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# THE PERQUIMANS

## WEEKLY

P3/E2\*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*\*C-081  
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY  
110 W ACADEMY ST  
HERTFORD, NC 27944-1306 10/18/2006

35 cents

Zita Ferebee became first a local, then state hero last year when she was credited with saving the lives of 41 children on her school bus after a truck crashed into it twice, then burst into flame. Ferebee's calm demeanor and attention to detail were crucial to the rescue effort. Next month, she will be receive the Blue bird Heroism Award at the 32nd annual conference for National Association for Pupil Transportation.



## National hero

Zita Ferebee earns national heroism award for her actions after bus crash

SUSAN HARRIS

Zita Ferebee will be the recipient of the Blue Bird Heroism

Award next month during the 32nd annual Conference for National Association for Pupil Transportation.

Ferebee became a local hero last Oct. 24 when the Perquimans County Schools bus she was driving was involved in a horrific accident that endangered the lives of the 41 students on the bus. Through Ferebee's calm demeanor and adherence to safety and emergency procedures, she was able to help get all the

students and herself off the burning bus.

On Oct. 30, 2005, Ferebee was named as the Tar Heel of the Week in the News and Observer newspaper, published in Raleigh. This article highlighted Ferebee's passion and dedication, leaving readers with not only a very positive perception of school bus drivers, but also with a better understanding of the student safety with which they are entrusted.

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## County to buy water from Pasquotank

MARGARET FISHER

Perquimans County has asked Pasquotank County to provide 350,000 gallons of water a day once the new water plant is built in mid-2008. The new plant will be built on Foreman Bundy and Okisko roads.

The agreement, to be contracted by Dec. 1, is expected to provide 300,000 gallons per day for Hertford and 50,000 gallons for Winfall and allow for growth, said County Manager Bobby Darden.

The request is a reasonable one, said John Gregory, Pasquotank County water superintendent.

The Winfall water plant, which is producing nearly at capacity, will still run, but won't produce as much water as it does now.

"We'll use it for peak demands," Darden said. It produces about 150,000 gallons, but peaks at 400,000 gallons per day.

The Bethel water plant will continue to produce water for the west side of the Perquimans River. The plant received a new rating in August increasing its

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## Sail away



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Crew members of the periauger, along with captain and program director John Ernst, sailed the historic replica in colonial dress out of Hertford last Thursday. The boat was making a four-hour, 21-mile journey to the Scuppernong River Festival held on Saturday in Columbia. The periauger and its crew are often called upon to participate in waterfront festivals, as the periauger, the colonial marine equivalent of today's pickup truck, had disappeared from use and was brought back to life by the Perquimans County Restoration Association with grants and volunteers.

## Arrest made for stolen vehicle

MARGARET FISHER

A man who stole a vehicle in Hertford was found and arrested in Elizabeth City. The incident resembles a similar case last month involving his brother, Johnnie Ace Foster Jr.

Kervin Javon Brown, 18, of Lot 5 at Sawyer's Mobile Home Park in Elizabeth City, was arrested under numerous charges in both cities and placed on a secured bond totaling \$28,200.

At about 10:25 p.m. on Saturday, officers responded to a call about a stolen vehicle at New Branch Outreach Church at 103 N. Edenton Road St.

Julius Santiago of Elizabeth City told officers that he had parked his 2005 Nissan Altima in the parking lot next to the church. When he left the church, he found that his car was gone, said Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

The police department reported a description of the car to the National Crime Information Center which distributed the information to E-911 centers by computer.

After Elizabeth City police officers received the information by radio, Sgt. C.E. Kirby spotted the car, said Capt. Frank Koch. After a short chase, Brown jumped out of the car and attempted to run. The car he had been driving rolled back into a patrol car.

Police apprehended Brown and arrested him. Hertford police brought warrants to Elizabeth City where Brown was charged

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## One 911 call made during outage

MARGARET FISHER

During the outage experienced at the E-911 Communications Center that was mentioned in last week's newspaper, one caller did, in fact, try to place an emergency call.

The caller, Carole Dail, dialed 9-1-1 after her father-in-law fell at his home on Hunters Fork Road on the evening of Oct. 2. Dail called the emergency line about four times - each time she heard rings followed by a busy signal, Dail said.

Dail then looked up the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office phone number and reported the fall. The Sheriff's Office reported the emergency call to the Communications Center on their administrative line.

"It really could have cost someone's life. Looking up the number takes time," Dail said.

Homeria Jennette, director of Telecommunications, said that she was not aware of the emergency call coming in that night because it had come in on the administrative line. She confirmed that the emergency had occurred during the outage.

There are a number of ways that calls come in, and she had inadvertently missed that report, she said. Upon further research, she confirmed that no other emergency calls had been reported that night during the approximately 13-minute outage.

The outage occurred when an Embarq hardware card failed in a switch in Rocky Mount. The problem sporadically affected a number of E-911 centers in eastern North Carolina.

## New jail to cost \$19M

Perquimans part of tri-county project

MARGARET FISHER

With a contract dating back to 1970, Perquimans and Pasquotank counties, as well as Camden County, will be pooling resources in order to build a new jail facility.

The new Albemarle District Jail is expected to cost about \$19 million and will house 248 inmates. The current jail is licensed to take 88 inmates but often houses as many as 160 inmates, said Pasquotank County Sheriff Randy Cartwright.

Pasquotank County is borrowing \$12 million from USDA Rural Development and the remainder through a bank loan. Officials plan that all or at least part of the costs will be supplied by leasing space in the jail.

"One thing we're hoping to do is to house federal prisoners and also inmates from other counties," Cartwright said.

Hopefully, that will offset the debt service from the cost of the building, said Perquimans County Manager Bobby Darden.

Currently, Perquimans County pays \$343,000 per year, or 21 percent of the cost, for sharing the use of the jail, Darden said. The money comes from tax dollars in the general fund. Pasquotank pays 66 percent and Camden pays 13 percent. The percentages are based on the latest population census, Cartwright said.

The four-member jail commission, made up of one to two representatives from each county, will make the payments to Pasquotank County after revenues are received, said Pasquotank County Manager Randy Keaton.

Perquimans County Commissioner Charles Ward is a member of the jail commission. "We're going to probably sign a contract this month," Ward said. "...We're not anticipating having to come up with a lot of money."

The new jail will be built with an infrastructure to house 400 inmates and capacity to add wings for additional rooms, Cartwright said. It will be located at the Pasquotank County Commerce Park next to the N.C. Department of Corrections.

Contracting with the state prison will provide savings in the cost of food service and laundry, thereby sav

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## WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 81, LOW: 65  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 70, LOW: 49  
SHOWERS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 70, LOW: 52  
SUNNY