

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

OCTOBER 6, 2010 - OCTOBER 12, 2010



Fundraiser has Lady Pirates in pink, 9

Attempted murder charges filed, 10

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50 cents

Police: Hispanic women may be targets

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Hertford police are concerned that Hispanic women in the Meads Circle Trailer Park area are being targeted as crime victims after three attacks — all sexual in nature — have been reported in the past month.

A fourth attack was not reported to police because the victim reportedly was an illegal immigrant.

Chief Joe Amos said three different Hispanic women have reported incidents involving sexual battery and breaking and entering, including one during which the assailant is alleged to have displayed a knife.

Police believe the attacks were committed by the same man. He is described as a black male, age 25-3, 6 feet to 6 feet, 3 inches tall, and weighing 200-210 pounds. The sus-

pect is clean shaven, bald, and wears dark clothing. Police believe the suspect lives in the area.

Amos said he considers the attacks hate crimes since the assailant appears to be targeting Hispanic women. He has requested help from the FBI.

"So far, the attacks have been non-violent," Amos said. "But the women should be concerned. With the language barrier, I'm not sure they understand

the seriousness of this. With the way the attacks are happening, this may get to the point where this guy could get pretty violent."

The first attack reported to police occurred on Sept. 5 when a 30-year-old female and her 8-year-old daughter, sleeping in the same bed, woke up when the woman felt someone touch her hip around 4:30 a.m. The woman discovered a black male standing

over them in the bedroom. Both mother and daughter screamed. The man then pulled out a knife and swung at the woman before running from the house.

On Sept. 27, police were called to another residence around 10 p.m. after a 45-year-old Hispanic woman reported being grabbed from behind while walking up the steps to her home.

Police say an assailant

grabbed her breasts and crotch area while dragging her down the steps. The man told the woman to keep quiet, but she struggled and made enough noise to alert family members inside the house. The assailant let the woman go and fled in the direction of the waste treatment plant on Meads Circle.

The latest incident occurred on Sept. 30 when

See **ATTACKS**, 10

School debt solution studied

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A committee has created a possible solution that might resolve the high school's \$258,000 electric bill.

Last week, two representatives from each of the three entities involved — the county, town and schools — sat down and hashed out the framework of a plan that would not only pay the school's debt in the long run, but also create a roadmap for both the town and schools to save money on future energy costs.

Those involved, however, cautioned that the

See **BILL**, 7

Pa. man faces sex charges

From staff reports

Investigation into a Holiday Island burglary eventually led police to a Philadelphia man suspected of committing sex crimes with a 15-year-old girl.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said Hamed Soukquna of the 7600 block of Malbern Ave. Philadelphia, is charged with statutory rape and taking indecent liberties with a child in Perquimans County back in 2009.

Soukquna is being held in Albemarle District Jail in lieu of a \$370,000 secured bond.

Fun time



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Attendees enjoy free food, good music and beautiful weather Saturday during the NC STEP kickoff event at Missing Mill Park. More than 500 people attended.

NC STEP kickoff successful

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Over 500 people attended the NC STEP's kick off event in Hertford Saturday, pleasing local officials in their efforts to find out from local residents how they think the town brings economic prosperity to the town.

Those who attended chowed down on free smoked barbecue, barbecue chicken, slaw, and baked goods while a disc jockey spun the tunes.

"With the weather the way it was last week, we are very pleased," said Hertford Planner Brandon Shoaf. "We had a bucket full of surveys filled out by those who came. We are very happy with that much input from the citizens and how they perceive the town's pros and cons."

In addition to filling out

surveys, those who attended enjoyed the sounds of the Perquimans Senior Citizens Choir and Bell Choir as well as the Perquimans Chargers cheerleaders.

Free cotton candy was provided to the children who also enjoyed games in the parking lot.

A barbecue cooking contest deemed Lionel Bateman as champ with Marvin Sutton claiming a close second. JoAnn Muzzulin took the prize for the best cake in the bake-off with her toasted almond butter cake with cream cheese icing made from scratch.

About 700 pounds of pork shoulder was smoked by five different teams and 100 whole chickens were barbecued.

The event kicked off Hertford's participation in the North Carolina Small Town Economic Prosperity program



NC STEP event attendees (l-r) Cheyanne Story, Melanie Kelley, Kathryn Kelley and Kendall Crawford enjoy sweet goodies.

Hertford is one of 11 communities accepted into the NC STEP program this year.

Unlike the Main Street Program, this program is not restricted to downtown improvements.

As part of NC STEP, the town is eligible for planning and implementation grants of up to \$125,000. Hertford received an initial planning grant of

\$25,000 that may be used for a variety of activities needed during the planning process such as assessments, feasibility studies, coordination and other activities such as the kick-off event.

The program is now being implemented in 56 small towns across North Carolina including Windsor, Plymouth, and Columbia.

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY

HIGH: 71 LOW: 55
SUNNY

SATURDAY

HIGH: 72 LOW: 56
SUNNY

SUNDAY

HIGH: 72 LOW: 58
SUNNY

Heavy rainfall floods roads, yards, fields

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Fourteen inches of rainfall last week sent creeks and rivers over their banks, closing roadways and local schools. Water runoff from the heavy rainfall inundated streets, yards and fields.

In addition, officials for the Friends to Freedom Wagon Train slated to move through Perquimans County this weekend, canceled the event because of the wet ground. It will be rescheduled in March.

According to Sarah Weeks, fields and trail paths are too wet and

Wagon trail canceled

The Friends to Freedom Wagon Train slated to move through Perquimans County this weekend has been canceled because of the wet ground.

muddy to hold horses and wagons.

A new date is tentatively set for March 17-20 next year.

"I'm so disappointed in this, but it give us time to make it an even better event," said Weeks. "This is just a big old puddle in our path ... so we are just going to jump in and make a big splash for the spring ride."

While residents and mo-

torists dealt with water on the roadways and parking lots, no injuries were reported locally.

The neighborhood known as Woodville Lakes was virtually turned into a lake last weekend as water runoff kept neighbors in their homes, unable to get their cars out of their driveways because of high water.

Kathy Holthoff, who lives at the intersection



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

A car that stalled after trying to cross the bridge on Lake Road sits nearly submerged in water Thursday night. The unidentified driver of the vehicle managed to get out safely.

of Beechwood Drive and Sunflower Lane, said she finally managed to get

See **FLOODING**, 10

