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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018

75 cents

Bail set at \$10 million for shooting suspect

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Office arrested a 26-year-old Hertford man Thursday afternoon for a shooting in Snug Harbor on Jan. 26.

Kevon Hunter of Brace Street was arrested in the Wynne Fork Housing Development and taken to Albemarle District Jail on a bond of \$10 million.



HUNTER

Sheriff Shelby White said in his 18 years of law enforcement, he's never seen a bond set that high.

"I've seen some who were given no bond, but those are usually in murder cases." Hunter is charged with the at-

tempted first-degree murder of Travonte Madison, 23, of Chestnut Street.

White said Madison was airlifted to a hospital, but would not say which one. He believes that robbery may have been a motive.

There were two children in the Madison home when the shooting happened and Hunter is charged with two counts of kidnapping in the second degree and one count of assault on

a child under 12. The children weren't actually taken from the home, White said.

"Anytime you keep somebody from leaving, that can be considered kidnapping. He didn't tie her up or anything."

Hunter was also charged with possession of a firearm by a felon and robbery with a dangerous weapon.

White said he'd arrested Hunter a few days after Hunter had turned

16 on cocaine charges.

Some of the previous convictions include assault on a government official, felony possession of Schedule II controlled substance, resisting a public officer, assault with serious bodily injury and assault with a deadly weapon.

His court days stretch from 2008 through 2014.

Hunter was scheduled to make his first appearance in court today.

Prison officials suspended

BY JON HAWLEY
 The Daily Advance

The two top administrators at Pasquotank Correctional Institution have been suspended following release of a report showing security failures at the prison in the days after last year's deadly escape attempt by four inmates.

N.C. Department of Public Safety spokesman Jerry Higgins confirmed Wednesday that Director of Prisons Kenneth Lassiter placed PCI Administrator Felix Taylor and PCI Assistant Administrator Colbert Respass on investigatory leave with pay. DPS continues a non-criminal investigation into PCI, Higgins noted.

Dennis Daniels, of Maury Correctional Institution in Hookerton, is serving as interim administrator while Taylor and Respass are on leave, Higgins said. Daniels has worked in the correctional system since 1980, and worked at PCI for several years before starting at MCI in January 2011, Higgins said. No one has been appointed to replace Respass, Higgins added.

Higgins declined to say why Taylor and Respass were put on leave, but noted Lassiter's decision followed the release of a National Institute of Corrections report on safety and security conditions at PCI.

In that report, prison experts detailed numerous deficiencies at PCI roughly a month after four inmates'

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LIBRARY MOVE UNDERWAY



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A worker restacks books on a shelf in their new home at the Perquimans County Library on Church Street last week. Officials hope it will be open to the public before the end of the month. Right, a worker uses shrink wrap to secure books on a rolling shelf so they can be moved to the new library last week.



Town Council member arrested

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 AND BILL WEST
 Staff Writers

Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson was arrested by a town policeman on Thursday.

A heavily redacted police report shows that Detective A.J. Awad charged Jackson with fictitious tags as well as resisting, delaying or obstructing an officer.



JACKSON

The arrest happened near the intersection of Edenton Road Street and King Street.

The entire narrative part of the arrest report was blacked out in the report the town released. That would have included the officer's information on how the arrest happened and what went on.

Jackson spoke of the arrest in an interview with The Daily Advance on Saturday. However Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf said there are no plans at this time to release the entire report.

"We will not release anything further at this time," Shoaf said. "I have opened an internal investigation to look into Mr. Jackson's concerns."

Jackson, 32, was elected to

See JACKSON, 2



Submitted photo shows the Amtrak train that hit a freight train in South Carolina on Sunday.

Superintendent survives train wreck

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman and his family were aboard the Amtrak train that crashed Sunday in South Carolina, killing two people and injuring more than 100.

On Monday Cheeseman said he was sore and bruised, but grateful. "Our injuries don't compare to what other people suffered," Cheeseman said.

He and his wife and young daughter were traveling to see family in Florida. Last weekend's trip was



CHEESEMAN

only his second aboard an Amtrak train. The first one was in November.

"Our family doesn't like to fly and when you take an overnight train you can sleep and when you wake up you're at your destination," he said.

They boarded the passenger train in Rocky Mount Saturday night.

"At 2:30 a.m., the whole world changed," he said. "We were thrown across the room and were awak-

ened to loud sounds and metal moving."

He was next to his 9-year-old daughter who was asleep. When he felt the jolt, he grabbed her and held her tight.

"I held her as close to me as possible," he said. "I think I squeezed the air out of her."

When the train stopped they exited their side of the train into the darkness.

"It was pitch dark. There was a little overhead light from street lights and of course we saw helicopters

See WRECK, 2

Schools assist special needs kids

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Some Perquimans County teachers and staff spent time last week learning more about Braille and how they can help students who

have visual issues.

Perquimans Central School has two students who are blind. The school system is reaching out to families of students with special needs to let them know the schools can help, said Exceptional Children's Director Kanika Griffin.

"Some parents may be reluctant to bring a child with special needs to school, but we want them to know we

have the resources," Griffin said. "We are trying to educate our teachers to every aspect of a disability. You don't want to focus on what you can't do, but the abilities they do have."

Susan Jordan, a 20-year veteran teacher, said the session last week was good.

"I enjoyed it," she said. "I've been doing some online



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Megan Griffin (left) watches while Carole Sykes uses a Braille Writer last week during training at the Perquimans County Schools Central Office.

See SCHOOLS, 2

