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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

December 6, 2006
Vol. 74, No. 49 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

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Drug fugitive caught speeding

MARGARET FISHER

A man fleeing drug charges in Virginia was caught speeding through Hertford on Nov. 27.

Police officer Kevin Worster was driving on U.S. Highway 17 North when he saw a vehicle driving south on the same highway at an excessive speed, said Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

Worster clocked the vehicle at 82 miles per hour in a 55-mile-per-hour zone. He turned around and stopped the vehicle driven by Troy Donte Reid, 26, of Hampton, Va.

Upon checking Reid's record, Worster found that he was driving on a revoked license and was a fugitive for drug charges against him in Hampton.

He was charged with speeding and placed on a \$1,000 secured bond. He was taken to Albemarle District Jail where he remained at press time.

County slow on filling board

Ed Nixon, member of the Perquimans County Planning Board, expressed his frustration to commissioners on Monday night for not having appointed a new board member since Wayne Howell resigned as chairman three months ago.

"I'm disappointed that it's taken so long to fill this position," Nixon said. Later, he said that the position should have been filled two months ago.

Mack Nixon, who was voted in as chairman of the commissioners' board the same night, said there are a number of quality candidates for the job, but commissioners had different opinions as to which one should be appointed.

Ed Nixon explained to commissioners that upcoming projects, including those related to highways, water and the historic district, will require a candidate who is from and appreciates the county and will also be available to attend board meetings.

"It should be a known person in the county," he told the board. "...I think this person should be in love with this county. I hope you don't draw it out any longer."

Ben Hobbs, who was still acting chairman at the time, said that he dis-

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Christmas on the Perquimans



PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

Christmas came to Perquimans last week, as the downtown merchants and Historic Hertford, Inc. hosted a grand illumination, caroling on the green and open houses beginning Thursday evening and the parade wound its way through town Saturday. The ninth grade chorus from the high school (right) led carols on the green, as did The Albemarle Sounds. The most anticipated participant in the parade was the jolly old man himself, Santa Claus (above). The parade was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.



Calvin Johnson hangs up his mail bag

Carrier retires after 31 years

MARGARET FISHER

Calvin Johnson has been walking the streets of Hertford for so long that he plans to continue walking and greeting friends now that he's retired.

Johnson has worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 31 years. He delivered his last piece of mail on Friday. Now, he plans on spending more time with his wife, Lois Johnson, and with the church where he is pastor - Holy Temple in Edenton.

"I'll probably do mostly church work after I retire and take some trips and enjoy life," he said.

Johnson had to take a leave of absence following a heart attack a number of months ago. He later returned to work and resumed his walking routine. His doctor told him that the outcome might have been different for him if he hadn't been getting the exercise he gets on his daily route through town.

His coworkers say they will miss the man who took issues in stride and didn't



Calvin Johnson

let him get him down.

"We all hated to see him go," said Mary Corpew, a rural carrier who has worked with Johnson for 23 years. "He was a good employee and a good influence on the rest of us."

Alton Lane is a clerk who started out at the Hertford post office as Johnson's substitute 25 years ago.

"He's a very fine fellow. He'll be missed very much," Lane said.

Johnson and his wife plan to visit Puerto Rico and other islands. Johnson said that he's never been there, but his wife has been looking forward to going.

Johnson graduated from Perquimans Union High School in 1970. He spent four years in the U.S. Air Force. He left as a sergeant

in the mechanics field in 1975. It was then that he started working as a clerk at Edenton post office's customer service desk. In three months, he transferred to Hertford where he has remained until retiring. He worked in auxiliary routes until the 1980s when he began doing city delivery in Hertford.

In the early days, he correlated all his mail. He had about 825 different places for the mail to go. As the years have passed, the postal system has become more automated, eliminating the need to separate all the mail. Much of that is done now in Rocky Mount.

Automation has also led to starting his work day later. While he had to show up to work by 6 a.m. at one time, most recently, he hasn't had to arrive until 8 a.m.

Changes in the system have removed some of the power out of the local postmaster's hands and given it to higher-ups outside the community, he said.

Johnson has seen some changes downtown, as well. A Rose's department store, a furniture store and other landmarks are now gone.

People have changed, too. The children he used to greet are now living in their own homes and get-

ting their mail from Johnson.

"They remind me of my birthdays. Some of them got kids," he said.

But through all the changes, and come rain, sleet or snow, Johnson continued to deliver mail.

"I guess I've been doing it so long," he said. "I guess that's how I got hooked. Now, on rainy days, sometimes you wish you were inside."

Johnson didn't have too many crisis situations to deal with on his daily trek. But once, he found a man who had fallen off a ladder. The man turned out to be okay, but Johnson knocked on the door to inform the man's wife of the incident.

He made it a practice to check on the elderly if their mail remained in the mailbox the following day.

The nice way he was treated by his customers is something Johnson will continue to remember.

"I'll miss the people and miss my coworkers and miss delivering mail," he said. "But, every good thing has to come to an end."

Johnson and his wife have three grown children - Tesha Burm and Calvin Johnson Jr. in Greenville and Arika Hurley in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Two flee Winfall bust

One suspected of carrying drugs

MARGARET FISHER

A quantity of drugs may have slipped through police fingers last week when a man fled after being apprehended.

A group of four young men were loitering on King Avenue in Winfall on Wednesday at about 7 p.m. when Winfall Police Chief David Shaffer pulled up in his patrol car. One person in the group fled the scene. The other three were ordered up against the police vehicle.

Shaffer said he began asking Corey A. Warren, 20, of Elizabeth City, questions and he appeared to be nervous.

"While attempting to search him, I found what I believe to be a large quantity of narcotics in his pocket," Shaffer said. "And when I went to retrieve it, a short struggle ensued."

Warren broke free and ran away. Shaffer detained the remaining two men and called for backup. Hertford Police Department and Perquimans County Sheriff's Office responded.

Tony Boyd Jr., 16, of Elizabeth City, was charged with possession of marijuana under half an ounce and resisting a police officer. His bond was set at \$700 secured.

Tremayne Stone, 17, of 303 King Ave. was charged with resisting a public officer and placed on a \$500 secured bond. He and Boyd were charged for allegedly lying about Warren.

Shaffer had recognized Warren and contacted the boy's father in Elizabeth City. After being shown a video taping of the apprehension taken from Shaffer's car, Warren's father turned his son in on Saturday.

Warren was charged with resisting a public officer and placed on \$1,000 secured bond.

WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 58, Low: 28
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
High: 44, Low: 27
SUNNY

SATURDAY
High: 50, Low: 32
SUNNY