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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Hertford man charged with wife's death

SUSAN HARRIS

A Hertford man has been charged with the death of his wife in an automobile accident last March.

Edward Lee Sheetz, 49, of 149 Willow Street turned himself in to the sheriff's

department on Feb. 20 after learning that he faced charges of felony death by motor vehicle. Sheetz was released on a \$25,000 unsecured bond.

The charges were brought by the District Attorney's office as the

result of an investigation by George Ryan. The DA's office began its own investigation into the case with information from the accident reports filed by the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Sheetz was driving on Poor Hill Road about 10:30

p.m. when the 2005 Dodge Magnum he was driving ran off the right shoulder in a sharp curve, collided with a ditch bank and overturned in a ditch.

Sheetz reported the wreck from a residence over a mile away at about

3:20 the next morning, more than five hours after the accident. He told officers his injuries and the position of the car made it difficult for him to seek help.

Sheriff's deputies arrived to find Sheetz's

wife, Kimberly Ann Sheetz, 44, dead from her injuries. She was not wearing a seat belt. The officers called highway patrol.

Initial reports indicated that speed and alcohol were possible factors in the accident.

Drugs found during police stop

MARGARET FISHER

Police seized 40 grams of marijuana during a routine traffic stop on Feb. 20.

At about midnight, officer Jeff Thomas pulled over a 1994 Buick at Harris Shopping Center after the driver allegedly ran a stop sign, said Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

When Thomas smelled what he thought was marijuana coming from the inside of the car, he asked to search the vehicle.

The driver, Steven Andrew Elliott, 23, of 304 S. Church St., and a passenger exited the car during the search. Thomas found 31 grams of marijuana in a bag and 8 additional bags totaling 9 grams, all on Elliott's person, Vanscoy said. No drugs were found in the car or on the passenger.

Elliott was charged with possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana and he was issued a town citation for a stop sign violation. He was placed on a \$1,000 secured bond and taken to Albemarle District Jail.

Trash to treasure Recycling gives trash a new purpose

MARGARET FISHER

Almost daily, residents of Perquimans County bring loads of trash and recyclables to one of five convenience sites. Not including recyclables or yard waste, about 115 tons of trash is generated in Perquimans County a week.

Some may wonder where all the garbage goes and what happens to those cans, plastics, newspapers and glass that get tossed together into a big container.

From the convenience sites, the trash is hauled by Waste Industries to the East Carolina Environmental Landfill in

Bertie County.

But the recyclables take a different route. The cans, plastics and newspapers are trucked to TFC Recycling, a recycling company in Chesapeake, Va., that handles a large portion of northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia.

When the trucks pull into the family-owned material recovery facility, their loads are weighed. Then they dump the recyclable materials into a shoot which sends them flying through a single-stream collection and processing system inside a warehouse.

Workers are stationed at various places along the

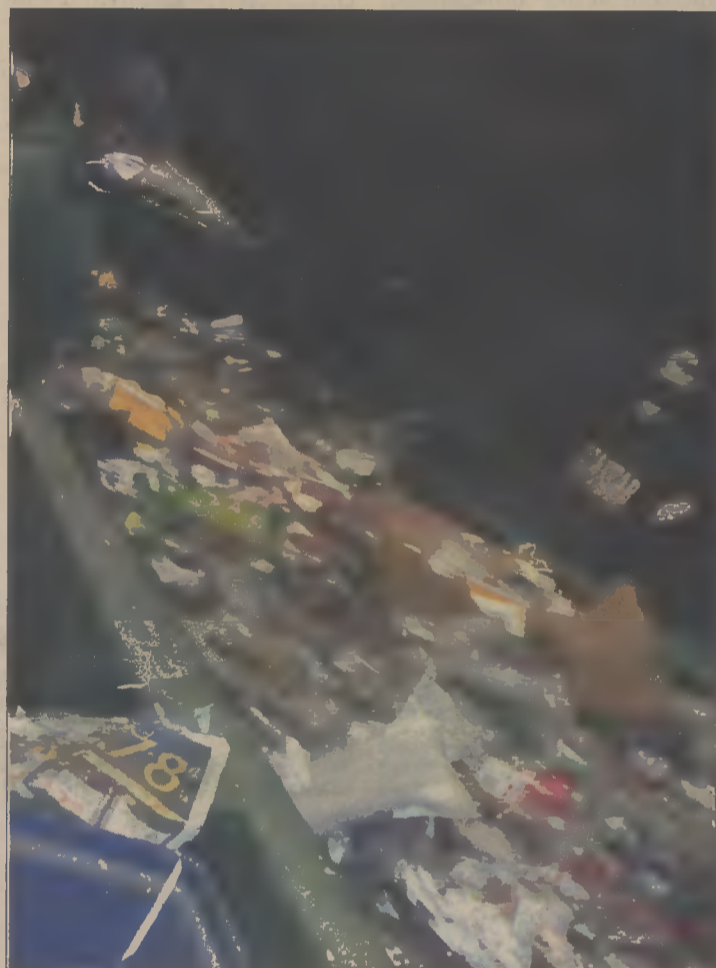


PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

One man's junk rushes through a single-stream recycling process in Chesapeake, Va., where it is eventually sold and turned into another man's treasure. Much of Perquimans County's recyclables end up as products made overseas.

