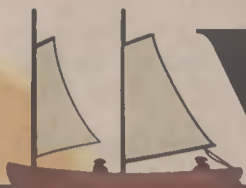


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Pirates stay undefeated, 9

PCS year opens with ease, 4

50 cents

"News from Next Door"

SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 - SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

New Hope man faces first degree rape charge

Woman left for dead at her home

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A New Hope man is being held under a \$1 million secured bond after being charged with first degree rape involving a New Hope woman, and leaving her for dead over the weekend.

Perquimans County

Sheriff Eric Tilley said Herbert Anthony Wilson, 27, of the 3200 block of New Hope Road, is charged in connection with the Saturday morning rape of a 30-year-old woman in a New Hope residence.

Police say Wilson apparently stopped at a house in New Hope around 4:30 a.m., knocked on the door and asked for a piece of gum saying he was concerned about running into a traf-

fic stop in the area. The woman, who knew Wilson through a prior acquaintance, opened the door, and when she turned to get the gum, the man ran into the house and attacked her, police said.

No weapon was involved during the sexual attack, police said, but the woman, who tried to fight off her attacker, was strangled afterwards and even lost consciousness at one

point. Her attacker tried to contaminate the crime scene, covered her with a sheet, stole her cell phone, and ripped the phone cords from the wall before he left the house, police say.

"She got to a point that she played dead to end the attack," Tilley said. "She was strangled after the rape. We believe he thought she was dead and left her there."

After the man left the

house, the victim managed to walk to a neighbor's house to call police. She was taken to a nearby hospital by law enforcement officers.

Tilley said Wilson was arrested around 8 a.m. at his home without incident.

Tilley said he expects further charges against Wilson will follow when a county grand jury convenes on Sept. 13.

Wilson, Tilley said, was charged in Pasquotank County back in 2004 with second degree kidnapping, attempted rape, and common law robbery.

Police say Wilson was later convicted in January 2008 of assault with a deadly weapon/inflct serious injury, second degree kidnapping, and common law robbery and was ordered to serve 29-43 months in jail.

Schools won't take repayment schedule

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

School officials disagree with the town's schedule for repaying the high school electric bill and have requested additional time to develop a plan of action.

In an Aug. 19 letter to town officials, Superintendent Dwayne Stallings and Board of Education Chairman Amy Spaugh expressed their disappointment and concern that Hertford council members voted on a repayment plan last month after voicing support to cooperate with the schools working to resolve a \$258,889 electric bill at the high school.

"We were surprised and confused to learn that the council had voted on a repayment plan that was inconsistent with our general understanding from the Aug. 2 joint meeting," wrote school officials. "Instead of giving the board of education time to research and develop a mutually beneficial and amicable solution to the under-billed \$258,000, we were asked to begin repayment in September."

School officials were under the impression that the school would be given adequate time to develop a proposal and have been working with engineers and Electricities, the town's power supplier, to come up with a plan of action regarding utility usage and repayment of the debt, noted the schools' Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter.

As of Monday, the school system had no plans to begin the repayments this

See REPAYMENT, 4

Open trail



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNERY

Mary Weeks (left) leads a horse cart across the S-Bridge in Hertford as part of a test run on Aug. 22 for The Friends to Freedom Wagon Train event scheduled for next month. The wagon train will roll through Perquimans County, Winfall and Hertford in October. Also shown, Sarah Weeks drives the cart followed by a horse-drawn wagon and several riders.

Wagon train rolls through test run

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Organizers say a recent test run for the upcoming Friends to Freedom Wagon Train went well despite a traffic accident and an apparent need for a horse poop-scooper.

The wagon train, set for Oct. 7-10, will include wagons, carts, and horse riders from around the state to help raise funds for its sponsoring organization, the Perquimans County Restoration Association. The three-day ride will begin at the Newbold-White House, then mosey through Beech Springs and to Belvidere for a designated camp spot Friday night. On Saturday, the train travels to Bagley Swamp, Winfall, and through Hertford back to the replica Quaker homestead in time for Saturday evening festivities.

"I think the test run went re-

ally well," said organizer Sarah Weeks. "I think we (including the police) spotted a few minor problems along the route. Nothing major, but things we can be better prepared for when the big day comes in October. That was really our main objective for the test run on Aug. 22."

Weeks says she won't know for sure how many riders or wagons will register to take part in the first ever Wagon Train and trail ride recounting the early American Quaker exodus from Perquimans County in 1812.

