

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Lady Pirates win Four Rivers Tourney opener, fall in next game, Page 7

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"News from Next Door"

FEBRUARY 22, 2012 - FEBRUARY 28, 2012

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## Body found in ditch on Holiday Island Road



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

The body of a white male was found Tuesday in a ditch on Holiday Island Road just south of Pender Road. The body suffered multiple lacerations to the upper torso. Sheriff Eric Tilley said foul play is suspected.

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The body of a white male believed to be in his mid 30s was found Tuesday morning in a ditch on Holiday Island Road about a mile south of Pender Road.

Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley said the body suffered multiple lacerations to the upper torso. Foul play is suspected, he said.

Tilley said the body was

found around 11 a.m. by a citizen riding a bicycle who immediately called police. Investigators believe the man's body was brought to the area in a vehicle and dumped into the ditch about a foot deep, Tilley added.

The quiet rural area where the body was found is surrounded by woodlands, fields and cow pastures dotted with a few scattered houses.

As of press time, the identity of the body had

not been released by Tilley. Investigation is continuing.

Tilley said no identification was found on the body and would not speculate on how long the body may have been in the ditch.

There are no reports at this time of missing persons matching the man's description, he added.

Members of Perquimans EMS responded in addition to the Sheriff's Department.

## PCHS to serve as disaster shelter

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The high school will become the county's main emergency shelter in the case of weather-related disasters.

Members of the Perquimans Board of Education agreed recently to allow the high school be used as a Red Cross shelter.

Previously, the county designated Perquimans County Middle School as a Red Cross shelter with the county recreation center as a back-up. However, American Red Cross officials have voiced concerns about both locations and would like the official shelter to be housed at the high school instead.

"Although we rarely activate shelters, the American Red Cross and our staff felt that this would be a more suitable location," said Interim County Manager Frank Heath.

Commissioner Mack Nixon also said the new gym building is one of the few buildings in the county built to withstand 100-plus winds.

The county has received a \$98,000 state emergency management grant to pay for a switch for a mobile generator that would be brought in in the event of a disaster. Electrical officials have determined that the switch cannot be installed safely at the middle school, said Emergency Management Coordinator Jarvis Winslow. Red Cross officials have also voiced concerns over the amount of glass windows found in both the middle school and recreation center. The recreation center is also located on the waterfront.

School officials have voiced concerns over protecting the gym's floor, securing advanced technology equipment in the school, and the amount of glass in the high school's cafeteria. The Red Cross will pay if any damages occur to the gym, Winslow pointed out. Pads can be placed to protect the gym floor, and a shelter will not need to use the cafeteria when the shelter is opened.

See SHELTER, 8

## From sharecropper's daughter to author



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Lemozine Riddick of Pasquotank County shared her tales of being a sharecropper's daughter during a Black History Month program at the Perquimans County Library.

## Riddick's memories stir the soul

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

She wore long pants covered by a long dress, an apron, and a long-sleeved shirt. A large-brimmed straw hat topped her head.

Lemozine Riddick looked as though she just stepped out of a cotton field where, years ago, she single-handedly picked 200 pounds of cotton a day.

It was tough, hot, back-breaking work, she said. Still, she was happy working on a farm and growing up as a sharecropper's daughter.

Minus the sweat and dirt, she wore the same type clothing last week during a Black History Month program at the Perquimans County Library where she

spoke about her life as a sharecropper's daughter.

The program is part of a series of celebrations during the month of February depicting the lives of local African-American women and honoring several for their historic accomplishments.

"Where I was back then and where I am today, it was a blessing," said the 73-year old Pasquotank County woman who grew up on a Gates County farm owned by someone else yet worked by her father. A graduate of Roanoke Theological Seminary with a bachelor's of divinity degree, she is currently writing a screen play based on her childhood memories that not only include working in the fields for no pay, but learning how to live off the land, learning



the importance of obeying her parents, and learning to believe in her own strength and abilities.

"We were poor, but we were

Anne F. White (left) was honored for being the first African-American female principal at Perquimans Middle School and Hertford's mayor pro tem during a Black History Month program at the Perquimans County Library.

very rich in many ways," she said. "As a sharecropper, we worked on the farm, but got no pay. We were happy to live on the farm. We grew our own vegetables, killed our own hogs and chickens, and pickled our own herring. It was good eating!"

As a young girl, Riddick remembers asking her father to allow her to work for someone else for pay so she could earn a little money for school clothes.

See RIDDICK, 8

## A NEW OFFICER IN TOWN



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vincent B. Dunn of Edenton (left) is sworn in as a new Hertford police officer by Clerk of Court Todd Tilley.

## Man uses grocery bag to thwart attempted robbery

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Hertford police say a suspect wielding a knife tried to rob a shopper in the Food Lion parking lot around 7 p.m. Monday evening.

The male victim swung his shopping bag at the would-be robber while the victim's wife blew the car horn causing the suspect to flee on foot. No injuries were reported.

According to police reports, a Belvidere couple arrived at the Perquimans Centre parking lot to buy a can of coffee from Food Lion when they saw a suspicious black male wearing bag-

gy jeans and a navy blue hoodie walking around the parking lot. The couple felt uncomfortable so they drove their vehicle to another parking area.

The male victim got out of the car and went into Food Lion to buy the coffee while his wife remained in the car. She watched the suspicious individual walk to the store and look into the store's window.

After buying his coffee, the victim exited Food Lion and was confronted by the suspect as he walked to the car. The suspect pulled out a knife and demanded money, police reports state.

See ATTEMPTED, 8



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