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OCT 22 2008

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

October 22, 2008

Vol. 76, No. 43 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

"News from Next Door"

35 cents

SEASONAL SCENES



Perquimans Weekly photos by CATHY WILSON

TWINKLING LIGHTS AND LAWN decorations are no longer confined to Christmas. Many people enjoy seasonal displays all through the year, adding whimsy and a personal statement to their homes. At top, the collapsed witch makes one wonder if she fell on the broom or passed out from using it! This season lawn display was spied on Edenton Road Street.

Resident foils intruder

Deputies arrest alleged perpetrator

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Apparently a shotgun trumps a butt-kicking. According to the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, a man who reportedly crawled into a home through a side window to "kick (another man's) butt" wound up face to face with a shotgun instead.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said Russell Heath, of 136 Holly Street, is charged in connection with entering a home at 1222 Snug Harbor Road around 1 a.m. Oct. 13

apparently with the intentions of beating someone in the house. Meeting the intruder, however, was Douglas Ellis holding a shotgun.

Police say Heath then grabbed a woman in the home, Chelsea Criminger, allegedly put a knife to her throat, and backed his way out of the house using Criminger as a shield until he reached his car which he entered, released the woman, and left the scene.

Criminger, police say, was not injured.

Heath is charged with damaging personal property, breaking and entering, resist/obstruct/delay, breaking out of a dwelling, assault on a female, and kidnapping.

He is currently being held in the Albemarle District Jail under a \$76,500 secured bond.

No injuries in bus wreck last week

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Seven students were on a school bus when it was struck from behind Wednesday afternoon, but none were injured.

According to the North Carolina Highway Patrol, a Perquimans County Public School bus was traveling west on State Road 1328 around 3:50 p.m. when it came to a stop at a stop sign. A 2001 Chrysler traveling behind the bus, however, failed to reduce speed and collided with the bus in the back left quarter.

The bus was driven by Katherine Carter of Hertford, and was moved to a nearby parking lot.

The Chrysler, driven by Laura Sawyer, also of Hertford, left the scene, but was later located. Sawyer is charged with failure to reduce speed in connection with the accident.

No injuries were reported.

According to Brenda Lassiter, the schools' public information officers, middle school-aged students

were on the bus at the time of the accident. The driver checked to make sure all students were safe and not injured, and called the school's transportation director so other system staff could be notified. Parents were also notified of the situation, where the bus was located, and that the children were safe, she added.

"Transportation Director Donald Hurdle and Administrative Assistant Julie Williams handled the situation in a prompt, professional manner," Lassiter said. "Working collaboratively with the bus driver, parents were notified of the situation, informed of the location of the bus in case they (parents) wanted to pick up children and reported to the site of the accident to ensure appropriate paperwork was filed with local law enforcement."

This week is National School Bus Safety Week.

"It is a great time to remind everyone to approach buses with caution and care...they hold our most precious resource...our children," she added.

Woman falls asleep, flips Jeep on US17

Driver suffers head trauma, airlifted to hospital

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A young mother was flown to Norfolk Sentara with head trauma following a car accident Oct. 13 that caused the car she was driving to flip four or five times on U.S. Highway 17.

According to the Trooper T.J. Langley with the North Carolina Highway Patrol, Memorie Leigh Wilkerson of Edenton, 25, was trapped inside the 1999 Jeep Cherokee after it wrecked about a half mile north of Old Hickory Road around 6:42 p.m. She was extricated from the wreckage by firefighters and transported to a nearby yard where Nightingale landed to ferry her to the Norfolk hospital.

As of Oct. 15, Wilkerson was listed in fair condition at Norfolk Sentara Hospital.

Police said her 7-year-old son apparently was not injured and managed to get out of the car on his own. He was later taken to the hospital by his grandmother to be examined, police said.

Langley said the boy was able to describe how the accident occurred. According to the boy, his mother fell asleep at the wheel while traveling southbound, causing the car to run into the median, then travel back onto the roadway before traveling towards the ditch. The car then came back onto

Highway 17, overcorrected, causing the car to flip four or five times, police said. The car came to rest in the median right side up, with two of its wheels torn off.

Police said both mother and son wore seat belts at the time of the accident. Investigation is continuing and charges are pending, police said.

Members of the Inter-County Volunteer Fire Department, Perquimans EMS and Perquimans County Sheriff's Department responded.

Hardee's comes back to Hertford

SUSAN HARRIS

Hardee's opened in Hertford recently, bringing back the variety for which the fast-food chain is known, and introducing its thick burgers and junior thick burgers to the town.

Hardee's was the first fast food restaurant to open on the U.S. 17 bypass, but later sold out to Popeye's. Now, the franchise is back with hot dogs, burgers, fried chicken, ham and cheese sandwiches, salads, chilli cheese fries, milk shakes and their famous biscuits.

The chain has evolved into a more made-to-order eatery than it used to be. Burgers are now made fresh to order, and while patrons still order at the counter, those who choose to eat in the restaurant are likely to



Perquimans Weekly photo by SUSAN HARRIS

LOCAL OFFICIALS GATHERED TO welcome Hardee's back to Hertford at a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting recently.

take a number to their table and have a server bring the food out after the cook staff has it ready.

They're open early and late, and offer dining room and drive-through service seven days a week.

Police investigate fires at Missing Mill Park

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Hertford police are investigating several suspicious fires that broke out last Thursday morning at Missing Mill Park.

According to Chief Joe Amos III, Hertford police and the Hertford Fire Department responded to a report of a trash can fire around 4:40 a.m. Oct. 16 at the park located on Grubb Street.

Officer Eric Priebe arrived on the scene and found multiple fires burning in trash cans including one trash can located inside the men's rest room and another on the covered fishing pier.

Priebe managed to extinguish two of the trash can fires with the fire extinguisher from his patrol

car. The fire department extinguished the rest, Amos wrote in a press release.

Damage to the rest room was listed as minimal while the pier sustained damage to both the floor and sides. A three foot by three foot hole burned in the pier, which will be repaired, Amos said. Smoke damaged the pier's roof.

"Had it not been for the quick response from the Hertford Fire Department, the entire covered pier might have been lost," Amos wrote in the press release.

Perquimans County Fire Marshall Mark Rogerson was notified of the fires.

Anyone with information about the fires is asked to contact the Hertford Police Department at 426-5587. Callers may remain anonymous.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 64 Low: 51
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 70 Low: 58
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 72 Low: 60
RAIN

