

Pain painted beautiful



PHOTOS COURTESY HEATHER DESHIELDS

ECU art student Heather DeShields of Edenton uses her paintings to depict the physical suffering of her brother, Daniel Surratt. Surratt suffered traumatic injuries after he was struck by a car on Feb. 19, 1994.

Artwork depicts a brother's pain

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

On a sunny, winter day in February, 1994, an Edenton family's world was shattered and their lives changed forever.

That was the day their son and brother, Daniel Surratt, was struck by a car while riding his bicycle. Surratt, who was 10 at the time, was not wearing a helmet. Daniel suffered a traumatic brain injury that left him a quadriplegic. As a result, he is unable to perform the most basic of life skills, such as brushing his teeth or getting dressed.

Now, through a series of 23 paintings that make up her senior art project at East Carolina University, his sister, Heather Bond DeShields offers a glimpse of Daniel's world.

The exhibit's theme is "Invictus," the Latin word for unconquerable.

See ART on Page 2A



Harvin wants DA to refile charges

Prosecutor close to decision in case

By Diana Mazzella
Staff Writer

An Edenton man who believes he was the target of a murder conspiracy in 2005 claims the district attorney is taking too long to refile criminal charges in the case.

Thomas K. Harvin III says given the recent verdict in his civil lawsuit, District Attorney Frank Parrish should have all the evidence he needs

to refile murder conspiracy charges against Harvin's ex-wife, Dawn Teachey, and another woman Harvin claims was involved in the conspiracy.

Harvin was ambushed outside Teachey's Camden County home on April 7, 2005, by Stacey Bayles, a woman identified in court documents as Teachey's girlfriend. According to law enforcement officials, Bayles shot Harvin in the face with a .22-caliber handgun, but during their struggle, Harvin took the pistol away and shot Bayles. She later died.

Parrish cleared Harvin of any wrongdoing in Bayles' shooting. But the district attorney did later charge Teachey with conspiring to kill her ex-husband. Parrish dismissed the charge prior



Harvin

Jerry R. Tillett ruled in his favor, finding that Teachey acted as part of a conspiracy to murder her ex-husband. The judge awarded Harvin \$126,000 in damages.

Based on that ruling, Harvin wants Parrish to refile criminal charges against his ex-wife.

"My biggest thing in pushing this is I want justice," Harvin said during a recent interview. "I was vindicated in the shooting. I was vindi-

cated by the civil suit in taking Stacy's life, but I don't have justice. I won't have justice until Dawn Teachey is behind bars in prison hopefully for the rest of her life."

Harvin says the bullet from Bayles' gun is still embedded in his head, and that he has spent more than \$52,000 on medical treatments for the gunshot wound as well as for depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Harvin says he understands that it takes prosecutors time to complete investigative work before criminal charges are filed. It in fact took prosecutors some time before Teachey was initially charged, he said. What he doesn't understand, he said, is why it's taking Parrish so

See HARVIN on Page 2A

Town seeks to hire planner

Edenton and county had been partnering

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

A planning position that had been jointly shared between the town and county may soon be funded solely by the Edenton.

Edenton and Chowan County have been without a planner since Oct. 30 when Wes Haskett left to take a similar job in Southern Shores.

Haskett had worked full-time in the planning department. A part-time position in the department, previously held by fellow planner Elizabeth Bryant, was eliminated due to county's budget cuts.

That left an administrative assistant, Karen Castelloe, in the department, assuming the bulk of the duties.

County Manager Peter Ras-



Rascoe

coe said the county plans on administering its own planning program with existing staff through the end of this fiscal year, June 30.

"This decision was based on the reduced number of land use/planning matters that are coming before the county due to the slowdown in the economy," Rascoe said.

"If the economy picks up and land use planning matters and issues begin to increase, then we would certainly seek to engage dedicated professional services then."

But Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton, who has been assisting Castelloe in dealing with issues coming before the

See PLANNER on Page 6A

Police to probe new employees' criminal history

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

The town of Edenton is considering changing the way it checks out potential hires, a step that would involve local police.

The proposed new policy, if adopted by the Town Council at its December meeting, would require a criminal background check and fingerprinting of finalists for jobs. It would also allow the town to deny employment based on criminal history.



Knighton

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said the policy would go into effect immediately after council's approval.

She said that Police Chief Jay Fortenbery recommended the action after she asked him to run a criminal history check on a finalist for

See BACKGROUND on Page 6A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Doris Cooper (right) and 12-year-old daughter, Brooklynn Cooper (far left), of Durham, along with Doris' 8-year-old niece, Shandronasia Cooper, of Edenton, spend Black Friday in Peebles looking at clothes.

Black Friday boosts local holiday sales

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Bargains were definitely on the mind of shoppers in downtown Edenton on Black Friday.

Jadelle Wagner, manager of Peebles Department Store, said she believed that deeply discounted items, some as much as 50 percent off, were bringing in many customers.

"We had an excellent day," she said, "but I have never

seen such deep discounts" at this time of year.

Wagner added that those who came were clearly shopping for gifts, not for themselves.

Popular items included laptop desks, cozies (sweater blankets), and other "as seen on TV" items, she said.

Among those shopping at Peebles on Black Friday was Patricia Askew of

See SALES on Page 9A

