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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Youth escapes from detention center

MARGARET FISHER

A 16-year-old female escaped from Winfall detention officers last week and was later picked up on New Hope Road.

The juvenile, whose

name could not be released, was being detained at Winfall Juvenile Detention Center for a charge of assault on a government official that had occurred in Ahoskie, where she had resided.

At about midnight Thursday, she was transported back to Winfall after a trip to a hospital in Ahoskie. When the transportation vehicle arrived at the detention center, the girl broke away from offi-

cial and ran, said Sheriff Eric Tilley.

The sheriff's office and Hertford Police Department set out on a search following the escape. At about 4 a.m., the juvenile was found knock-

ing on the back door of a New Hope Road residence. She was barefoot and wearing handcuffs and a blue jumpsuit.

Deputies Phillip Lane and Craig Trueblood responded to the call. The

juvenile was taken back to the detention center.

Additional charges will be based on recommendations of the juvenile's court counselor prior to her court date. No charges have been made as of yet.

Jennings pleads guilty to drug rap

MARGARET FISHER

An undercover sting operation led to the conviction of a local man for selling almost 70 grams of cocaine valued at more than \$3,000.

Cleofus Dante Jennings, 21, of 1711 Harvey Point Road, was arrested and charged with trafficking in cocaine and possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine on Dec. 20, 2004. Last week, he pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine.

Jennings was sentenced to a minimum of 35 months confinement and a \$50,000 fine.

The drug buy that occurred a year ago began when the Wayne County Drug Task Force contacted Perquimans County Sheriff's Office. The setup involved Wayne County Sheriff's Office, the State Bureau of Investigation and the local sheriff's office.

An undercover officer from Wayne County called the sheriff's office to provide assistance with a buy bust because he knew about a connection in Perquimans to an incident that had occurred in Wayne County, Sheriff Eric Tilley said.

The officer made a drug buy arrangement over the phone with Jennings and met him in the vicinity of Third Avenue near Harvey Point Road.

"We had a target picked out," Tilley said. "When we went to make contact, (Jennings) is the gentleman we made contact with."

Jennings was arrested immediately after the purchase was carried out. Perquimans Sheriff's Office recovered all monies used to buy the cocaine in the drug bust.

DAZZLING SMILES



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Deneisha Burke, 7, is a first grade student who received free dental care from dental assistant Shermin Prentice and dentist Jack Boone. Boone's clinic provided treatments for 22 students in his fifth year of participating in the national Give Kids a Smile Day.

Kids all smiles after free dental work

MARGARET FISHER

Sparkling smiles were being given out for free at dentist Jack Boone's clinic last Friday. It's the fifth year that Boone and his staff have participated in the American Dental Association's Give Kids a Smile program.

The program, according to ADA, is to help low-income children get the dental care they need. They also want to raise awareness that a better health care system is needed, oral health is vital to overall health and more dentists should participate in public health insurance programs.

Students were financial-

ly pre-screened and checked by a Perquimans County Schools nurse to qualify for the services. Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter assisted the 22 students from all four schools while they waited for their dental treatments.

Boone is one of about 12,000 dentists in 2,000 clinics and schools that have provided free services for more than 500,000 children this year. Last week, Boone volunteered cleanings, sealants, fluoride treatments and in some cases x-rays.

"It kind of serves a segment of the population that doesn't get served at all," he said.

Part of that population

is an increasing number of Hispanic children in the county. More than half of the selected students is from the Latino community.

"There are more Hispanics," Boone said. "In previous years, there weren't many at all."

This year, interpreter Yvonne Milot was on hand during the three-hour session to interpret for the children who don't speak English well. Milot volunteers with Open Door and Rhema in teaching English to Hispanic children and helping them with homework and pronunciation.

Francisco Raudales, 13, has participated in the program twice. Milot, interpreting for Raudales, said

that the seventh grade student from Honduras felt comfortable coming back after his first ever trip to the dentist last year. Raudales had been a student at Rhema, but had dropped out, and Milot used the opportunity to encourage him to come back to improve his English skills.

Often, Give Kids a Smile is the first time students visit the dentist, so usually corrective work is not done, Boone said.

"Having a favorable experience is the main thing," he said.

Schuyler Headley, 7, appeared to be enjoying his sealant treatment, despite slight discomfort. Continued on page 8

Man charged with theft

MARGARET FISHER

A man was charged with felony larceny after allegedly taking electronics and other items out of a mobile home and selling them in the neighborhood.

Larry Eugene White, 19, of 415 Dobbs St., was also charged with breaking and entering, possession of stolen goods and damage to personal property. Continued on page 8

HHI plans sweetheart of an event

SUSAN HARRIS

It's that time of year when thoughts turn to hearts and flowers — and a great weekend in downtown Hertford.

Historic Hertford, Inc. will offer a full day of fun on Saturday, Feb. 18 with Sweetheart Weekend Encore, featuring the second annual appraisal fair and the sixth annual silent auction at Hertfordshire Antiques. Nine downtown merchants are also sponsoring a raffle for a downtown shopping spree.

HHI appraisal fair chair Muriel Harmon is excited about the number and quality of appraisers who will be at Hertford United Methodist Church from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. for the fair. Harmon said the popularity of the event will bring eight appraisers, up from four last year, to this year's venue.

There will be experts to help owners value a wide Continued on page 8

Bivens pleads guilty to cruelty to animals in district court

MARGARET FISHER

A woman pleaded guilty to cruelty to animals and her daughter's same charges were dismissed on Jan. 11 concerning an October horse abuse incident.

Roselyn Bivens was charged after one of her three horses, boarded at 385 Snug Harbor Road, died from not being fed.

Bivens pleaded guilty and is not to own or possess

any horses for five years and must pay restitution to Powells Pet Clinic. Judgement will be continued in five years. Two other charges of the same were dropped. Three charges against Jessica Ward were also dropped.

The two surviving horses were placed with Perquimans County Animal Control officer, Thomas Stanton, who has transferred ownership to Sherry Davenport of the United States Equine

Rescue League in Currituck County.

"All in all, it's a good outcome," Davenport said. "We wanted the horses to not go back."

Because the rescue league doesn't have sufficient funds to take in any more horses, she will be transferring ownership to the family who has been caring for them since October, she said. The horses, Sundance and Ahren, are at their correct weight, she said.

Tommy Bivens, Roselyn Bivens estranged husband, apparently owned the horses at one time and asked Judge James Carlton Cole if he could have them again. Cole refused his request.

On the day of the rescue, there were conflicting stories about who actually owned and was responsible for feeding the horses, Davenport said. The couple originally kept them in the Chowan County. In May, a complaint was made to the

Tri-County SPCA that the horse that later died was underweight. Mary Bass, animal control supervisor, advised Tommy Bivens about the care of his horses, said Peter Rascoe, Chowan County attorney. "We never had what we could say was a legitimate complaint," Rascoe said.

In July, the horses were moved to Robert and Jessica Ward's property on Snug Harbor Road. The Bivens were responsible Continued on page 10

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 47, LOW: 27
AM RAIN/SNOW

FRIDAY
HIGH: 51, LOW: 33
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 49, LOW: 32
MOSTLY CLOUDY