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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Bateman is Rotary speaker, 7

"News from Next Door"

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FEB 15 REC'D

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STUDENT JAILED FOR SCHOOL FIGHT

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A Perquimans County High School student charged with fighting that injured a dozen teachers and staff members who tried to break it up will have to serve 90 days in jail after pleading guilty.

Ultimately Alkeem Archer, faced seven charges, but District Court Judge Robert Trivette only gave him an active sentence of 45 days for two counts of assault

on a school employee. He was also given two 60-day suspended sentences, plus 12 months supervised probation for the fight last October.

Two other students who were involved in fighting that day have been placed on deferred prosecution.

Terrill Tillett, 17, and Austin Deziel, 17, were both charged with disorderly conduct. And must serve 24 hours of community ser-



ARCHER

vice within 90 days. If they commit no other crime within 12 months, the issue won't appear on their record.

"I believe this sends a strong message that violence in our schools will not be tolerated," Principal Melissa Fields said after the verdict.

Fields, Jill Cohen, Laura Gardner, Michael Castle and James Leicester - all teachers or staff

members at the school - swore out assault warrants against Archer and testified last Wednesday. Deputy David Murray also charged Archer with resisting a public officer.

Fields described the day in October when Archer and Tillett were caught fighting. When teachers started trying to break it up, Archer started tossing them around and one point used a fire extinguisher as a weapon.

Archer is 6-foot-5, 300 pounds.

Fields said the incident, which lasted maybe just 10 or 15 minutes, cast a shadow over the school that is only now starting to lift.

"I feel we're only just now regaining the momentum," Fields said.

Cohen, the school system's coordinator for career and technical education testified about injuries she suffered.

She said she felt the incident

See ARCHER, 2

LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Crews work on the roof of the new Perquimans County Library last week. The facility on Church Street is scheduled to open to patrons this summer.

Town settles utility dispute

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Hertford has agreed to pay a town board member and his wife \$5,000 to settle a claim over a water and sewer capacity fee the town charged when their house was built in 2010.

Archie Aples' status as a town board member had nothing to do with the payment, town officials say. Others who paid the capacity fee are eligible to ask for a refund as well.

The town agreed to settle the case with Aples because a N.C. Supreme Court decision last summer in a similar case that suggests fees like Hertford's were improper. Hertford was not a direct party to the lawsuit and has since rescinded the capacity fee charge.

Town Attorney Ben Gallop said not only did Aples not get a voice in decision to grant the \$5,000 settlement, Aples wasn't even on the committee that decided the issue. Gallop said the four remaining members of the board formed a committee that excluded Aples and they discussed the refund request.

"It was a strange circumstance but there was nothing underhanded," Gallop said.

Aples said the only reason he's the first to request such a refund is that he's probably the first person in Hertford to realize a refund might be

See UTILITIES, 2

911 emergency operators get new training

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County's 911 communications system has rolled out a new system that standardizes the way 911 operators respond to calls.

Emergency Management Director Jonathan Nixon said the Medical Priority Dispatch System means every operator should be asking the same questions.

1. "Perquimans 911, what's the address of the

emergency?"

2. "What's the phone number you're calling from?"

3. "What's your name?"

4. "Okay, tell me exactly what happened."

Nixon used the situation where a person may call to say they fell down. While the EMS crew is on the way there, the operator can keep asking questions.

"What caused the fall? How did it happen? How far did you fall?"

They are all questions EMS needs to know, Nixon

said. If the person fell because they were electrocuted, the response will be different than if they fell for some other reason. If an adult fell from a height of 10 feet or more, that could create more serious condition, and in that event 911 would get the Nightingale air ambulance on the phone to find out their availability.

"Throughout the process, the EMS crew on the way can be updated as more information comes in.

"I am most excited about

every 911 call being answered in the same manner and providing the same service to each citizen and visitor of Perquimans County," Nixon said. "Callers will receive lifesaving post-dispatch instructions while responders will receive better patient and scene updates."

The Medical Priority Dispatch System was officially implemented on Tuesday-Valentine's Day.

Krystal Agosto is Perquimans County's training officer. She said the system can

also help operators explain how to give CPR to a loved one, or instruct someone who has a family member who is choking. "It's specialized software," she said. How someone responds to one question will dictate what the next question might be.

The local emergency office gets about 2,000 calls a year.

The system includes software, a three-day

See 911, 2

Injured eagle rescued, sent to OBX facility

BY CHRIS DAY
The Daily Advance

A sick American bald eagle found in a field in Perquimans County is doing much better now, thanks to a New Hope man and a wildlife rehabilitation specialist who lives on the Outer Banks.

Pete Marriner recently re-

covered a bald eagle from a field in the Woodville area and transferred it to the care of Lou Browning, a Frisco-based wildlife rehabilitation specialist.

The large bird turned out to have lead poisoning, which likely happened after years of eating prey or animal remains tainted with lead.

Browning, a federally-permitted wildlife specialist and owner of the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Frank Jaklic, a member of the Rotary Club of Hertford, administers the polio vaccine to a child in India last month.

War not over against polio

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The war against polio may be all but won, but Frank Jaklic said those wounded by the disease still need our help.

Jaklic a Rotarian from Hertford, recently returned from one of the front lines in the battle - India. He spent almost two weeks with a Rotary group there to administer the polio vaccine to children as part of National Immunization Day.

Jaklic admits he was just curious about how relief money was being spent - curious enough he was willing to fork out about \$4,000 from his own pocket to take the trip.

Rotary has long been at the forefront of the fight against the disease. It started a campaign in 1985 at a time when there were 350,000 new cases of polio worldwide each year.

In 1988, Rotary was

See POLIO, 2



See EAGLE, 2