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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 cents

Red means stop

Light not heeded in pair of wrecks

MARGARET FISHER

Two wrecks, one involving a school bus, occurred at the same intersection on the same day recently.

On Feb. 27 at about 3:30 p.m., Hertford Grammar school bus driver Mamie Mallory, 54, was driving bus No. 108 across U.S. Highway 17 towards New Hope Road on a green light.

Mavis Moore, 55, of 508 Sign Pine Road, Tyner, was driving a 2000 Dodge northbound on the highway. She failed to stop for the traffic light and collided with the side of the bus, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol.

The impact occurred between the two tires on the right side of the bus, said Brenda Lassiter, Perquimans County Schools spokeswoman.

"They took a big jolt," Lassiter said. All 40 students were checked by Emergency Medical Services at the site and no visible bumps or bruises were found, Lassiter said.

After a two-hour delay, students were taken home on the same bus, she said. Their parents were notified on the school's Connect-Ed phone system and some of the parents came to the scene to check on their children.

Moore was cited for a stop light violation. She complained of injuries, but did not go to the hospital at the time, according to the report.

Damage to each vehicle is estimated to be about \$6,000.

A second accident occurred at about 7 p.m.

Maurica Wills, 42, of 1533 Manson Road, Norfolk, was stopped at a red light in the inside northbound lane on U.S. Highway 17.

Jason Cahoon, 37, of 1013 Yeopim Road, Edenton, was traveling in the same lane and direction in a 1995 Ford.

Cahoon drove into the back of Wills' 1991 Volvo, according to a Highway Patrol report. He was cited for failure to reduce speed. Wills was taken to Albemarle Hospital with injuries evident.

PQ above state in graduation rate

High price tag for dropouts

MARGARET FISHER

Perquimans County Schools exceeded the state's graduation rate, graduating 71 percent of freshmen entering high school in 2002 in 2006. The state's rate is 68 percent.

Perquimans also ranked third in a comparison of seven nearby counties in highest number of graduates.

Camden rated highest at 77 percent and Currituck had 73 percent. Following Perquimans are Gates at 69 percent, Chowan at 68 percent, Dare at 64 percent and Pasquotank at 48 percent.

DPI will release a report in the summer that will include students who began at PCHS as freshmen in

2002 and graduated in the summer of 2006. They will also release the 2006-2007 report including 2007 summer graduates.

The cohort graduation rating is part of the federal No Child Left Behind initiative.

Studies have shown that dropouts who do not complete their degrees cost schools and the economy money, as well as lower the students' earning potential.

The state pays the school dis-

tricts an Average Daily Membership of between \$5,000 and \$6,000 per student each year, said Brenda Lassiter, schools' public relations officer. The number is based on how many students are attending on the 20th day of school, she said.

If a student drops out before the first 20 days, the school doesn't get the ADM for that student. And when a student drops out, the

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The melody of learning



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

School board members and administrators became students at their Feb. 26 meeting as Perquimans Middle School band teacher Lynn Dale put them through some percussion paces in a lesson incorporating music, spelling and mathematics. Dale and other cultural arts teachers in the school system asked the board to proclaim March Youth Art Month and Music in our Schools Month. See page 7 for more on the observance.

Intruder found hiding in house

MARGARET FISHER

A Hertford man came home to find an intruder in his house.

On Feb. 27, Jerry Nixon, 44, came home to his residence at 108 E. Railroad Ave. and noticed a rear window was broken out, said Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

When he went inside, he thought he heard something upstairs, he later told police. So he placed a call for law enforcement at about 3:25 p.m.

Vanscoy arrived and began checking around inside the house. He said that he found Larry Eugene White, 20, of 415 Dobbs St., hiding under the bed in an upstairs bedroom.

White was taken to the police station where it was discovered that White had a probation violation order out on him.

He was placed on a \$25,000 bond for a probation violation and a \$5,000 bond for breaking and entering and taken to Albemarle District Jail. His first appearance at district court was last Wednesday.

