

P3/C2*****CAR-RT LOT**C-001
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
110 W ACADEMY ST
HERTFORD, NC 27944-1306

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

September 10, 2008

Vol. 76, No. 37 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Two women stabbed

Lack of officers makes situation more dangerous

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer
and
SUSAN HARRIS
Editor & Publisher

The stabbing of two females on Stokes Drive in the early morning hours of Aug. 31 set off what police described as an angry mob involving approximately 80 people, some throwing rocks and beer bottles at police who responded to the scene.

See related stories, page 2

Police reports state Alexis Dominique Warren, 22, of Wynne Fork Road, was cut on the neck, treated at a local hospital and later released.

A 14-year-old was stabbed three times and was transported to the hospital where, police say, she later underwent surgery.

Three other women were charged for their part in the incident. Alexia Foster, 16, of 321 Stokes Drive, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill or inflict serious injury and felony inciting a riot, held under a \$40,000 secured bond; Kwanza Kee, 21, of 109 Pine Ridge, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon resulting in serious injury and felony inciting a riot, held under a secured \$25,000 bond; and Vera Lee Kee, 20, of 328 Stokes Drive, was charged with felony inciting a riot, held under a secured \$10,000 bond.

A variety of weapons were reportedly used during the attack including a knife, razor and an unspecified blunt object.

Volatile situation

Only one law enforcement officer was on duty in town when the stabbing call came in around 3:35 a.m., setting up a potentially life-threatening situation.

CONTINUED on page 10

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 75 LOW: 69
SHOWERS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 83 LOW: 70
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 84 LOW: 69
SCATTERED T'STORMS



HANNA'S BAVOC



TROPICAL STORM HANNA DIDN'T bring serious damage to Perquimans County, but the Perquimans River did spill over its banks at Hertford, giving a new meaning to living "on the river" for Frank and Connie Jaklic on Church Street. The causeway closed due to high water and overwash.

Tropical storm relatively mild

Tropical Storm Hanna didn't cause much damage as she blew through the area Saturday, but she did force officials to cancel the 27th annual Indian Summer Festival.

The festival, which is sponsored by Historic Hertford, Inc., was cancelled Friday afternoon after officials met to prepare for the arrival of the tropical storm.

On Monday, Ed Muzzulin, chairman of HHI, said officials were scheduled to meet again Tuesday afternoon to decide whether or not to reschedule the

event. "We have a lot of different opinions on the matter," he said.

Apparently, the festival was the worst local victim of the storm.

Jarvis Winslow, emergency management coordinator for the county, said no reports of damage around the county were received. The causeway was closed for about seven hours Saturday due to overwash and debris.

Some limbs were blown down, and about 100 scattered power outages were reported by Albemarle

Electric Membership Cooperative at the height of the storm.

Most of those outages were on the western side of the system, which includes Chowan and Perquimans counties. Outages were mainly due to fallen trees and limbs.

"We were able to initiate restoration work immediately because of the storm's relatively low intensity," said Brad Furr, general manger of Albemarle EMC.

As of 2:30 p.m. Saturday, all electrical outages on EMC's system had been

restored.

According to Tommy Harrell, the county's unofficial rainfall recorder, 1.18 inches of rain fell at his Bear Swamp farm Friday and Saturday.

The River City Bull Bash, scheduled to be held Friday and Saturday nights at Meyler Farm in Woodville, was held Saturday and Sunday instead. The Friday night competition was moved to Sunday afternoon.

The Harrah Players' production of "High School Musical" was staged as planned Friday night.

CIS returns program funds to county

Thanks to the generosity of the community, Communities In Schools of Perquimans County (CIS) was able to give money back to the county.

Chirleen Evans, executive director of CIS, presented a check for \$1,597 to county commissioners last Monday night. The funds were left over from the county's summer youth program.

The county provided \$6,000 to the program, and community churches, organizations and private donors added another \$2,350.

The program ran July 7 - Aug. 7, serving 113 children at three sites in the county: Missing Mill Park in Hertford, Winfall Land-



MEMBERS OF THE HERTFORD Fire Department showed their fire apparatus to the children during the summer youth program held at Missing Mill Park.

ing Park in Winfall, and Snug Harbor Community Church in Bethel.

Youth over the age of 12 had free transportation from the sites to the

county's recreation center for activities in the gym through the Intercounty Transit Authority.

A free lunch and afternoon snacks were provided. Scheduled visitors, activities and projects were planned each day at each site.

Children enjoyed activities such as local volunteer fire departments giving fire safety presentations, and Cooperative Extension providing cooking projects. The school system provided a physical education teacher once a week to each site, and the Perquimans Arts League did art projects with the children.

CIS plans to hold the program again next year.

High rise bridge scheduled for repairs this month

Repair to the high rise bridge on U.S. 17 over the Perquimans River may begin by month's end.

The N.C. Board of Transportation awarded a \$2.2 million contract to repair the southbound bridge on U.S. 17 to Lan-

ford Brothers Company Inc. of Roanoke, Va. Work is scheduled to begin as early as Sept. 29, with final completion set for 135 days after the start date and no later than April 15, 2009.

The project includes removing the riding surface

of the bridge deck and replacing it with concrete overlay.

The two southbound traffic lanes will be directed onto one lane of the northbound U.S. 17 bridge throughout the project. This traffic pattern al-

lows northbound traffic to use one lane of the northbound bridge and southbound traffic to use the other lane. After passing the construction site, southbound motorists will then be directed back to U.S. 17 South.

Hertford officer requests action at meeting

Priebe may be disciplined by town manager after speaking to council

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The lone town police officer who faced an angry mob following a stabbing Aug. 31 expressed his concerns to Hertford Town Council Monday night.

Erik Priebe, a law enforcement officer for 10 years, said the public needs to know the condition of the police department.

"The time for talking is over," he told council. "The time for action is now. We're at a critical point. There is no incentive to stay."

Priebe was referring to the fact that the town's police department is down to four full-time officers and one of those is out on sick leave. The town has budgeted for seven full time officers. Three officers have left since January, including the chief and interim chief.

"This is the most unsafe environment I have ever been in," Priebe told council.

When Priebe began talking about police salaries, Town Manager John Christensen abruptly stopped him, saying it was not appropriate for Priebe to continue making his remarks.

"I just want my job safely," Priebe quickly added before stepping away from the podium.

Priebe then gave council members a copy of a notice telling them he would speak to the press about the conditions of the department if asked.

Tuesday morning at 6:30 a.m. Priebe was called into Christensen's office where Christensen put Priebe on official notice that Christensen will decide in the next three days whether or not to discipline Priebe for his actions before council, Priebe said.

Priebe must also write a letter to council members, he added, apologizing for any disrespect he may have shown.

"Everyone's got a breaking point, and I reached mine last night," Priebe said Tuesday morning.

Officer Priebe wasn't the only one who spoke to council about the town's police manpower shortage.

Murielle Harmon, a local community leader, said whatever the town has been doing to hire and keep police officers here for the last two years simply isn't working.

She also pointed out that former Interim Police Chief Brian Riddick served for nearly eight months without town management making a decision on hiring.

CONTINUED on page 10