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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

July 9, 2008

Vol. 76, No. 28 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Hertford man murdered

Fletcher shot on King Street

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A 21-year old Hertford man was shot and killed early Sunday morning while standing at the corner of King Street and Stokes Drive.

According to the Hertford Police Department, Jamar Fletcher of 405 Dobbs Street was shot just before police were called around 3:40 a.m. His body was found in the street when police arrived on the scene.

Police Chief Brian Riddick said Fletcher was shot once in the chest area with what was believed to be a small caliber handgun.

As of Monday, no weapon had been recovered. Police are currently following up on a person of interest in connection with the case which is being investigated by the Hertford Police Department and the State Bureau of Investigation.

A search warrant was conducted on Monday morning, but no arrests were made as of press time.

Riddick said several people were at the scene when police arrived, but no one admitted seeing the shooting occur. One witness apparently heard a vehicle drive down the street and a shot was fired, he said.

Cynthia Fletcher, the victim's mother who lives in Raleigh, said her son was a people person who didn't smile much, but who enjoyed joking around with his friends. He loved playing basketball, singing and playing rap music, and driving cars. He was one of five brothers, four of whom live in Hertford and the oldest in Colorado.

She traveled to Hertford on Saturday to attend the Lindsey Forehand family reunion along with Jamar.

"We all just had fun that day," remembered Fletcher.

When she prepared to return to Raleigh that afternoon, she talked with Jamar, asking him to go home with her.

"I'd always ask him to come and stay a few days with me," she said. "But, he said he couldn't because of his probation. He was walking back to the house to change clothes, and he

turned back and looked at me and smiled."

That was the last time she saw her son alive.

She went to work at Walmart in Raleigh that evening and was at work when she received a telephone call telling her Jamar had been shot. She left work immediately and was driving back to Hertford when she received a second phone call telling her Jamar was dead.

"I just pulled over to the side of the road. I couldn't go any farther. My brother came and picked me up," she said.

Cynthia Fletcher doesn't know why her son was killed.

"Everybody loved him," she said, keeping her composure in the midst of making funeral arrangements.

Her son graduated from Perquimans High School in 2006.

Jamar kept in touch with the school district ever since his graduation, said Brenda Lassiter, the school system's public information officer.

As former superintendent Dr. Ken Wells and now superintendent Dr. Dwayne Stallings would travel around the county, Jamar would always find a way to stop them and talk with them, she said. Jamar enjoyed the relationship he cultivated with the superintendents while in school.

"Jamar had a contagious laugh and bright smile that would lift your spirits," added Lassiter. "Jamar called me within the past few weeks just to check in and see if there was any work available for him at the school system. I would stop and talk with him on a regular basis when I'd see him at the local gas stations or walking along the street. We go way back — as his grandfather worked for my father for several years and we always shared stories about that."

In addition to his mother, Fletcher is survived by his father, Delma Leigh (John); brothers Delma Fletcher, LaQuell Fletcher, Cyron Leigh, and Dashay Leigh; and grandmother Iris Deanie Lee, who he lived with in Hertford.

Stallings Funeral Home in Elizabeth City is handling the arrangements. As of press time, funeral arrangements were incomplete.



PHOTO BY PHIL HARRIS

THE 4TH OF JULY celebration in Hertford kicked off with a non-motorized parade that featured an American Legion Post 126 color guard; Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty; lots of wagons, bikes, scooters and other "wheels" decked in the traditional red, white and blue; and horses. At Missing Mill Park, vendors offered great food, and children could enjoy sand art, watermelon games and the park's playground equipment. County seniors entertained with patriotic music and dance. Families and friends enjoyed a breezy afternoon on the river that was capped by fireworks at dusk after Gloria Mason sang "The Star Spangled Banner." Activities at the park were organized by Mary White, who is serving as the town's 250th Anniversary Celebration events coordinator, as part of the town's birthday observance. Perquimans County, the towns of Hertford and Winfall, businesses, church and civic organizations and individuals donated to the fireworks fund so that the evening sky could feature a light show. The park was a sea of people by fireworks time. Donations are being accepted to begin the fireworks fund for 2009. Checks may be made payable to Perquimans County Fireworks Fund, c/o Diane Stallings, 104 Carolina Avenue, Hertford, NC 27944. (More photos on page 2 and at dailyadvance.com.)

Lightning leaves residents in dark

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

More than 500 Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation customers lost power early Monday morning after a breaker tripped in the Center Hill/Beech Springs area.

Chris Powell, director of

public relations for Albemarle Electric, said 527 customers lost power around 4:30 a.m. The breaker was reset and power was restored around 9 a.m.

"We believe it was a lightning strike that caused the breaker to trip, but we're not exactly sure. We're patrolling the lines this morning

to find out what happened," Powell said on Monday.

The weekend storms also brought a deluge of rain to the area.

According to the unofficial weather station at the Tommy Harrell Farm in the Bear Swamp community of Perquimans County, a total of three inches of rain

fell over the Fourth of July weekend.

Sherry Harrell said .2 inches of rain fell on Saturday followed by 2.8 inches on Sunday, giving the county approximately three inches of rain so far in July.

Last month, 1.9 inches of rain fell at the Harrell Farm.

Gas prices don't deter home meal deliverers

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Despite the rising cost of gas, local volunteers are still helping deliver meals to home bound senior citizens.

Nationwide, various senior citizen organizations have seen a drop in the number of volunteers who deliver home-based meals due to the higher gas prices. However, in Perquimans County, those volunteers are still making the daily trips Monday-Friday to provide nutritious meals.

Audrey Holland, volunteer administrator for the Albemarle Commission's Senior Nutrition Home

Delivered Meals Program, said, so far, higher gas prices have not caused a decrease in the number of volunteers who make sure home bound seniors over the age of 60 have at least one nutritious meal a day.

"We're averaging receiving one call a week from the 10-county area we serve," she said, referring to calls from new volunteers in their service area. "Our volunteers are so committed. They truly believe in what they are doing. Some are on limited incomes themselves."

Volunteers deliver lunch five times a week to 40 home bound seniors in Perquimans County. The cooler summer lunches

are planned by a dietician to include one third of the client's daily nutritional needs.

"For many of the seniors, it's the only complete meal they eat that day," Holland added.

Volunteers pick up the meals in four locations in the county including the Senior Center in Hertford, Albemarle Village, New Hope, and Snug Harbor. Delivery routes have no more than 12 homebound seniors per route, and generally take an hour or less to deliver.

While some volunteers have cut back on the number of times they deliver each week, Holland says volunteers in this area are very conscientious, and

want to give back to the community.

"They truly believe in the program and fall in love with the people they deliver to," she said.

The state-regulated program is non-profit with monies provided by federal, state and local funds along with donations. Volunteers are trained by Holland, and are honored at the end of the year with an appreciation luncheon.

Holland says they have 84 volunteers in Perquimans County, but many serve in pairs. New volunteers are always recruited due to vacancies left by vacations, sickness, and other reasons.

While volunteers are still

making the rounds with higher gas prices, some seniors are cutting back on trips to save gas and money.

Delphine Barr, manager of the Perquimans County Senior Citizens Center, said while summer is usually a slower time anyway, some seniors aren't coming out as much as in the past.

"They pick and choose which activities to attend so they can do more things in the same day," she said.

The center is helping by consolidating activities and scheduling events so that seniors can attend more events with less driving.

See page 10 for tips on saving gas and increasing mileage.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 88 Low: 71
SCATTERED STORMS

FRIDAY
High: 88 Low: 71
ISOLATED STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 91 Low: 73
PARTLY CLOUDY

