

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

FEBRUARY 23, 2011 - MARCH 1, 2011



School employees earn certification, 2

Pirates advance; face Plymouth tonight, 6

50 cents

NC's budget puts more school funding on county

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Gov. Bev Perdue's two-year budget proposal for the next two years could put a serious crimp in county coffers.

County Manager Bobby Darden believes the suggested state budget, if approved as is, shifts major funding responsibilities



Darden Perdue

for the local school system from the state to the

county. According to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), the proposed budget would require the county to pay for replacement school buses and worker's comp cost for state-paid public school employees. In addition, the county would lose most of the lottery money normal-

ly earmarked for education expenses and corporate income tax funds now used for school capital projects. Darden says the total impact in dollars has not been determined yet, but notes preliminary estimates show the county would have to absorb over \$400,000 in costs usually paid for by the state. "Counties expected a

proposed shift in public education expenses to counties," said Darden, "but this proposal will cost Perquimans County hundreds of thousands of dollars next year. I expected the lottery funds to be one of the first targets, as those funds are collected by the state before distribution anyway. But counties having to provide worker's

compensation coverage for state employees is a surprise. Our commissioners, working with members of the school board, will be in contact with our legislators to express their concerns and then monitor any changes to the Governor's proposed budget as it goes through the General

See BUDGET, 7

Frierson sentenced for drug dealing

From staff reports

A Belvidere man was recently sentenced to 168 months in prison for dealing drugs in Pasquotank County.

George Frierson, 40, was sentenced by United States District Judge Terrence W. Boyle to prison followed by five years supervised release.

Frierson pled guilty back in July to conspiring to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine base (crack) and a quantity of cocaine.

He was indicted by a federal grand jury back in 2008.

According to a press release issued by the U.S. Attorney's Office, in May of 2007, during the course of an investigation into another case involving a robbery, miscellaneous materials indicative of illegal drug trading were discovered.

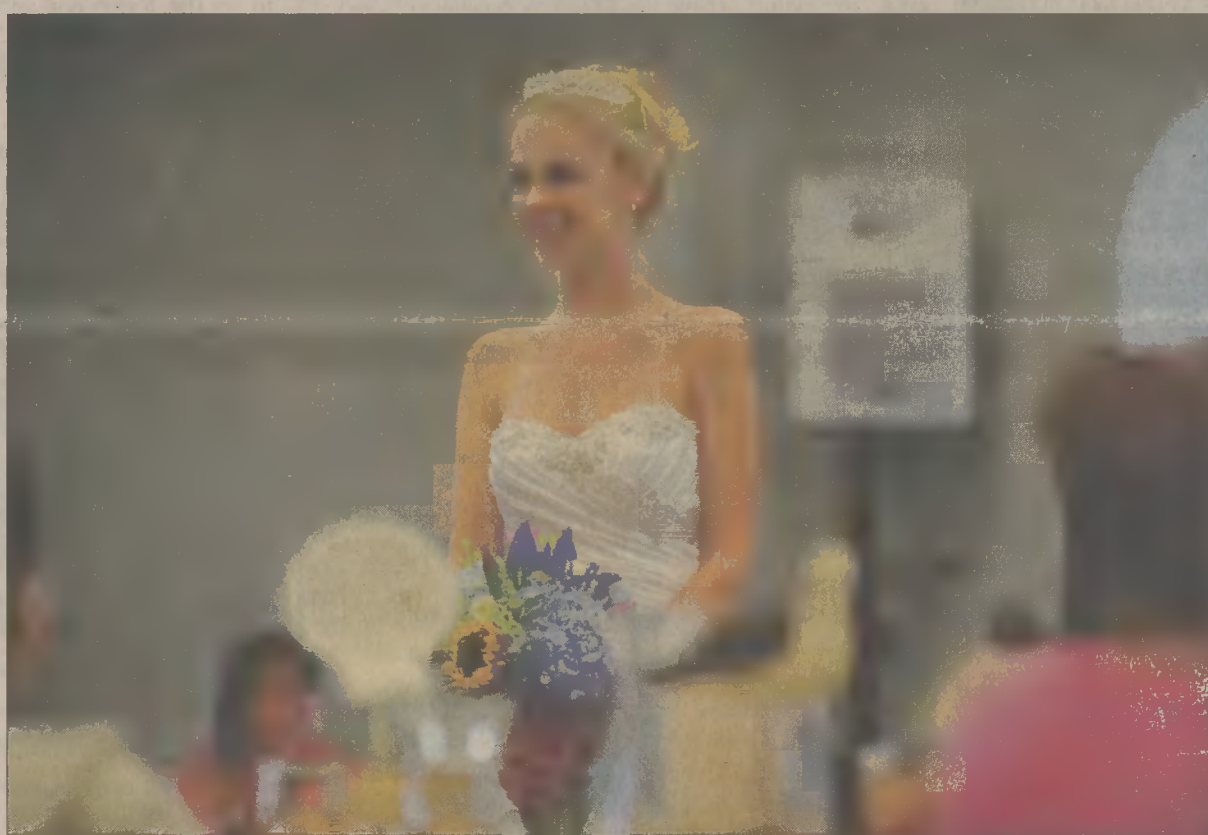
During the course of the investigation, Frierson was interviewed and revealed that he distributed cocaine for several months.

