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THE HERTFORD MANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Wreck causes injuries

MARGARET FISHER

Speed was a likely factor in a wreck that sent a driver to the hospital and left three others with injuries.

The one-car accident occurred on Swamp Road near Sandy Cross Road on March 31.

At about 7:30 p.m., Heather Sandefur, 19, of Suffolk, Va., was traveling southeast into a curve at an excessive rate of speed, said trooper K.R. Briggs of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

When she came out of the curve, the 2000 Pontiac she was driving veered onto the right shoulder, collided with a driveway culvert and went airborne. It then hit a palm tree in the yard at 987 Swamp Road.

After hitting the tree, the car flipped over and landed on top of the downed tree.

Although alcohol, some opened, was found in the back seat of the car, alcohol did not appear to be a factor in the accident, Briggs said.

Sandefur was airlifted to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital and later released.

A female passenger, 24, suffered cuts and abrasions. A male passenger, 25, told the trooper he was in pain, but he had no visible injuries. A second male passenger, 23, told the trooper he was not injured, but he admitted himself to the hospital later, Briggs said.

Sandefur, who was undergoing out-patient surgery on Friday, will likely be charged with exceeding a safe speed, Briggs said.

Fire closes eatery

MARGARET FISHER

A fire last Thursday temporarily closed the doors of Hertford Restaurant and Bakery until no sooner than this weekend, according to Hertford Fire Department.

At about 2:50 p.m., an employee smelled smoke and noticed a fire burning near a back door. Another employee call for emergency help.

Within four minutes, the fire department was on the scene, said Assistant Fire Chief Todd Tilley. By then, a stack of boxes placed outside the door was reduced to thick smoke. However, electrical boxes and wires were directly above the boxes and some of the wire insulation had melted.

By 3 p.m., firefighters had the smoldering area under control and the
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Up on the roof



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

The roof of the 80-year-old theater adjacent to Hertford Hardware was being replaced last week after years of leaking and patching, said Erie Haste, who owns the building. The new flat roof is made of a rubberized material covering insulation board. Haste says he hopes a restoration group will buy and renovate the historic theater.

Former Navy analyst says no OLF needed

MARGARET FISHER

Few people are asking whether the U.S. Navy really needs an outlying land field to allow fighter pilots to practice carrier touch-and-goes.

Matt Peeler, a former Navy technician, has been asking that question since the whole issue about building an OLF in North Carolina came up.

Peeler's military job involved analyzing mounds of technical data, such as is found in the Final Environmental Impact Study and the Supplemental EIS the Navy has produced.

Peeler has found a number of discrepancies between what the Navy says and what the Base Realignment and Closure commission has concluded.

"When you look at the FEIS and the SEIS, there are a lot of inconsistencies," Peeler said.

The 1993 and 1995 BRAC analyzed the capacity of Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Va., and Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress in Chesapeake, Va. At that time, they found Oceana to have excess capacity, so they transplanted F-18 aircraft from Marine Corp air stations Beaufort, S.C. and Cherry Point.

At that time, Oceana and Fentress were capable of providing the necessary touch-and-go training.

According to the 2005 BRAC commission findings, encroachment is the only reason that Oceana's capabilities dropped. BRAC findings recommended that Virginia Beach and Chesapeake roll back the encroachment around the two bases, and it blamed state and local governments for "ignoring the Navy's repeated objections."

"The longstanding and steadily worsening encroachment problem around NAS Oceana, without strong support from state and city governments to eliminate current and arrest future encroachment, will in the long term create a situation where the military value of NAS Oceana will be unacceptably degraded," states the 2005 BRAC findings.

It was recommended that the Navy consider moving Oceana to Jacksonville, Fla., where local government there had taken steps to restrict encroachment around Naval Air Station Cecil Field.

However, the residents of Jacksonville recently voted not to take Oceana's squadrons.

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New Hertford shop offers bargains galore

MARGARET FISHER

Chowan Bargain has been so successful in Tyner that its owners have opened a second store in Hertford and are in the process of opening a third store in Edenton.

The Hertford location, at the former Lady and Mr. Goodstuff at 403 Grubb Street, opened March 17.

Owners Mike and Nina Lubicich and Charlotte Balistreri celebrated a grand opening with a ribbon cutting last Thursday.

"This is not a thrift store," Mike Lubicich said. "It's new, antique and gently used upscale furniture and accessories, and appliances, too."

There is a large selection of used electronics, videos, DVDs and games.

The shop has a stylish, home decor look and is filled with a variety of furniture, crystal,



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

glass, pictures and collectables such as Precious Moments figurines.

"We like to think that we can help decorate a

house at a very reasonable price," Balistreri said.

Any of the owners can help customers create the look they are after by helping them select pieces that will fit in with their decor. If they don't have it, they will check their other store, which they have owned for about three years, as well as other sources.

Currently, the store is carrying a limited edition print and antique original oil painting. New stock is added weekly.

Chowan Bargain is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

County updates junk car, junkyard ordinances

MARGARET FISHER

County commissioners okayed changes to the junk car ordinance and an amendment to the junkyard ordinance.

Changes include expanding the definition of junk vehicles to include boats and recreational vehicles. Also, enforcement is now provided solely by the code enforcement officer, rather than the Sheriff's Office.

"Now with this amendment, enforcement falls back on the code enforcement officer and office," said Perquimans County Manager Bobby Darden. The action is expected to

speed up the enforcement process.

The junk car problems took center stage when Pasquotank resident Dan Wendell began a crusade against Pasquotank, Currituck and Perquimans counties to get them to clean up the eyesores.

Wendell was recently convicted of trespassing after he brought a television crew in from Virginia to film properties overrun with unsightly vehicles.

His efforts were not in vain, though. Wendell managed to get state environmentalists into the three counties to look at a number of sites.

Four property owners, two each in

Pasquotank and Currituck counties, have received notices of violations from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources giving them 60 days to clean up observable spills that were found to be potential threats to underground water supplies, said Scott Bullock, regional underground storage supervisor.

Eight additional sites, including in Perquimans, will require a follow-up to determine if they are in violation, Bullock said.

Junk vehicles located throughout the towns and county are not a new
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WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 76, LOW: 50
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 70, LOW: 54
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 76, LOW: 61
ISOLATED T'STORMS