

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Greetings  
Santa Letters  
Section B

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 cents

## Argument turns into shoot-out

MARGARET FISHER

After a front yard shootout took place in Snug Harbor involving two brothers who shot each other, a deputy arrived to find the two quietly sitting at the kitchen table.

Earlier in the evening, Roger Hollingsworth and his wife, Virginia, and Benny Hollingsworth, sat together eating dinner at the latter's residence at 154 Hemlock St, said Marlo

Reel, investigator for Perquimans County Sheriff's Office. Dinner allegedly included an undetermined amount of alcohol.

After dinner, Roger Hollingsworth said it was time to go home and his wife apparently didn't agree. The two began arguing about it until Roger Hollingsworth drove off and went home. He returned shortly after with a gun and began yelling for

his brother to come outside, and then he began shooting at the house.

"A bullet actually did make entry into the house," Reel said. That bullet hit a chair inside the house.

Benny Hollingsworth told officers that he told Virginia to go hide and stay down, and then he grabbed his gun. He went outside to the back of the mobile home and told his brother to put his gun down.

Roger Hollingsworth

allegedly fired and the bullet grazed his brother's head. Benny Hollingsworth allegedly fired back and hit his brother in the leg. Then Roger Hollingsworth allegedly shot Benny Hollingsworth in the pelvic area. As many as eight shots were fired, Reel said.

Both men dropped their weapons and began tussling in the yard, Reel said. Then they helped each other back into the house.

Neighbors began calling

Telecommunications at about 10:50 p.m. Virginia Hollingsworth called to request an ambulance. When deputy Tully Langley arrived, the brothers were sitting at the kitchen table. Reel arrived shortly after.

"It was obvious that Benny was shot," Reel said. Roger Hollingsworth told the officers that he had previously taken pain medication for a medical condition.

The brothers were taken to Chowan Hospital where Roger Hollingsworth was treated and released. Benny Hollingsworth was airlifted to Pitt Memorial Hospital where he underwent surgery.

Charges of discharging a barreled weapon or firearm into an occupied property and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury are pending against Roger Hollingsworth.

## Suspect arrested under false name

MARGARET FISHER

Police discovered last week in court that a man caught with a large quantity of cocaine and cash on Dec. 8 had given them a fictitious name and address.

The man, Carlton Simpson, 32, of 103 Clay St., Elizabeth City had given Hertford Police officer Jeff Thomas a driver's license which turned out to not be his own when Thomas stopped the car Simpson was driving on Ocean Highway for speeding. Upon being stopped, Simpson took off running. He was apprehended by officer Kevin Worster.

Just prior to being caught, Cave threw a sizable bag into some bushes. Officers retrieved from the bushes 784 grams of powder cocaine estimated at a street value of \$50,000. He also had \$8,100 in cash.

Simpson gave the name of Toriano Marcellus Cave, 36, of High Point, and produced a drivers license. Police are looking into who the license actually belongs to.

Last Wednesday, Simpson appeared in court charged as and signing documents under the name of Cave. In addition to charges filed on Dec. 8, Simpson, under the name of Cave, was being charged with maintaining a vehicle for transportation of narcotics.

"In the process of adding additional charges to him, officers found out what his real name was," said Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

He was then taken before the magistrate and re-charged with trafficking cocaine, possession with intent to deliver, resisting arrest, speeding and the additional charge under his real name.

Simpson was taken back into the courtroom and his bond was set at \$331,000 secured. He was taken to Albemarle District Jail where he remains.

## Extreme collections



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Hertford Beach resident June Manke lovingly places a piece of her elaborate Christmas village. Manke and her husband, Bill, fill their home with holiday collectibles, a task that takes several weeks. For an inside look at these extreme collectors, please see page 8B.

## Hertford electric rates to drop

MARGARET FISHER

With gas and other prices continuing to rise, Town of Hertford residents can be relieved that their electric rates will be dropping.

The town's wholesale rate will be decreasing by 1.5 percent, so town councilors approved dropping the retail rate by 1.2 percent. In dollars, customers' rates will go from 1.14 of a

cent to one cent per kilowatt hour. That's a savings of \$1.40 per 1,000 kilowatt hours, said John Christensen, town manager.

Rate reduction will begin during the bill period running from Jan. 10 through Feb. 9. Bills will be mailed out in February and customers will see the decrease on their bill that's due in March.

Although this fiscal

year's budget is tight, Jo Ann Morris, town councilor, said that the budget is where it needs to be, including the electric department's budget.

"(Councilors) feel that, given the electric rates, if we did get an electric rate reduction, we'd pass that on to the customer," Morris said. "Everyone's rates are higher than we want them to be, and ours are higher than we want them to be."

Operation costs of the N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency's coal and nuclear plants are decreasing as the debt service continues to be paid off, so more decreases could be seen in the future, Christensen said. In a couple of years, the decreases may be dramatic, he said.

"When we decrease it, it's pretty much a solid decision," he said, "and we're not looking to take it back."

## Local school violence rate remains static

MARGARET FISHER

The Department of Public Instruction released the Annual Report on School Crime and Violence early this month.

During 2005-2006, Perquimans County Schools reported 11 incidents - the same number as the previous school year. However, the number of incidents per 1,000 students dropped from 6.4 to 6.3 because the student population increased from 1,723 to 1,770, said Brenda Lassiter,

PCS public relations officer.

In fact, the incidents per 1,000 students have decreased each year at least since 2002-2003 school year. The current figure is less than the statewide number of 7.9 per 1,000 students.

Within the seven-county area, Perquimans and Currituck counties tied percentage-wise with more incidents than the other five counties.

"We're very vigilant about reporting the incidents," Lassiter said. Typically, all the inci-

dents have occurred at Perquimans County High School, but this reported year, three of the 11 occurred at Perquimans County Middle School. However, Pasquotank, Chowan, Gates and Currituck all reported incidents in at least one of their elementary schools.

"We're seeing violent behavior on students at an earlier age," Lassiter said.

But violent behavior may include a student bringing a medication in another person's name to school, an alcoholic beverage

container inadvertently left in a vehicle or carrying an object that resembles a weapon.

"To my knowledge, we've never had anyone with any (direct) intent to harm anyone - it was always poor decision-making," Lassiter said.

PCHS reported five possession of controlled substance, two possession of a weapon and one possession of an alcoholic beverage. PCMS reported two assaults with a weapon, which was not a gun, and

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## Break-in stopped by police

911 call alerts officer

MARGARET FISHER

Police apprehended a man attempting to break into a feed store Sunday morning.

A person called 9-1-1 at about 7:30 a.m. and said that they saw a suspicious person at the Farmers Feed & Seed on Grubb Street.

Sgt. Brian Riddick of Hertford Police Department arrived on foot from the back of the store and observed a man at the front holding what appeared to be some kind of prying tool, said Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

The man, Jamel Fletcher, 20, of 405 Dobbs St., took off running. Riddick called for backup and chased him to his Dobbs Street home. Assisted by Deputy T.J. Langley of the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office, Riddick approached the house and told Fletcher's grandmother what had taken place.

Upon listening to the officers, Fletcher's grandmother escorted him out of the house and handed him over to the officers, Vanscoy said.

Fletcher was charged with breaking and entering, damage to real property and resisting arrest. His bond was set at \$5,000 unsecured and he was released to his father. A first appearance court date is Jan. 17.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 62, LOW: 43  
FEW SHOWERS

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 68, LOW: 56  
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 69, LOW: 45  
SHOWERS