

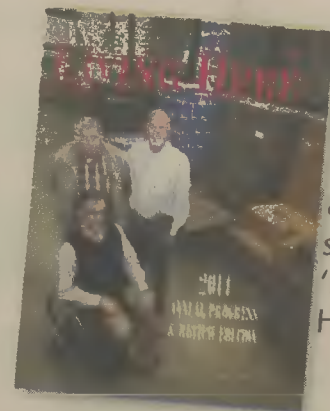
# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

MAY 14, 2014 - MAY 20, 2014

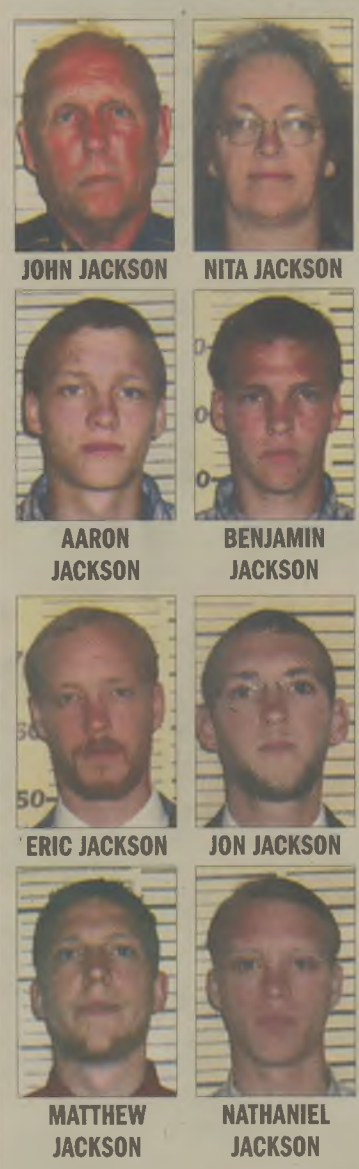
INSIDE:  
Look for our 2014 Progress & Review section 'Living Here'



50 cents

## 8 arrested in child sex case

## FEMA rejects disaster status



JOHN JACKSON NITA JACKSON  
AARON JACKSON BENJAMIN JACKSON  
ERIC JACKSON JON JACKSON  
MATTHEW JACKSON NATHANIEL JACKSON



A no trespassing sign warns visitors to a home (inset) at 742 Chapanoke Road. A mother and a father and six of their sons have been arrested in a sex abuse case that involved the brothers having sex with their sister. According to Perquimans County Sheriff's investigator Shelby White, the abuse continued until about 4 years ago at this home on Chapanoke Road.

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A top FEMA official says Perquimans County residents, utilities and local governments will not be eligible for a federal disaster declaration as a result of the tornados of April 25.

"Based on our review of all the information available, it has been determined that the damage from this event was not of such severity and magnitude as to be beyond the capabilities of the state, affected local governments and voluntary agencies," FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate told Gov. Pat McCrory in a letter shared with The Daily Advance late last week.

McCrory could appeal the decision, but decided not to because it would delay state efforts to offer help.

Preliminary reports are eight Perquimans homes were destroyed, 11 received major damage, 23 had minor damage and six were impacted but are still habitable.

Across its service area, Albemarle Electric Membership Corp. estimates it spent about \$250,000 in

See REJECTS, 4

## Five injured in wreck

From staff reports

Speed was a factor as five people were hurt, three seriously, in a head-on car crash Friday night on Harvey Point Road, the N.C. Highway Patrol said.

The accident happened at 8:18 p.m. a tenth of a mile east of Skinner Road, said Trooper T.F. Langley.

A 2007 white-colored Honda operated by Timothy Ken Spence Jr., 19, of Holiday Island Road, Hertford, was rounding a curve at a high rate of speed, crossed the center of the road, and collided head-on with a 2010 Nissan Cube operated by Patricia Ann Signor, 64, of Dobbs Street, Hertford, according to the trooper.

Both cars were totaled, Langley said. Signor two passengers in Spence's car, Bam Holley, 18, of Raleigh, and Fred Wills, 17, of Hertford, were airlifted to

See WRECK, 2

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Six members of a Perquimans County family were arrested last week on felony charges of having sex with their sister over a 10-year period while she was a child.

The men's parents were also arrested on charges of enabling the crimes.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said the six Jackson brothers, who range in age from 27 to 18, are charged with either rape of child, first-degree sex offense or statutory rape. All are currently being held at Albemarle District Jail.

The Jacksons' parents, John and Nita Jackson, are charged with felony child abuse. Both have been

released on bond.

According to Tilley, the Jackson brothers began sexually abusing their sister when she was 4 and a half years old. The abuse continued, apparently at the Jackson family home in the 700 block of Chapanoke Road, until about four years ago, Investigator Shelby White said. The victim is now 16 and living in Colorado under the care of child protective services.

John and Nita Jackson allegedly knew about their sons' sexual abuse of their daughter but didn't intervene, Tilley said.

"The parents were arrested because they actually had witnessed the assaults and did nothing to stop them," he said.