Billy's ousted

MARGARET FISHER

Since last March, Billy's Auto has been doing a revved up business on the corner of Church and Dobbs streets. But now, that business may likely be driven out of the downtown.

Owner Billy Boblit received a letter from the town of Hertford stating that he needs to comply with the town's ordinance by the end of March or find another place to repair cars.

The downtown business district allows a service station to operate in the C-1 commercial zone. The ordinance describes a

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PCHS celebrates diving championship

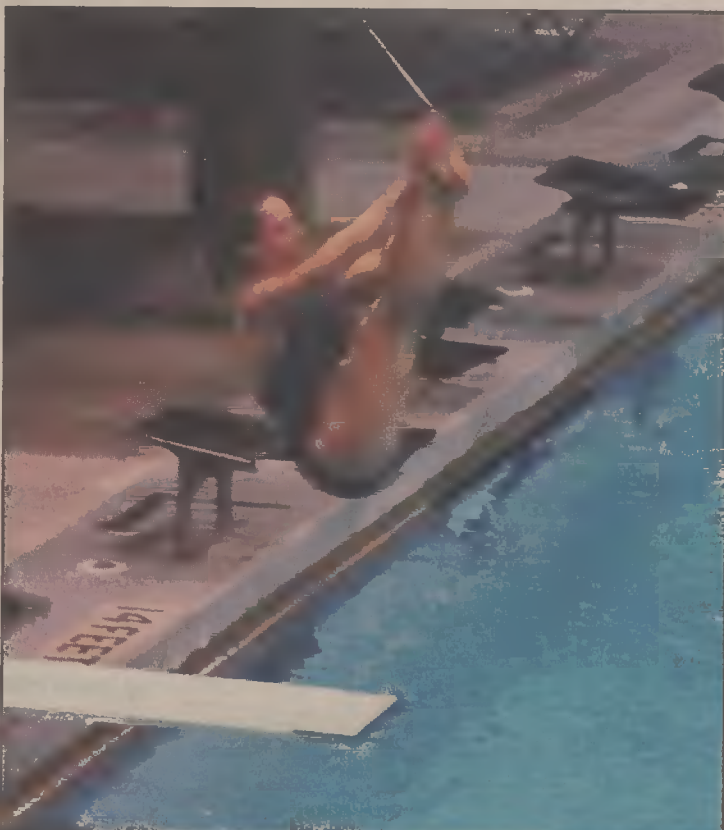
SUSAN HARRIS

A lone athlete recently brought a North Carolina High School Athletic Association state championship home to Perquimans — in a sport in which no Pirates has ever competed: diving.

Sarah Wyman scored 356.05 on 11 dives, to eclipse her nearest competitor by over 100 points and claim the state 1A/2A diving title in competition at East Carolina University.

"Sarah is a true student athlete," said PCHS Principal James Bunch. "Her first priority has been to excel in the classroom, where she has always maintained good grades. Secondly, she loves competition and to compete. She was an accomplished gymnast until she suffered an injury which limited her activities in gymnastics. She got involved in diving and the rest is PCHS history — to my knowledge, she is the first state champion we've ever had in the diving competition. We're very proud of her."

Wyman, who has only been diving competitively for five months, said there were about 10-12 divers in her class, the one-meter springboard. She won the women's competition and outscored all divers, male and female, in her class.



PCHS senior Sarah Wyman jumped, twisted and splashed her way to a Perquimans first: A state diving championship.

"Sarah has only been diving for a short time so this makes her accomplishments this year that much more special," said Rich MacDonald, head diving coach at ECU and of the Emerald City Dive Club. "She was a very talented gymnast and had to look for a new sport after having surgery on her knee last year. She has come a long way so far and I am proud

of how well she dove."

Wyman competes with the Emerald City Dive Club.

A shy high school senior, Wyman is no stranger to competition or to water, although diving is a new sport. She began swimming competitively at age 3 and continued until she was 12. She also added gymnastics to her competitive nature.

WEATHER

THURSDAY

High: 49, Low: 36

PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY

High: 51, Low: 39

MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY

High: 56, Low: 51

FEW SHOWERS