During the test run on Aug. 22, a wagon, cart and several horses made their way from Winfall over the Causeway and historic S-bridge, through historic Downtown Hertford via Church Street to Highway 17 where police officers stopped traffic for the caravan to cross both lanes of the busy highway to Harvey Point

Road.

Once on Harvey Point Road, traffic was also stopped to allow the group easy access to the Newbold White House.

Unfortunately, one driver failed to see the stopped traffic, and rear-ended a stopped vehicle.

Hertford Police Chief Joe Amos said the only other complaint he received was about the horse poop left on the town streets.

Town Manager John Christensen said the town will make sure the poop is cleaned from the town streets following the trail ride.

"The Winfall to Newbold leg of the trip is the most challenging for us logistically," Weeks said. "The causeway will have to be closed to motorist for about 30 minutes until we can get the train across the bridge and into

See WAGON, 6

Officials watching, preparing for Earl

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Area officials are keeping a close eye on Hurricane Earl as the storm continues to track close to the North Carolina coastline.

Perquimans Emergency Management Co-ordinator Jarvis Winslow said he and local officials are monitoring the situation closely.

"Basically, it all depends on how quick the cold front gets here to keep Earl out at sea, and the speed of Hurricane Earl getting here," said Winslow.

Following an 8 a.m. briefing Tuesday morning with the National Weather Service, Winslow indicated the track of the storm still suggests it will stay out to sea, but noted that the most eastern tip of Perquimans County (Durants Neck area) may see winds gusts up to about 40 miles per hour Friday morning.

"They are saying there should not be much rain with this for us, just some wind," he added. "Of course, that could change with the next briefing. We're hoping the hurricane won't shift any more to the west."

Depending on the amount of storm surge at the coast, the level of water in the Albemarle Sound may rise as well, he noted.

To be on the safe side, Winslow said officials are checking to make sure ham radios systems are in good shape, and generators are ready in case of power outages.

See EARL, 2

Dropout back in class to get diploma

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Candice Godfrey is not your normal high school senior.

The petite 18-year-old dropped out of Perquimans County High School last year, just one month before graduating.

"I made a stupid decision," she admits now. "I just didn't want to go to school anymore."

Over the summer, however, Godfrey realized she needs to obtain her high school diploma first in order to enter the workforce. She has returned to the high school, and must complete first semester in order to graduate.

"I thought it was necessary if I want to get a good job one day," she said. "I don't want to be the normal dropout."

The opening of school this year presents an opportunity for Godfrey to not only complete her high school studies but begin her journey that will hopefully lead her to community college. She aspires to one day have a career in interior design.

"I have a creative mind," she said. "I enjoy designing things. I used to redesign my bedroom every week."

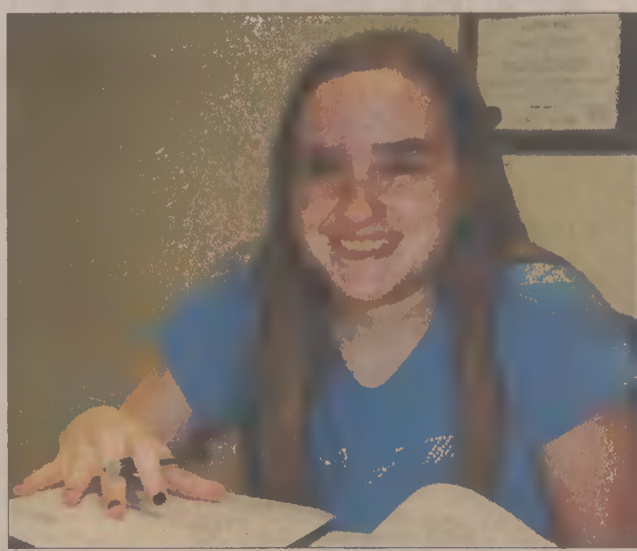
According to Rebecca Martin, the school system's parent coordinator/alternative education counselor, seeing high school dropouts

return to the high school to obtain a diploma is not the norm. During the 2008-09 school year, 18 students dropped out of school and none returned the following year.

This year, however, three of 15 students who dropped out of school last year returned to school last week in an effort to continue their education. Martin attributes that to efforts made by several staff members working to reach the students and to the work being done through the Drop Out Prevention Grant.

"Part of my job is to go out and find these students and get them back in school,"

See GODFREY, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Candice Godfrey, 18, dropped out of Perquimans County High School last year, but is back in school this school year attending classes and working toward getting her high school diploma.

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY

HIGH: 96 LOW: 73
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY

HIGH: 85 LOW: 66
MOSTLY SUNNY

SUNDAY

HIGH: 82 LOW: 68
PARTLY CLOUDY

