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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

December 8, 2004

Vol. 72, No. 49 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Alleged gunman in heist arrested

CHRIS WHIPPLE

Police have arrested the alleged gunman in Sunday's robbery of the McDonald's restaurant in Hertford but a second suspect remains at large.

Trelton Mallory, 27, of Third Street, Hertford, has been charged with armed

robbery. He was still being detained at Albemarle District Jail Monday in lieu of a \$50,000 secured bond.

According to police, two men in a red hatchback ordered a meal at the restaurant's drive-thru about 7:10 p.m. When the drive-thru attendant opened the register to make

change, the driver produced a small handgun and demanded money.

The attendant was able to give police a description of the driver, the car and the partial license plate number. With that information, investigators tracked down and arrested Mallory. Police have not yet locat-

ed a weapon.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said Monday that the description police have of the second suspect is vague.

Mallory contended he was at home when the crime occurred, Vanscoy said.

Vanscoy said Mallory

has not been in trouble with the law for a while but does have a criminal record.

The Food Lion at that location has been robbed at gunpoint twice this year, too, and management recently decided to stop keeping the grocery open 24 hours a day.

Vanscoy said management at the Hertford McDonald's is considering having a silent alarm system installed. As it is now, store clerks dial 911 to summon help.

Mallory's wife, Naomi, told The Daily Advance Monday that her husband

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PEACE ON EARTH



Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church won The Perquimans Weekly Best in Parade award Saturday.

PHOTOS BY ERIN RICKERT

Parade draws hundreds

ERIN RICKERT

Several hundred spectators came out in Saturday's beautiful weather for the annual Christmas Parade sponsored by the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce to see a myriad of floats and quirky costumes.

Those arriving early were entertained with Christmas music played by the Perquimans County

Middle School Band and the 13-member singing group, The Albemarle Sounds.

At 2 p.m. spectators witnessed a fly over by the U.S. Coast Guard before marching bands, classic cars, floats, clowns and fire trucks were escorted by Sheriff Eric Tilley, Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy and Winfall Police Chief David Schaffer from

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WWII veterans Kerry Lane, Leo Ambrose, Davis Asher, John Wood and John L. Winslow served as grand marshalls for Saturday's Christmas parade.

Area fire units get new technology

ERIN RICKERT

Every minute counts in emergency situations involving sudden cardiac arrest patients and now four area fire departments have the technology to assist EMS during such a crisis.

Through Rural Development grant funds, six Heartstart defibrillators costing close to \$7,500 are now aboard area tankers.

Each year sudden cardiac arrest kills more than 450,000 Americans,

accounting for nearly one death every minute, and making it the leading cause of death in the United States.

While drowning, electrocution, choking, trauma and Coronary Heart Disease can contribute to sudden cardiac arrest, a seemingly healthy person can suffer cardiac arrest without warning.

For this reason, Larry Chappell, director of EMS, said he wanted to provide one defibrillator to each of the county's six fire units.

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Christmas tree sales on rise nationwide

ERIN RICKERT

The number of people interested in ringing in the New Year with a live Christmas tree is on the rise this year.

According to the National Christmas Tree Association Web site, consumers are projected to purchase as many as 24.5 million real trees this year, which is an increase from the 23.4 million purchased last year.

"From what we hear from growers it was an excellent harvest," said a spokesperson for The National Christmas Tree Association. "It should be a very successful year."

Natalie Brown, who runs Planter's Ridge on Harvey Point Road with her husband Lyl, said this year they ordered a total of 110 Fraser fir trees, which was

only a few more than they ordered last year.

"So far they [sales] are really good," Brown said. "We have already sold more than last year at the same time."

The live tree increase, which still pales in comparison to the more than 50 million artificial trees that decorate American homes, would make this year the second in a row tree sales have been on the rise.

The increase in sales could be attributed to the fact that homeowners are buying bigger trees and some are even taking home a second or third tree, according to The National Christmas Tree Association.

Tree purchases last year alone totaled \$791 million and the increase in sales this year could mean even

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Byrums open cafe and tea room in Belvidere

ERIN RICKERT

For years, Deborah Byrum of Belvidere helped her husband Paul on their poultry farm when she was not watching their children.

And as time went on she even started watching their grandchildren, but by this time she felt something was missing.

That is until one night just a little more than two years ago when Byrum had a dream that would bring an 1890s home and ideas together to create The Nicholson House Café and Tea Parlor.

Now two years and close to \$150,000 in renovations

later, the couple and their family celebrated the opening of the restaurant with a ribbon cutting Thursday.

"This was the perfect way to share [the home] with the public," Byrum said. "We hope to create memories and a lifestyle here."

The restaurant, which has seating for 100, serves breakfast, lunch and dinner Tuesday-Thursday 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday-Saturday 7 a.m.-9 p.m. and lunch Sunday from 12:30-5 p.m.

Menu items include soups, salads, sandwiches, wraps, steak, pork chops, fried chicken, biscuits, desserts, afternoon tea and

daily entrée specials.

Each month the restaurant will hold a drawing from names submitted by patrons for those individuals who have carried out an act of kindness.

Deborah said once a month, a name will be drawn and the winner will receive a \$20 gift certificate.

While reservations are not required, large parties and those placing carry out orders should call the restaurant at 297-2400.

The couple will open the gift shop portion of the home in about two weeks. The gift shop will entertain the same business hours, carrying things such as glassware, stationary and tea items.



Family and friends wish Paul and Deborah Byrum the best on their new cafe and tea room in Belvidere at a Chamber-sponsored ribbon cutting last week.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 68
Low: 57
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
High: 72
Low: 45
SHOWERS

SATURDAY
High: 60
Low: 37
PARTLY CLOUDY