path that winds back and forth through the building. As the materials race by, each is trained to spot certain items and remove them. The materials may pass through the system several times until all of it is sorted.

Along the way, an optical sorter "sees" the difference between paper and plastic and tosses the

paper along a different route.

Older methods of recycling took longer and produced fewer usable recyclables. Today, the process has been streamlined so that 40 tons can be processed in an hour, said Michael Benedetto, vice president. He owns the business with his father. **Continued on page 7**



NAACP Black History honors

MARGARET FISHER

"Surprised" was the reaction from a couple of the recipients of a black history award from the Perquimans County NAACP branch.

Six African Americans were given awards for their accomplishments and achievements of leadership and volunteer work in the community during a Black History program held at Bagley Chapel Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday. **Continued on page 9**

Quaker home opening

MARGARET FISHER

The historic 1730 Newbold-White House will open its doors for the 2007 season tomorrow.

The Colonial Quaker Homestead has undergone some renovations during the winter to make it as authentic as possible.

Some of the shingles have been replaced, authentic beams have been added for support and period plastering was done throughout the home, said Matthew Krogh, site manager. Also, the bridge on the driveway was replaced and the trail to the water was completed.

Still to come is covering the roof with tar and paint, finishing the shingling, sealing of the exterior brick, and painting the smokehouse and adding a brick pit, Krogh said.

Period furniture is being built by volunteers in the community headed by furniture maker and teacher, Ben Hobbs.

New additions are a leather chest and various decor, Krogh said. A vine-

yard is to be planted in the spring once a well is installed on the grounds.

The home, built by Abraham and Judith Sanders and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, features a kitchen garden, walking trail, 1600s Quaker cemetery, picnic area and gift shop. It also offers period furnishings, fireplaces and corner staircase.

The Newbold-White House Museum Gift Shop contains unique pottery, glassware, jewelry, bayberry soap, hand dipped candles, pine needle baskets, handcrafted cards, tin ware and local and regional books.

The Newbold-White House offers volunteer opportunities and guided and group tours.

"We welcome any groups or folks that have particular needs or requests," Krogh said.

Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The site will be open through Thanksgiving and an admission fee is charged. For more information, call 426-7567, email nbwh@inteliport.com or visit www.newboldwhitehouse.com

State checks out junk cars

MARGARET FISHER

Dan Wendell, the notorious fighter against junked-up yards, made headway when his relentless phone calls brought in two state representatives in water quality.

Rose Ballance and Sylvia Hunneke, both hydrogeologists with the state Division of Waste Management, accompanied Wendell through three counties to get a view of the less-than-scenic sites of junk cars.

In Perquimans, Ballance said she observed as many as five sites. The concern, she said, is in sites with car fluids that could impact ground water.

"There are a few that we will more than likely check out in more detail," she said.

Ballance estimates that **Continued on page 9**

OLF study ready

MARGARET FISHER

The U.S. Navy released its Supplemental Impact Statement on Friday and continues to view Site C (in Washington and Beaufort counties) as their preferred choice for an Outlying Landing Field.

Four other sites, including Perquimans County, were included in the study, which was required after the courts found the Final EIS in 2003 deficient.

A public hearing will be held on March 21 at the Perquimans County High School auditorium. An informational session will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 and the public hearing will conclude by 10 p.m.

"My gut feeling, and everyone else's," said Perquimans County Manager Bobby Darden, "is that we're close to (NAS) Oceana and that just puts the spotlight on us."

However, Darden said that Perquimans' population — higher than most of the other sites — and development from Virginia that could eventually encroach on this area may be enough to keep the Navy out of the county.

But North Carolinians Opposed to the Outlying Landing Field's leader Stan Winslow said that Perquimans residents have plenty of work to do before the hearing date.

"Washington County has got a really good chance of stopping (the OLF) from an environmental aspect," Winslow said. "...We don't need to assume the Navy is done with us." **Continued on page 9**

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 65, LOW: 59
FEW SHOWERS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 69, LOW: 45
SCATTERED T'SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 63, LOW: 42
MOSTLY CLOUDY