Saturday.

Forty-two PCHS students born between July 1, 1990 and June 30, 1991 have been randomly selected to participate in the assessment at the high school Saturday morning. The test will be administered by Science Department Chair Lynette Baker, who training this past summer in Washington, D.C. to give the test.

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) assesses the reading, mathematics and science literacy of 15 year-olds in 60 different countries. PISA assesses how well prepared students are for life beyond the classroom by focusing on the application of knowledge and skills to problems with a real-life context.

PISA measures things differently than other assessments. PISA empha-

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## Family-owned plumbing supply opens here

MARGARET FISHER

VAMAC, a plumbing, septic and well drilling supply company, took its first order on July 1 and celebrated its grand opening last Thursday. The Richmond, Va.-based company is located inside the Branwick Center at the Commerce Centre.

The local branch, employing five people, is the 18th store that the company owns and the first one standing today in North Carolina. They mainly sell wholesale products to contractors, but they also sell to the public, said Roger Foster, the executive vice president and chief operations officer.

The family owned and operated company was formed in 1915 as the



STAFF PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

VAMAC, a plumbing, septic and well drilling supply company, celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting last week.

Virginia Machinery & Well Drilling Company. The company expanded operations in the 1930s and abbreviated its name in 1970.

Branch manager Ian Foster (no relation to Roger Foster) of Camden brings 11 years in the plumbing supply business to VAMAC.

"I like the family-owned feel of the company — the real personal touch," he said.

While the company caters to contractor needs, specialty items and older parts can be ordered.

More than just a parts counter, VAMAC has rows of get-it-yourself products and display areas inside and out featuring bath fixtures and septic systems.

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## WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 84, LOW: 62  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 72, LOW: 55  
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 75, LOW: 61  
SUNNY