

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Reaves charged with murder

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Hertford police have arrested Travis Donnell Reaves, 25, in connection with the murder of his first cousin, Jamar Fletcher, on July 6.

Interim Police Chief Brian Riddick said Reaves is charged with first degree murder and is currently being held in Albemarle District Jail with no bond.

Reaves' last known address was 107 Pine Ridge Mobile Home Park in Hertford. He was unemployed, police said.

Reaves turned himself in at the Hertford Police Department last Thursday afternoon without incident about 30 minutes after police issued a warrant for his arrest. Police believe the shooting stemmed from an argument between the two cousins earlier that evening while attending a party in Hertford.

Police said Reaves had a prior police record that included only misdemeanors and minor traffic violations.

Riddick said police identified a person of interest in the case as early as Monday, and executed a search warrant in the investigation which was conducted by Hertford police and members of the State Bureau of Investigation. Police were not able to find Reaves to question him about the shooting.

Riddick said Reaves said he had been walking the streets in Elizabeth City until he called a family member to pick him up to turn himself in.

Fletcher was shot around 3:40 a.m. at the intersection of King Street and Stokes Drive. Police are still waiting on an autopsy report, but police believe he was shot once in the chest with a small caliber hand gun.

The investigation is continuing.

Fletcher was buried in Cedarwood Cemetery Saturday following a funeral at Melton Grove Missionary Baptist Church, where a large crowd gathered to remember and mourn the loss of Fletcher.



SOLOMON AND NOAH CARROLL of Whispering Pines enjoy splashing around in their backyard pool while visiting their grandmother, Virginia Miller, on Front Street Monday. The boys said they were in town to celebrate their granny's birthday.

## Fed-X to move to park

### Board okays land sale for new building

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Fed-X is expected to move its local ground operations into the county's commerce center.

Members of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners agreed last week to convey eight acres of land on South Granby Street to Baseline Development, LLC to establish a package distribution facility. According to the agreement approved by the county, Baseline will actually own the property and lease it to Fed-X for 10 years.

County leaders agreed to sell the acreage for \$25,000 an acre for a total of \$200,000 with local incentives included to help retain jobs within the county.

Baseline plans to erect a 28,000 sq. ft. metal shell building for the project which Baseline representatives describe as a quiet, clean operation. It will not be used as a storage facility, since packages will ship in and out on a daily basis.

No one spoke in opposition of the proposed project during a public hearing July 7.

According to the approved agreement, Baseline expects the project to include taxable buildings and improvements to the property totaling \$2.6 million which would make them eligible for a local incentive reimbursing Baseline 75 percent of the original purchase price if the project is completed within 24 months.

Fed-X's local ground operation is now based on Don Juan Road.

## Commissioners mull landscape plan

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

A plan to improve the landscaping on the county's courthouse green was presented to commissioners last week.

Donna Jackson, chairman of the courthouse landscape committee, presented the proposal that includes several new sidewalks, plantings, seating, and lighting. Cost of the proposal totals \$73,000.

Commissioners took no action on the proposal at their July 7 meeting.

"I think the commissioners will take it under advisement for now. It's a comprehensive plan, so it will have to be accomplished in phases, which I think everyone recognizes," said County Manager Bobby Darden.

The landscape committee asked that commissioners take into consideration that the county courthouse is a beautiful historic building and improvements to the grounds of the building should be of the quality to make county residents proud. The front yard "green space" on the courthouse area is unique to small towns in the state since it is directly in the center of a town, Jackson pointed out. Jackson said the committee also feels that the added landscaping improvements would



IF APPROVED BY COUNTY commissioners, a landscaping proposal would eliminate the current footpaths across the courthouse green and provide additional seating and lighting to the unique green area in front of the county courthouse.

increase local tourism and help in the effort to attract new businesses.

The committee worked with a landscape design architect who developed the proposal that incorporates several new sidewalks that mimic the current traffic flow around the courthouse grounds while maintaining the green area in front of the building. Additional seating and added appropriate plants are also included. A new side walkway would provide easier entry for the handicapped, and the committee strongly recommends that a handicap ramp be added to the outside door to the Register

of Deeds office.

The plan also calls for new low voltage lights in the front landscape beds, which will provide up lighting and enhance the appearance of the building at night.

The committee recommends that U.S. and North Carolina flags be installed on either side of the front sidewalk; that a yearly tree maintenance program be implemented; and that a drip irrigation system in landscape beds and piping for a water sprinkling system be installed.

If funds are not available to finance the complete plan, the committee has

prioritized several items for funding first. Total cost of the priority items is estimated at \$43,200.

"This would permit all of the bricking work, except the Civil War Memorial walkway, to be finished at one time," the committee's proposal states. "This would have a major impact on the appearance of the courthouse and would address the issues of the current footpaths across the courthouse green area, provide for completion of the area surrounding the Veterans Memorial, provide for a green front lawn, and improve the handicap access to the front area of the courthouse."

The courthouse landscape committee grew out of an original courthouse-landscaping proposal from the design committee of Historic Hertford, Inc. in March 2007. County commissioners reviewed that group's proposal and established the Courthouse Landscape Committee in May 2007. Committee members include Commissioners Ben Hobbs, Charles Ward and Shirley Wiggins along with Ed Muzzulin, president of Historic Hertford, Inc.; Debbie Reed, register of deeds; Katy Shook and Lewis Smith from the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service; Charles Skinner and Ray Winslow, local histori-

## Hobbs leads Dole campaign

Ben Hobbs, a member of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners, has been named county coordinator for Sen. Elizabeth Dole's reelection campaign.

"Our county coordinators have agreed to work on behalf of Senator Dole as local leaders in our grassroots organization," said Dole's Campaign Manager Marty Ryall. "They will be responsible for many important tasks like organizing neighborhood walks, distributing literature, placing yard signs, and other activities that will encourage North Carolinians to support Senator Dole in November. Their efforts will be crucial to our massive voter turnout program. Senator Dole greatly appreciates all their hard work on behalf of her re-election effort."

## PCHS media renovations on schedule

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Transforming the old gym at Perquimans High School into a new media center is on schedule.

Work on the \$11.5 million contract, which includes the completed construction of the new gym and turning the current media center into office space, is expected to be completed by

the end of the month.

Last week, county commissioners approved \$15,539 in project contingency funds for the school system to pay for elevating two former locker rooms which are being converted into classrooms. School officials say the elevation is needed because of a three inch elevation difference between the two floors which became a safety issue.

"The elevation level, as drawn on the blueprints, would not pass inspection," explained Brenda Lassiter, the school system's public information officer.

The change order funds all labor, equipment, and materials to relocate a set of doors, brick up existing openings, demolish a wall, install concrete ramp and topping slab, and change the orientation of the two

rooms.

Lassiter said new tables and chairs for the media center won't arrive until Aug. 22. The center is expected to open for students on the first day of school.

### Road closings

Also last week, county commissioners agreed to permanently close a portion of two roads in the

CONTINUED on page 2

### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 88 Low: 68  
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY  
High: 95 Low: 72  
ISOLATED STORMS

SATURDAY  
High: 91 Low: 73  
ISOLATED STORMS