According to information reserved in the course of the investigation, it is estimated that Frierson distributed at least 1,800 grams of crack cocaine and 200 grams of powder cocaine.

Investigation of this case was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office.

Assistant United States Attorney Ethan Ontjes represented the government.

Here comes the bride



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Miriam Cooper, 17, models a bridal gown for a fashion show organized by Louisa's Bridal during the Wedding Gala at Hertford Baptist Church, Saturday. Six-year-olds Elizabeth Conway (top photo, l-r) and Eby Scaff prepare to model dresses during the fashion show. See more photos at our website at DailyAdvance.com

Wedding Gala is a success

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Brides in romantic gowns. Beautifully decorated wedding cakes. Pretty little girls swishing around in fancy dresses.

Saturday, Hertford Baptist Church fellowship hall was transformed into wedding central with their first annual Wedding Gala that drew about 75 people.

Harriet Woodard, one of the organizers, said the day-long event was a success, supported by good

participation and donations from local merchants.

Vendors showcased everything from bed and breakfast accommodations for wedding guests to caterers offering samples of tasty wedding cakes.

Panel discussions provided soon-to-be brides with information about wedding photography, make-up, hairstyling, and even offering a six-week marriage course for couples.

Jewelers showcased bridal gems and one even made hand-made

custom jewelry for the bridal party. Florists, musicians, even day spas offered information and samples of what helps make a wedding day special. The latest styles in wedding dresses, mothers-of-the-bride dresses, bridesmaids, flower girls and other members of the wedding party were showcased during a fashion show produced by White's Dress Shop and Louisa's Bridal.

"We're looking forward to having this again next year," said Woodard.

Prison inmate caught in Brooklyn

From staff reports

A prison inmate who escaped from a state transportation maintenance facility in Winfall last week was nabbed in Brooklyn, New York Feb. 14 after trying to steal a woman's purse.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said George Johnson, 38, was arrested after he reportedly snatched a woman's



Johnson

purse. Johnson, who was serving a six to eight-month prison sentence at Pasquotank Correctional Institution's minimum custody unit, now faces grand larceny charges by New York City police and held under \$50,000 bond.

According to Tilley, Johnson wrestled the purse away from the victim after a struggle, and then ran out of a building. Several citizens, however, saw him running, grabbed him and held him until police arrived.

When questioned by authorities, Johnson initially gave them a false name, Tilley said. An investigation revealed Johnson's real name and the North Carolina warrants for his arrest on escape charges, he said.

Proceedings to bring Johnson back to North Carolina have already begun, Tilley added.

Johnson had been on the run since escaping from the N.C. Department of Transportation maintenance facility on U.S. Highway 17 in Winfall on Tuesday, Feb. 8.

See CAPTURED, 6

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 68 LOW: 40
THUNDER STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 51 LOW: 44
PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 66 LOW: 42
MOSTLY CLOUDY



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Perquimans Weekly snags first place award

From staff reports

A photograph of a young girl enjoying the annual Garden Party in Hertford captured a first place award in feature photography for The Perquimans Weekly in the 2010 North Carolina Press Association News, Editorial and Photojournalism Contest.

The picture of 10-year-old Mariah James walking on the river-front while wearing a colorful spring hat with long flowing ribbons was taken by Staff Writer Cathy Wilson and captured first place for weekly news-



Wilson

papers with a circulation of 3,500 or less. "Beautiful photograph. The way the subject is framed and the colors claim the attention of the viewer," were the judges comments. The award was announced Feb. 17 during the NCPA Winter Institute and Annual Meeting held in Chapel Hill.

Other area winners included The Chowan Herald

in Edenton and The Daily Advance in Elizabeth City. The Chowan Herald claimed two awards in the weekly newspaper division with a circulation of 3,500-10,000. News Editor Ritchie Starnes won two second place awards for serious columns and special sections (Albemarle Magazine).

The Daily Advance won 20 awards in the competition, including nine first place awards, four second place awards, and six third

See AWARDS, 7



FILE PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

This photograph of Mariah James at the Garden Party in Hertford last May won first place for feature photography among the state's weekly newspapers with a circulation of 3,500 or less.