

Fall is good planting time

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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VA warns of scam

From staff reports Veterans should take care not to be misled by scam artists regarding their prescription medications. According to local Veterans Services Officer Preston Spear and the North Carolina American Legion, a company identifying itself as Patient Care Group has called veterans claiming that VA has changed the way prescriptions are being processed. The caller tells the veterans that prescriptions are now being dispensed through that company and if they want to keep getting their medications, they need to provide a credit card number.

Spear said this is not true.

"There's been no change in the way VA dispenses prescriptions," Spear said.

Spear said those who serve veterans have been asked to help spread the word that the scam is in progress.

Veterans are advised to never give out their personal information including social security number. Continued on page 10

Car chase prelude to false claim

MARGARET FISHER

Two county residents were charged after a false police report was filed about a stolen car that had earlier been involved in a chase by the highway patrol.

At about 11:30 a.m. last Wednesday, Trooper K.R. Briggs of the N.C. Highway Patrol attempted to pull over a speeding car driven

by Antone Whidbee, 22, of Harvey Point Road.

The car was traveling south on U.S. Highway 17 when a short chase ensued. The car went into Winfall, turned right onto Main Street and right onto Louis Street. The driver jumped out of the car and ran.

Winfall Police and Perquimans County Sheriff's Department also responded. The driver was

not found.

Meanwhile, Iesha Johnson, 19, of 328 Dobbs St. called police at 12:30 p.m. to report that her white 1997 Pontiac Grand Am had been stolen from the downtown area. She said she had left her keys in the car and when she returned, the car was gone. Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said.

Personal belongings

found in the vehicle abandoned in Winfall linked it to the car reported by Johnson, said Sgt. C.T. Griffin of the highway patrol.

After an interview with Johnson was conducted by Griffin and Briggs at the Perquimans County magistrate's office, officials found that the Grand Am in Winfall was the vehicle reported stolen in Hertford.

But the car had not actually been stolen by Whidbee. It had been loaned to him by his girlfriend, Johnson.

"Based on some of the articles found in the car and on the interview," Griffin said, "we found (Johnson) had allowed Mr. Whidbee to operate her car."

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MAKING AWARD-WINNING MUSIC



SUBMITTED PHOTO COURTESY PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Marching Pirates continued to make noise at the third annual J.H. Rose Band Classic in Greenville Saturday, placing first overall in class 3A and being named grand champion for classes 1A, 2A and 3A with the highest score of all bands in those categories. The win marked the band's second class championship and grand championship in as many outings. In addition,

the band took first place in class in music, marching, general effect and percussion, and second place in drum major and visual ensemble. The band will compete at the Down East Festival of Bands in Williamston on Saturday at 6:40 p.m. They will be one of 12 bands competing in four classes during the event which begins at 3:45.

Winfall gets canoe access grant

MARGARET FISHER

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources has awarded a \$4,000 grant to the Town of Winfall to construct a canoe and kayak access at Winfall Landing Park.

The town partnered with the Division of Parks and Recreation, the North Carolina Trails Committee and the State Trails Program to provide a launch, part of the Blueway/Greenway project, on the Albemarle Region Paddle Trail.

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Perquimans Commerce Centre: Is it functioning as planned?

MARGARET FISHER

This is Part 1 of a series on the Commerce Centre.

In 1995, Perquimans County spent \$850,000 for more than 400 acres on Harvey Point Road to be developed into a light industry center. Ten years later, it's time to take a look at whether the county is meeting its objectives.

After a comprehensive evaluation was performed in 46 North Carolina counties in 1986, a strategic plan was developed in 1992 to promote self-sufficiency within the county. The Perquimans County Commerce Centre was to fulfill some of the goals of that plan by focusing on attracting light industry.

Over time, it became clear that interest in the county was not coming from industry. So the focus was changed to allow retail and service oriented businesses. For a time, a number of potential retailers took their business elsewhere.