All eight members of the Jackson family turned themselves in to

the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office between Monday and Tuesday after they were indicted by a grand jury.

The suspects and their charges include:

- Eric Jackson, 27, of Zebulon Road in Youngsville, who is charged with rape of a child. His secured bond was set at \$150,000.

- Jon Jackson, 25, of Zebulon Road in Youngsville, who is charged with one count of first-degree sex offense. His secured bond was set at \$75,000.

- Matthew Jackson, 23, of Split Creek Drive, Monument, Colo., who is charged with rape of a child. His secured bond was set at \$150,000.

- Nathaniel Jackson, 21, of Jackson Creek, Colo., who is charged

with two counts of first-degree sexual offense and three counts of statutory rape. His secured bond was set at \$75,000.

- Benjamin Jackson, 19, of Chapanoke Road, who is charged with three counts of statutory rape. His secured bond was set at \$150,000.

- Aaron Jackson, 18, of the 700 block of Chapanoke Road, who is charged with three counts of statutory rape. His secured bond was set at \$150,000.

- John Jackson, 65, of the 700 block of Chapanoke Road, who is charged with one count of felony child abuse. He was released under a \$15,000 secured bond.

- Nita Jackson, 54, who is charged with one count of child

See ARRESTED, 2

## White, Spaugh, Hollowell win primary election

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Anne White will go from being a Hertford town board member to a Perquimans County school board member in July after an election win last week.

White was the leading vote getter in a four-way race for three seats on the school board. She came away with 479 votes in unofficial tallies. Amy Spaugh, a one-term school board member who decided not to run two years ago, came in second with 468 votes.

Ralph Hollowell, the lone incumbent on Tuesday's ballot fended off a challenge from political newcomer Chuck Pagels. Hollowell ended up with 296 votes while Pagels had 244.

White will have to give up her



HOLLOWELL PAGELS SPAUGH WHITE

post on the town board. A replacement will named by the remaining members of the Hertford board. New school board members are sworn in on July 28.

White said the transition from town government to school board isn't as radical as it might appear.

"A lot of what we do with the town is focused on economic development and jobs," she said.

As a school board member, she

said she can play a role in making sure local students graduate with the skills and talents they need to fill those jobs.

Both White and Spaugh campaigned heavily.

"I grew up in the country if you wanted something, you'd have to work hard for it," said White. While retired, she teaches a class at Elizabeth City State University and was principal at Perquimans County

Middle School.

Spaugh said she campaigned a lot to make sure people came to the polls. Only about 15 percent of voters took part in the election last week.

"A lot of people might like you, but you've got to get them to come out to vote," Spaugh said.

Getting out the vote was a problem.

Hollowell said he wishes the turnout were better, but admits he didn't campaign hard.

"I know it was not a major election, so turnout would be minimal, but still a good turnout," Hollowell said. "I do appreciate everyone's vote and voters coming out regardless of how they voted. I also wish I had really gotten out and

See PRIMARY, 2

## Rust in water an issue for some

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Hertford residents who notice a problem with rust in their water that can't be corrected within a few hours should contact the town to report it.

One Grubb Street resident did call the Perquimans Weekly last week to report the issue and some in western areas of town also have reported it.

The water is safe to drink, but appears cloudy, according to Town Manager Brandon Shoaf.

"We do see rust issues from time to time and are working on ways to remedy the problem altogether," he said. "The water is safe. We've tested it and found nothing dangerous, just discoloration."

Residents can call the town's dispatch line at 426-5751 if the discoloration is still there after running the tap for a while.

The town was doing some flushing of the system last week.

"Sometimes when we flush it does stir up the system for a few

See WATER, 2

## New crop makes splash in county

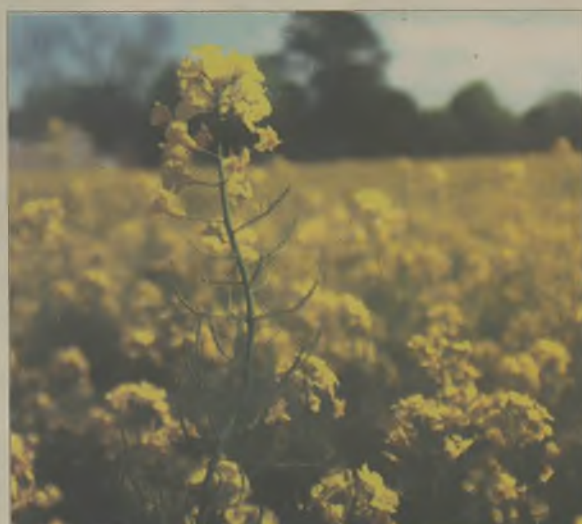
BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

For a visitor passing through Hertford along Edenton Road Street, it was a sight that typically you see in picture postcards — acres and acres of brilliant yellow flowers.

For long-time residents, it was something of an oddity? What are they? Buttercups?

For farmer Carey Parrish who planted the seeds, it's

See NEW CROP, 4



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Motorists driving down Edenton Road Street in Hertford in recent days could see acres of yellow flowers from rapeseed, a crop that may be seen a lot more in North Carolina.

