

Lady Pirates ranked No. 1

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HGS honor roll

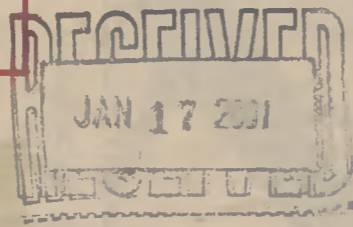
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Get a technology tune-up

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Starter pistol found at PCMS

susan r. harris

It won't be on an end-of-grade test, but a Perquimans Middle School student earned a valuable lesson recently: Even a gun that does not shoot bullets is not allowed on school property.

PCMS Principal Anne White confirmed that a starter pistol was confiscated from a seventh grader last Tuesday.

White said the male student, described as a nice young man who is new to the school system this year, told White that he had been playing with the gun the night before and had put it in his pants pocket. The next morning, he put on the pants, not remembering that the gun was in the pocket. He said he didn't realize he had it until "kids called it to his attention at the bus stop."

She said that fellow students informed school officials, who took the gun without incident. White said the student is a member of the school's student government, has been named a Student of the Month, has gotten along well with other students, and is performing well academically. The student did not take the gun to school to frighten anyone or because he was upset about anything, White said.

Per school board policy, the student was automatically suspended for 10 days, and may face further disciplinary action, White said.

White said she called a meeting of the school's safety committee on Wednesday to review the safety plan and see if there was anything that could have prevented the situation on Tuesday. White said that the committee decided to look into using a walk-through metal detector on unannounced occasions as a deterrent, and also to try to have administrators and staff even more visible.

White said she also went to classrooms after the incident to inform teachers of what had happened. In addition, she visited seventh grade classrooms to discuss the incident with students in response to rumors circulating about the incident. She said she asked for student input into how to better communicate the weapons policy to students and parents, and how to handle incidents.

Some students and parents do not realize the scope of the weapons policy of the schools, White said.

3 stolen vehicles recovered

Pitt County fire sparks local investigation

SUSAN R. HARRIS
The Perquimans Weekly
and
BARBIE MORSE
The Times-Leader

A Monday blaze in Grifton sparked an investigation that recovered three stolen vehicles in Perquimans County.

Hertford Police were notified Monday that a 2000 GMC Yukon Danali stolen from Winner Chevrolet on Highway 11 in Grifton had been tracked

to Hertford using the vehicle's on-board satellite tracking system. Pitt County law officers told local officials that the tracking system showed the vehicle was somewhere in the 300 block of Dobbs Street in Hertford.

Hertford Police Officer Brad Krause and sheriff's officials searched the area, according to Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley. They found the car behind a residence on King Street, a few yards from Dobbs Street. Krause said Pitt County investigators towed the Danali back to their jurisdiction to process it for evidence.

Tilley said after the Danali was located, law officers found that a reverse trace was done using the vehicle's on-board

tracking system. The vehicle, the tracking system indicated, had left Pitt County and driven non-stop to a residence on Burgess Road, just outside Hertford. Officers went to that address, the home of David Chesson. There, officers found a 1993 Ford F-150 pick-up truck reported stolen from Martin County. The truck was owned by Bill Clark Homes of Greenville.

Later, both the police and sheriff's departments received word from confidential informants that there was a third stolen car in the county. Krause said Sheriff's Investigator Nate Zachary was first on the scene on Brace Street to check out the informant's lead. He found a 1993

Jeep Laredo believed to have been involved in the larceny in Pitt County. The Jeep, also reported stolen from Martin County, matched the description of a vehicle that reportedly followed the Danali when it left Pitt County.

The initial investigation began around 6 a.m. Monday when police in Pitt County received a call that smoke was billowing from Winner Chevrolet in Grifton. Grifton and Winterville firefighters fought the blaze for hours before it was under control.

According to Ayden firefighter Donald Skinner, damage to the building could be as high as \$1 million, and several cars in the showroom sustained minor smoke damage.

Officials were not sure how the fire started.

Police at the scene discovered that the dealership office has been broken into and that a 2000 GMC Yukon Danali sport utility vehicle was missing from the lot. From there, the link to Perquimans County unfolded, leading to the recovery of three stolen vehicles.

The State Bureau of Investigation was called in to investigate the fire.

