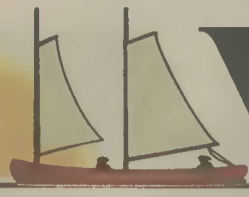


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

AUG 0 1 2012



Kids get their kicks in at British Soccer Camp - 8

50 cents

"News from Next Door"

AUGUST 1, 2012 - AUGUST 7, 2012

Murder suspect waives preliminary hearing

Police seek second suspect in shooting

From staff reports

Yanula G. Stratikis, charged with murder in connection with the April shooting death of Tre Brothers, waived her preliminary hearing in Perquimans District Court

last Wednesday.

Her case was automatically sent to Perquimans Superior Court where she will be scheduled for trial at a later date.

Police arrested Stratikis, age 24, after the 19-year-old Brothers was shot in the facial area with a 12-gauge shotgun during an argument that occurred April 9 inside a home on

Albemarle Road just off Harvey Point Road. At the time of the shooting, Sheriff Eric Tilley said the slaying occurred during an argument over alleged stolen property.

Police are still searching for an Elizabeth City-area man wanted in connection with the murder. Investigator Shelby White said a murder warrant is

currently on file for Ramel Samuel, age unknown, in connection with the April shooting. Police believe Samuel has fled the state.

Back in April, Tilley said their investigation showed that Stratikis had originally left the state and travelled up north following the shooting, but her family was able to convince her to return

to Virginia where she apparently met with an attorney who contacted the sheriff's department to arrange a meeting which resulted in her arrest on a murder charge.

Tilley said the investigation shows Stratikis aided and abetted the male suspect being sought before, during, and after the shooting.

"Based on her story, which corroborated what the evidence shows, we believe her involvement rose to the point of the statute which says she is to be charged just like the person who actually pulled the trigger," Tilley explained. She was served with a murder warrant there and immediately taken into custody.

IN THE FIGHT OF HIS LIFE POOL ACCIDENT RESULTS IN BROKEN NECK

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Playing in a backyard pool is summertime fun, but a tragic accident in a pool two weeks ago has 20-year-old Ian Gralton fighting for his life.

Playing around with friends, the Perquimans County man dove head-first into a four-foot deep above-ground swimming pool at a private Elizabeth City home in the early morning hours of July 17, breaking his neck in two places. Paralyzed from the chest down, his friends saw that he was in trouble and probably saved his life when they immediately came to his aid. They managed to stabilize Gralton's neck while removing him from the pool. He was taken by Pasquotank-Camden EMS to Albemarle Healthcenter and later flown by Nightingale Air Ambulance to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital.

His brother, Justin Copeland of Belvidere, says Gralton remains in severely critical condition in the neurosurgical intensive care unit.

"We lost him three times but he came back on his own," said Copeland who is traveling back and forth to Norfolk to visit his brother. "He has occasional fevers, unstable breathing, and his heart rate is also unstable...It's going to be a long bumpy road during his recovery but we look at it as just



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Twenty-year-old Ian Gralton of Hertford (right) plays in a swimming pool with his nephew Caleb Copeland of Belvidere. On July 17, Gralton dove into a four-foot swimming pool in Elizabeth City and broke his neck, paralyzing him from the chest down. He is fighting to recover in the neurosurgical intensive care unit in a Norfolk hospital. Family members say little Caleb is the motivation for Gralton's recovery.

speed bumps...kinda like God's way of saying-slow down."

Gralton is a graduate of Perquimans County

High School, but later left the area and moved to Pennsylvania. He just moved back to the Bear Swamp area about four

months ago, Copeland said, to be closer to family. His mother, Sallie Lane, lives in Hertford and is a familiar face behind the

food counter at One Stop Grill.

Copeland had gotten his brother a job at Sawyer's Furniture just three days

before the accident occurred. Instead of helping his brother with the

See GRALTON, 4

Charge reduced in school assault

From staff reports

An 18-year-old high school student who originally faced a felony charge of assault by strangulation following an incident in a school hallway last April was convicted of a misdemeanor assault charge July 25 in Perquimans District Court.

Court records show that Judge Eula Reid found Ryan Rash guilty of a reduced charge of assault on a female. Police said Rash was charged in connection with an incident that occurred April 24 in the hallway between classes at Perquimans County High School. Police said a female student, under the age of 16, was reportedly grabbed around the neck and choked hard enough to leave red marks around her neck.

Rash was given a 60-day suspended sentence by Judge Reid and ordered to serve 12 months of supervised probation.

School officials suspended Rash from PCHS immediately following the incident. He was a sophomore at the school at the time, school officials said.

Attorney clarifies sewer costs

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The attorney for Minzies Creek Village says individual cost figures given out to county commissioners recently are probably not what the customers will actually have to pay.

Attorney Lloyd C. (Clif) Smith III wrote in an email last week that figures given out at a county commissioners work session recently were figures he provided based on worst case scenarios and the engineering report.

At their monthly work session July 23, commissioners expressed concerns on whether or not the 91 customers involved with Minzies Creek Village actually know how much money they will be required to pay if they form their own sanitary system. Smith had told county leaders that each customer would have to pay upfront costs estimated at \$3,500 with additional monthly costs of \$80-\$100 if the new sewer system project gets underway.

"I provided the figures to the county manager, and want to make clear that those

See SEWER, 4



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

The Judy Whitehead family recently donated a portrait of Elizabeth Bray Lindsey Reed to the Perquimans County Restoration Association. On hand for the presentation are (l-r) Hertford Councilman Carlton Davenport, Roy Reed, Judy Whitehead, PCRA president Philip McMullan, past PCRA president Lynwood Winslow and PCRA president-elect Sid Eley.

PCRA gets 1850s portrait

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

An artistic piece of Perquimans County history has been donated to the Perquimans County Restoration Association.

Judy Whitehead and family of Greenville recently donated a portrait painting of Elizabeth Lindsey

Reed, believed to have been a Quaker back in the 1800s.

The donations was made in memory of her mother, Catherine Reed Jolly, and grandfather, Wilson Reed.

"The painting has been in the family for at least 100 years or more," said Whitehead. "We believe it was

See PORTRAIT, 4



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