

Front page:
Top 5
stories of 2006

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35 cents

A look at the year's biggest stories

Woman backs into bank

MARGARET FISHER

March 8

It looked like a drive-in cash heist when a woman backed her car through the front doors into the RBC Centura Bank.

It was a near-perfect parking job if it had been planned, except that Doris Spellman Felton, 70, didn't plan to park her car in the bank's foyer.

Instead, the resident of 353 Chinquapin Road, Tyner was attempting to parallel park in front of the bank. As she was backing into a parking space, her accelerator pedal seemed to have stuck, she said. The engine revved and the brakes wouldn't stop her four-door 2005 Toyota Camry.

"She backed around and hit the corner (of the curb) with enough force that it knocked the car straight," said Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

When the car hit the curb, it jolted the vehicle perpendicular to the sidewalk. Tire marks on the sidewalk at the right side of the bank's doorway appear to show that the right side took most of the impact and the tires were spinning even though the car was stuck, Vanscoy said.

Most of the vehicle ended up inside the foyer of the bank. Felton was able to turn the engine off, let her seat back, climb into the back seat and exit the vehicle through the back door, she said.

In the meantime, bank employees began screaming and running as the car crashed through the glass doors, said Anita Rouse-Couther, RBC's customer service officer. When the car stopped, they asked Felton if she was hurt, and then called Central Communications. Felton said that she was not injured.

Officer Kevin Worster arrived on the scene and observed the white sedan lodged in the doorway of the bank.

Hertford Fire Department had to cut the metal door frame away to allow for extra room on either side of the vehicle so it could be towed out. Ashley's Auto Repair & Towing towed the car to Chowan County.

Downtown witnesses told Vanscoy that there was no speeding involvement prior to Felton pulling up and attempting to park her car, he said. An investigation is ongoing. **Continued on page 3**

Up a tree



Mace Walton, a Goose Nest Lane resident, called The Perquimans Weekly Friday with a baffling question: How does a fox get up a tree? Walton emailed this photograph of an obviously dead fox that he had spied up a tree near his home.

Human bones found in church

MARGARET FISHER

Oct. 4

What happened in a local church may have looked like a familiar scene of a whodunit movie. But when Charles Eason, pastor of First Baptist Church, discovered human bones in the church basement, he opened up a real mystery case.

Eason said that he was returning a ladder he had removed from under the stairs of the basement when the discovery was made. He found that some items had fallen over after he had removed the ladder. As he began putting the items back, he noticed a bucket covered with a deteriorating piece of cloth on top. Under the cloth was what looked like an old human skull. Two old femur bones were found near the bucket.

When he first arrived, Hertford Police Officer Eric Priebe thought that it was a Halloween prank, said Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

"After an examination, it was determined that it was actually real," Vanscoy said of the bones.

The State Bureau of Investigation is involved in the case. The three bones were placed in plastic bags and will be taken to the medical examiner's office in Greenville to determine information such as age, gender and race, Vanscoy said. He wasn't sure how long it will take to obtain any information about the bones. The bones do appear to be those of an adult, he said.

In addition, the basement was checked for signs of a possible shallow grave, but the three bones were all that was found.

Eason said that he wasn't aware of anyone having entered the basement during the approximately six months he has been pastor of the church.

Ferebee is named national hero

SUSAN HARRIS

Oct. 18

Zita Ferebee was the recipient of the Blud Bird Heroism Award at the November Conference for National Association for

Pupil Transportation.

Ferebee became a local hero last Oct. 24 when the Perquimans County Schools bus she was driving was involved in a horrific accident that endangered the lives of the 41 students on the bus. Through Ferebee's calm demeanor

and adherence to safety and emergency procedures, she was able to help get all the students and herself off the burning bus.

On Oct. 30, 2005, Ferebee was named Tar Heel of the Week in the News and Observer newspaper, published in Raleigh. This arti-

cle highlighted Ferebee's passion and dedication, leaving readers with not only a very positive perception of school bus drivers, but also with a better understanding of the student safety with which they are entrusted. **Continued on page 6**

Plantation residents win conservation award

MARGARET FISHER

July 12, 2006

When Chris McClung sought to find an environmentally sound way to prevent erosion on her waterfront property, she didn't

know that the neighborhood would join in, nor was she setting out to win any awards.

But not only did eight neighbors and the marina get involved in the project at Albemarle Plantation, but McClung also was awarded the N.C. Coastal

Federation's 2006 Pelican Award for conservation and restoration.

"I think it was nice. I was really surprised," she said. But she said she was most pleased that the award draws attention to a conservation method and the effort put into it.

This 'living shoreline' project came about after Chris and Mick McClung bought their home at 128 Back Creek Court in 2003. The couple moved from New Jersey and semi-retired from their training and consulting firm. **Continued on page 8**

Couple from Hertford, English visits Hertford, NC

MARGARET FISHER

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May 17

Donning T-shirts inscribed with "Hertford Hunters Tour 2006 Hertford, North Carolina," Keith Marshall and Sue Dickson visited Hertford last Thursday. Their goal is to visit every Hertford and Hertford in the U.S.

The couple lives in Hertford (pronounced Hartford), England. That town and this one are the only ones spelled with an "e." The Anglo-Saxon pronunciation was Hertfordia. About 200 years ago, Hertford, England changed

the "a" back to an "e," Marshall said.

The name was fitting for the area around the Lea (or Lee) River where the hart (deer) crossed the ford, or shallow part of the river. It's situated about 20 miles north of London, as well as 20 miles from Cambridge.

"Our Hertford is very small," Dickson said. Although small, it's a thriving town.

"It's a very prosperous area," Marshall said. With a population of 24,000, it has two main railroad lines to London, a booming pharmaceutical industry and tourism. It's much cooler than its North Carolina cousin.

"The problem with the weather in England is it

varies so much. It can be drab," he said.

Marshall and Dickson, who own a furniture store, got the idea to tour the Hartfords after noticing a plaque in their hometown. The plaque hanging at a private residence honors the Rev. Samuel Stone, who lived in the English home and founded Hartford, Conn.

"In 1632, he left to the New World to escape Puritan persecution in England. What was this Hartford, Conn.?" Marshall wondered.

The couple took a journalist with them to Connecticut, toured the city and met the mayor. That year, Marshall held a fundraiser in England to

pay for a 6-foot sculpture of Stone. In 2005, the two cities became twin cities, and he had a second statue made which now sits in a church graveyard in Connecticut.

Marshall hopes to build relationships with people in all the Hartfords.

"One day, when we visit all 29, (our goal) is to get representatives from all the Hartfords to come to Hertford, England," he said.

The couple has visited Hartfords in Vermont, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and New York. Hertford is the eleventh city out of 29 that the couple has visited. Sylvia Wyatt at the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce was instrument- **Continued on page 3**

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 71, LOW: 57
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 73, LOW: 50
T-SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 73, LOW: 48
SHOWERS