

Homeschoolers show art

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All-Conference picks

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Pirates, Lady Pirates fall

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THE

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Thief caught back in store

MARGARET FISHER

A local woman who allegedly took a few extra items while shopping in downtown Hertford, also left her name and telephone number with the two merchants and a bag containing one of the missing items.

Then she returned two days later to get her forgotten merchandise. That's when police nabbed her.

Brenda Sue Bray, 53, of 197 E. Inlet Circle, was charged with two counts of larceny on Feb. 5.

Bray went to Belinda's of Hertford on the afternoon of Feb. 3 to pick up her watch that had been repaired. After a confrontation over the price of the repair, she and the shop's owner, Belinda Washlesky, came to an agreement, Washlesky said.

Bray left the store and returned shortly after with her aunt. The two browsed through the store and Bray bought some items.

Following the two shoppers' departure, Washlesky said she noticed a display of jewelry missing. Gone were two bracelets, a necklace and a ring valued at about \$170.

Washlesky then called 9-1-1 at about 2:30 p.m. She also called Bray's home and left a message telling her that she would not press charges if Bray returned the missing items. Police also tried to reach Bray.

Bray and her aunt apparently left Belinda's and began browsing at Hertfordshire Antiques. Bray placed a deposit on a steamer trunk, gave her name and phone number and then left the shop, said owner Jane McMahon.

McMahon said that she later found a small bag with Belinda's logo on it. Inside were a few items and a ring that McMahon was selling at her shop. She also found a price tag from another ring on the floor near the bag.

On Monday, Bray called McMahon and asked her if she had found a shopping bag in her store. McMahon told her she had and there was one of her rings in it and another ring was missing. Bray denied knowing anything about the rings, McMahon said.

McMahon told Bray that she wouldn't press charges if she returned the ring.

In the meantime, Washlesky had informed McMahon about what had occurred at her shop.

Bray returned to Hertfordshire on Monday afternoon. Washlesky, who was sitting in her car near the shops, went into her store and told her employee to call the police while she waited outside.

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Woman indicted for child beating

MARGARET FISHER

An Edenton woman was indicted for seriously injuring a pre-schooler at a day care center in Winfall.

Bessie Gilliam, 49, of 3007 Carol Lane, faces charges stemming from an incident that allegedly occurred at The Learning Center of Perquimans County on Jan. 16.

Gilliam was contracted as a mentor at the day care center, owned by Arlene Yates, wife of Winfall Mayor Fred Yates.

The juvenile's parent called the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office the day after the alleged incident saying that her child had been beaten by Gilliam, said Sheriff Eric Tilley.

"Because of the injuries sustained to the child, we looked into it," Tilley said. "Due to the injuries that were sustained to the child, we

carried the case to the grand jury."

Gilliam was served with the indictment on March 7 on a charge of child abuse inflicting serious bodily injury. She was taken to Albemarle District Jail on a \$1,000 secured bond.

Yates refused to make any comments regarding the case because, she said, Gilliam was not an employee of the day care.

Livin' off the land



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

It's a sure sign of spring when baseball and softball get underway, daffodils bloom and tractors sprout from fallow fields, conditioning and turning the soil for another Perquimans growing season. Earlie Byrum is just one of a number of farmers back in the field preparing for another year.

Clean up after Poochie

MARGARET FISHER

After a foul incident occurred on a sidewalk on Grubb Street near the downtown, Town Manager John Christensen is asking dog owners to carry a scooper or plastic bag to clean up after their pets.

"(I want to) put this out there as a service to the community to assist the dog owners to abide by the rules," Christensen said.

The town rules state that anyone walking a dog on public or private property without the permission of the private property owner, should carry a bag or other closable container for removing feces deposited by the dog. They also must clean it up immediately, place it in the bag and deposit it in a lawful manner, such as a trash can.

At Missing Mill Park, dog owners can utilize the Dogi Pot — a box containing litter bags used to scoop up the mess a pet may leave — so that other people can tread safely. Trash cans are available to toss the mess into.

There is also a leash law in town, Christensen said.

The ordinance states that dogs must be under control on a leash or in a vehicle when off of the owner's own property. Dogs should not be running at large.

Along with laws against people abusing animals, there are also laws against animals annoying people, such as when dogs bark almost nonstop.

In addition, dogs need to be vaccinated against rabies according to law and be licensed annually. Dog licenses, available at the town municipal center, need to be worn by the dogs on their collars at all times.

Speeding cause of 1-car wreck

MARGARET FISHER

A 20-year-old allegedly driving too fast on New Hope Road wrecked and was taken to the hospital on March 5.

At about 2:55 p.m.,

Hubert Harrell of 284 Great Hope Church Road was driving a 2004 Ford west near the intersection of Powers Road when he lost control of the car. He went off the road to the right, over-corrected to the left

and collided with a ditch, according to an N.C. Highway Patrol report.

Durants Neck Fire Department responded to the scene where Harrell was pinned inside the car. Inter-County Fire

Department was called there to use cutters to get Harrell out.

Harrell was taken to Albemarle Hospital, and was treated and released. He was charged with exceeding a safe speed.

New shop adds variety to downtown

MARGARET FISHER

With a little of this and a little of that, Vickie and Willie Cofield of Edenton and Tonya Collier of Belvidere opened Hertford Variety.

The business opened its doors inside the Hall of Fame Square in January and the owners celebrated with a ribbon cutting by the Chamber of Commerce last Thursday.

Vickie Cofield and Collier had operated businesses before and had worked together in the past selling clothes. In addition, both say they enjoy talking to people.

"We just welcome everybody to come in and meet us," she said.

The shop carries a line of Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes, some of which are fashionably embellished. They also have casual styles and anticipate bringing in more casual styles, especially for juniors and men.

The variety store carries purses, hair pieces, men's ties and professional greeting cards made by both Collier and Cofield.

Whatever the customers would like them to carry, Cofield said she would like to try to accommodate.

Collier said she hopes to expand the store in the future.

"I have a vision of it being more than one store," she said.

Hertford Variety is open on Tuesday from noon to 5



A new store in town, Hertford Variety, opened last week in the downtown Hall of Fame Square with a selection of clothing, purses and greeting cards.

p.m., Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 78, LOW: 61
MOSTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 67, LOW: 38
SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 56, LOW: 34
MOSTLY SUNNY