

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

MAY 15 REC'D

SOFTBALL REACHES STATE PLAYOFFS — PAGE 7



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"News from Next Door"

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Hertford Police Chief Douglas Freeman speaks to a DARE graduating class last week at Hertford Grammar School. The police department is poised to be up to full speed in terms of manpower in the next few weeks for the first time in a year.



Police force rebuilding

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

After more than a year, the Hertford Police Department expects to be full staff.

The police force, which traditionally has eight people, was down to four for some periods in the past year. The staffing issue was one Chief Douglas

Freeman inherited when he was hired a year ago.

In the past 12 months the officers that remained had to work far longer hours than normal and the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department and Winfall Police Chief also provided support.

"We had people working about every day off they had,"

Freeman said last week. "The deputies have been great and Winfall has been great, but we're getting back to where we need to be."

In fact the department may be even better. Training starts soon on a new police dog and by this summer Freeman hopes to

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Parlors remain open for now

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Sweepstakes businesses that have been shut down across North Carolina remain in operation in Hertford while the town waits for definitive proof that they're illegal.

The town is waiting for the state to provide a ruling once and for all that all types of sweepstakes are illegal. The town is taking the stance that a software change made earlier this year exempts the machines.

The three businesses that did operate in Hertford last year closed in January after the state said they were illegal. They remained closed for more than a month, according to Police Chief Douglas Freeman.

They were allowed to reopen Feb. 21. There are three in operation now — the same number as before the state rules changed. One is at Meads Trailer Park and two are located on U.S. 17 on either side of Harvey Point Road/Church Street.

A Roanoke Rapids law firm has taken the position that the games can remain because the software they use has been modified.

"The terminals as converted by Figure 8, Blue Diamond Pre-Reveal Sweepstakes System, have a disclaimer in the official rules that identifies the terminals as using a "pre-reveal" system that does not use an "entertaining display to conduct the

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OFF AND RUNNING



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Beau Smith (No. 81) and others take off from the Perquimans County Recreation Center on a 5K run to benefit local schools on Saturday. It was the first event for the group, which raises cash for the county's four public schools. More than 85 runners ranging in age from 4 to 66 years old participated.

Commissioner 'gets real' with students

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County Commissioner Kyle Jones laid it on the line Friday when he gave the keynote address at the graduation of more than 130 students from the DARE program.

He challenged the fifth graders to look after their classmates and parents to look out after the children — all of them, not just their own.

"Kids, if you don't hear anything else I say, please hear this: you are in this together," Jones said.

The students have been



spending the last few weeks learning how to make good decisions as part of a DARE program offered by the Hertford Police Department and lead by Chief

Douglas Freeman. The program includes help with making decisions about drugs and alcohol — the original focus of DARE. But the revamped DARE program is heavily

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans Commissioner Kyle Jones speaks to the DARE graduating class at Hertford Grammar School on Friday.

focused on decision making of all kinds.

But Jones gave anybody but a typical speech to the fifth graders. He works in the District Attorney's office and sees first hand the consequences of bad decisions. Jones also levied an equal amount of responsibility on parents.

"It's easy to sit here today and look down your nose at the other parents who, truth be told, are

probably not as good of parents as you are. Congratulations. But you have an investment in the outcome of their fifth grader. And what do you expect that fifth grader to do, pick himself up by his bootstraps and achieve the same thing your fifth grader is going to? If you believe that, then I've got some oceanfront property in New Hope to sell you."

Jones told the students that the kind of person they become will be based half on the decisions they make as individuals. The other half is based on

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Animals seized in Winfall

Forty-seven dogs, cats now at shelter

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

At least 28 dogs and 19 cats were seized Monday from a home in Winfall.

Police Chief David Shaffer said he got a complaint from neighbors that the resident at 129 Nixon Street was keeping a large number of animals at the home, but they'd never seen the

animals outside.

"I got the call two weeks ago, but every time I went over there, nobody was home," Shaffer said.

The dogs, mostly long-haired Chihuahuas, appeared healthy, but the owner admitted only two had their required shots.

"They appeared to be in good shape otherwise," Shaffer said.

Perquimans Animal Control officer David Outland said all of the animals clearly needed to be bathed.

Neil Reilly, who was living at the residence with the animals, had rented the home in the tidy, well-kept

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PIG OUT



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Mary Vidaurri (left) and John and Susan Christensen dish out plates of pork barbecue last Friday during Pig Out On The Green in front of the Perquimans County Courthouse. The annual event benefits Historic Hertford, a group that promotes the downtown area. Historic Hertford supports the Indian Summer Festival, the Carolina Moon Theater, Grand Illumination and the Market at Missing Mill. Sodas and water were donated to Historic Hertford, Inc. by Pepsi and after all the plate sales, items remaining including desserts, barbecue, slaw and potatoes, were taken to the Rescue Squad.



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 NCRL#22873; NCAL#9180 252-426-1380 • www.forbesuc.com	Canal Front 104 Discovery Trail, Hertford	Boat Dock Minutes from Albemarle Sound	3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Wood Burning Stove	Bulkhead Screened Porch	Large Storage Building Listed \$59,000	Featured Property of the Week www.forbesuc.com 252-426-1380
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