

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

JUNE 16, 2010 - JUNE 22, 2010



FATHERS/SONS photo contest, 4

Hunter is named PCHS baseball player of the year, 8

35 cents

Hertford man faces murder charge

EC teenager shot, kill on Saturday

By CATHY WILSON AND BILL WEST
Staff Writers

A Perquimans County man faces first-degree murder charges in connection with the shooting death of an Elizabeth City teenager Saturday night.

Antonio Edward West, 21, was taken into custody early Sunday morning in his Matthews Acres home

by two Perquimans County deputies without incident.

Dajuan Brown of Elizabeth City died after suffering a gunshot in the head shortly before 11 p.m. Saturday at the intersection of Newby Street and Beechwood Avenue in the Oak Grove neighborhood of Elizabeth City.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said his department was notified of the arrest warrant by Elizabeth City authorities, and Deputies Edward Gilbert and David Murray went to the West home lo-



West

calated at 111 Faith Drive and arrested West without incident. West is currently being held in the Albemarle District Jail in lieu of a \$2 million secured bond.

Two other men and a teenager were also wounded in the incident.

Arron Lightfoot, 20, was struck by gunfire in the ab-

domen. A spokeswoman at Sentara Norfolk said Monday that Lightfoot's condition has been upgraded from critical to good.

Sharmon Green, 20, was shot in the hand, and a 15-year-old was shot in the shoulder. Green and the 15-year-old were treated and released from Albemarle Hospital.

Police Chief Charles Crudup with the Elizabeth City Police Department said police believe the shooting stemmed from an argument that started dur-

ing a high school graduation party at a house on Beechwood Avenue in Elizabeth City. Police don't know what precipitated the argument, he said.

Elizabeth City Detective Jerry Boyce said there is no evidence that the shooting was gang related.

Boyce said more than 100 people were in attendance at the party. Brown's girlfriend, who also attended, graduated from high school this year while Brown graduated last year, he said.

West was not an invited

guest at the party, but witnesses told police his attendance did not appear to be a cause of conflict — at least not at first.

"Then this all broke out at the end," Boyce said.

Boyce said "a lot of gunshots" were fired during the incident but he declined to be specific about the type of handgun used.

Anyone with additional information is urged to call the Elizabeth City Police Department at 335-4321 and ask for Boyce at extension 237.

Police stop suspected retaliatory attack

Four arrests follow EC murder case

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Hertford police arrested four men for possession of concealed weapons early Sunday morning after being notified of a potential retaliatory attack following a shooting at an Elizabeth City graduation party that killed an Elizabeth City man and injured three others.

Chief Joe Amos of the Hertford Police Department said his department was notified early Sunday morning that a dark colored SUV with a Food Lion bag covering its back license plate was headed to Hertford in retaliation for an earlier shooting in Elizabeth City that killed Dajuan Brown around 11 p.m. Saturday night. Three other men were injured in the Elizabeth City shooting.

Antonio Edward West, of 111 Faith Drive in Hertford, is charged with first degree murder in connection with the Elizabeth City shooting.

Chief Amos said Detective Christopher Firkel found a dark blue 2003 Ford Explorer with a plastic bag partially covering its license plate traveling on King Street between Covent Garden and Church Street around 1:20 a.m. West, he said, was known to hang out in the King Street area.

Det. Firkel stopped the vehicle and found five males, including a 16-year-old, and one female

See RETALIATORY, 2

Finally, we made it!



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Perquimans High School senior Quinyotta Pettaway smiles to friends and family as she anticipates graduating with her classmates last Thursday.

Diplomas passed to 120 grads

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Graduating seniors at Perquimans County High School were challenged Thursday evening to live to their fullest potential and strive for excellence on whatever path life takes them.

"Success in life will look different for each of us," said

Valedictorian Kendall Spough. "We are all individuals with different God-given interests, abilities and passions. However, regardless of our path, I want to encourage us all to aim for excellence and view each life experience as part of the process of learning."

He quoted Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State, on formulating practices that will

lead to success in the future.

"Powell was once quoted as saying, 'If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude.' It is this matter of the little things that often trips us up," said Spough. "It is really the lesson that our families, teachers, and coaches have been

trying to instill in us for 17 or 18 years. We just have a hard time listening."

"In order to live up to our potential, we must develop consistency and a work ethic in the small things," Spough added. "We all have the gifts and talents to succeed in life. Today, it is our choice. We need

See GRADUATION, 2

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 90 LOW: 73
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 92 LOW: 75
MOSTLY SUNNY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 94 LOW: 74
SCATTERED T-STORMS

No tax increase in Hertford's budget

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Hertford Town Council will hold the line on taxes and utility charges in their proposed 2010-2011 budget set for approval next week.

The town's ad valorem tax rate will remain the same at 35 cents per \$100 valuation. Water/sewer and electric rates will remain the same for now as well.

The only increase in the proposed budget for the next fiscal year is a \$2 monthly increase for garbage collection.

No one spoke on the budget during a public hearing Monday night. The budget, which includes a \$1.5 million general fund, is expected to be adopted by council June 24 and goes into effect July 1.

"This budget is a continuation of the Board's commitment to maintaining the municipal core services that the citizens and businesses enjoy as well as continuing the commitment to building and maintaining the infrastructure to allow for long-term growth," said Town Manager John Christensen. "...Hertford's

growth rate over the last 20 years was only 6.6 percent. In the past few years there has been a significant increase in development interest. However, the declining economy has put a halt to most of those development plans and this environment will continue until the economy recovers. When that recovery will happen is hard to predict, but it is safe to say that the 2010-2011 budget reflects that decline throughout the year."

There is no pay increase included in the proposed budget for town employ-

ees who have not enjoyed a raise in salaries in three years. In addition, employees now pay \$10 per week towards the cost of their health insurance.

Three public works positions are frozen, but no layoffs are expected. Services offered by that department, however, may be slower than usual.

"...that department will struggle to maintain its level of service with reduced staff," Christensen pointed out. "Since service is our primary function, the council, as well as employees, will have to defend

these decisions when faced with complaints of slower service."

"This budget is the culmination of our efforts to reduce the cost of government during uncertain times," Christensen added. "Due to conservative fiscal decisions for numerous years, it appears the town is in a position to weather this economic crisis without any layoffs or tax increases...I believe this budget meets the challenges of uncertain times, and places the town in the best po-

See BUDGET, 2