Law officers from Hertford; Perquimans, Pitt and Martin counties; the SBI and the highway patrol have been involved in the investigation so far. No arrests have been made, although some officials have said they are developing suspects.

CELEBRATING THE KING LEGACY



The choir of host New Bethel Baptist Church provided music throughout the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Program Monday. The event was sponsored by the NAACP, Perquimans Chapter.

Leigh earns first local King Legacy award

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Fondella Leigh became the first recipient of the Perquimans NAACP's Martin Luther King Legacy Award during Monday's King Day celebration.

NAACP President Fred Yates said Leigh has faithful in her work with youth through the NAACP Youth Council for over 10 years. She was honored for her outstanding service to the community through her youth work.

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church was host to this year's Martin Luther King Day

observance, sponsored annually by the NAACP, Perquimans Chapter. Host pastor Dr. William Sawyer kept his message short and simple: Keep your hands up.

"Martin Luther King left a great legacy," he said. "What are we doing about that legacy? What are we doing now? Are we resting on his laurels or doing something ourselves?"

Sawyer said the world may see uplifted hands as a sign of surrender, but Christians see it as a sign of worship and praise.

When Moses told Joshua to lead the Israelites into battle against their enemies, Moses

held his hands up and the children of Israel were successful. But when Moses got tired and his arms fell, the opponents became strong. Moses was led to a rock and his arms were held up on either side to show that God was in control. God's will was that his people win the battle, Sawyer said. God sent them into battle and led them through.

"When we stand on the rock, the devil can do no harm," Sawyer said. "In order for us to receive victory, we have to be obedient to God...It's time for us to stop playing with God. It's time for us to get real for God. Give God the glory and God

will lift you up."

Sawyer said the war has been won, but the fight still continues. He said society's problems include spending more money on jails than on schools; inequality in the workplace; homes without male role models and children raising children.

The solution to the problems lies in turning to God, he said.

"You have to turn things over to God and live right and God will come to your rescue," he said. "When you put your hands up, just look up and know that you're still in the master's hands."

Tip leads to drug raid, bust

Two charged in Thursday raid

susan r. harris

An informant's tip led sheriff's deputies to drugs and cash in a Wynne Fork apartment last Thursday.

Morris Cornelius Kee, 20, and Shikara Renae Elliott, 22, were arrested around 6 p.m. on Jan. 11 after local sheriff's officers, members of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Drug Task Force and a Hertford police officer found 82 grams of marijuana and \$6,150 in cash at Elliott's residence at 105 Wynne Fork Court.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said the investigation into possible drug dealing began with a tip from a confidential informant. A search warrant was issued for the premises based on a controlled buy set up by law officers, he said.

Both Kee and Elliott were arrested and charged with possession with intent to manufacture, sell, deliver marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Elliott was also charged with maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of manufacturing, selling, delivering marijuana.

Her bond was set at \$7,000 unsecured; his at \$5,000 secured.

Public hearing on hunting yields no answers to reported problems

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The same theme kept recurring throughout the hour-long county public hearing on hunting Monday night: Dogs and guns are not the root of the problem. People are.

Michael Winslow, a hunter who said he is associated with two hunt clubs, began the hear-

ing by saying that the hunt clubs are united to help find solutions to hunting problems. He said most hunters are also concerned with the safety of residents, but that all hunters should not be punished by the actions of a few.

Many who hunt with dogs asked that commissioners not approve a request by residents

in the White Hat area to outlaw dog hunting in a designated area of the community. Their spokesperson, Van Johnson, said the area is too densely populated for safe dog and rifle hunting. He stressed that the landowners in the proposed area requested the measure for safety reasons, and do not want to ban all hunting

But most of the hunters said during the hearing that enforcement of laws already on the books is the answer to reports of unsafe hunting and hunting on posted property. They said the sheriff's department and wildlife officers should patrol more, and hand out tickets for violations.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said

Tuesday that one problem with enforcing laws is that an officer has to see the infraction, or either a citizen has to swear out a warrant. Getting people to make formal complaints and go to court and testify has not been easy, he said.

No real suggestions for making hunting safer were given to commissioners.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 48
Low: 45
RAIN

FRIDAY
High: 65
Low: 49
RAIN

SATURDAY
High: 47
Low: 38
SHOWERS