"In the last three to four years, it's changed direction," County Manager

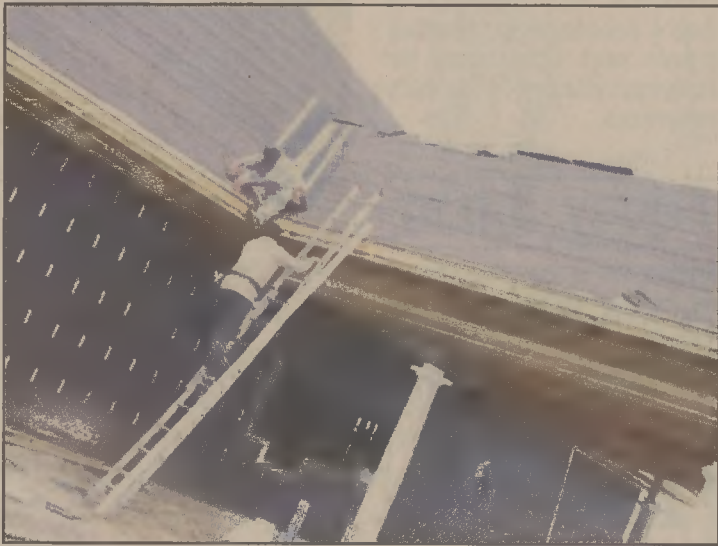


PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Rocky Salez (on roof) and Manuel Torres of Gramby Contractors work to complete the roof on the new East Carolina Bank at the Commerce Centre. Two other businesses are under construction in the development, while two others are awaiting closing.

Bobby Darden said, "not only in focus, but in interest."

The first business to acquire land at the Commerce Centre was the Perquimans County 2020 Coalition in April 1998. The county gave a portion of land to 2020 to be used for a business incubator — an affordable starting point

for new businesses to grow. A metal building that became the Perquimans Business Center was built through a grant from Albemarle Electric Corporation. The nonprofit 2020 Coalition, headed by former county commissioner Leo Higgins, opened in April 2000 to manage the

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Local group blazing new trails

MARGARET FISHER

It's amazing what a few volunteers can do to create awareness about the beauty of an area and, at the same time, motivate others to get out and enjoy it.

That's what the Perquimans County Trailblazers, formerly the Perquimans County Blueway Greenway steering committee, are doing as they prepare for their first big fundraiser, the 5K

Run/Walk.

The race will be held Saturday, Oct. 22 at 8 a.m. Registration will take place at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on Friday from 6 — 8 p.m. and on race day at Missing Mill Park from 6:30 — 7:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$10 and a non-perishable food item to benefit the Open Door of Perquimans County.

The race begins at Missing Mill Park, goes through Historic

Downtown Hertford and across the S-bridge to Winfall Landing Park.

"We thought this would be a great way to get Perquimans County moving," said Rita Blair, race coordinator.

The race is a way to promote awareness of obesity in the county, especially with children, Blair said. The North Carolina Nutrition & Physical Activity Surveillance

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Abused horses rescued

One of three animals dies during rescue

MARGARET FISHER

When animal rescuers investigated a call of horse abuse in Snug Harbor last Thursday, one of the horses died while they were being checked.

At about 2 p.m., a concerned citizen called the Chowan-Gates-Perquimans Shelter and reported that three horses looked to be in poor condition.

Animal Control Officer

Thomas Stanton, a Perquimans County Sheriff's Office deputy and representatives from the United States Equine Rescue League responded to 385 Snug Harbor Road.

"Two horses were walking that appeared to be extremely malnourished," Sheriff Eric Tilley said. "The horses had several open wounds that hadn't been taken care of."

A third horse was lying on the ground. Several attempts were made by five people to get the horse up, but it was unsuccessful, Tilley said.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 81, Low: 60
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY
High: 76, Low: 59
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 78, Low: 60
PARTLY CLOUDY