

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Hunters held for Winfall shooting, robbery

Larry Donnell Hunter, 24, and Shaun Hunter, 21, both of Elizabeth City, were arrested over the weekend and charged in connection with a shooting and robbery that took place in Winfall back in December.

According to Winfall Police Chief David Shaffer, three men were robbed at gunpoint the evening of Dec. 18 on King Avenue. Police said three men drove a truck to Winfall where they were reportedly held up by the two suspects with 45 caliber handguns.

Police said Charles Grayson Dail first told his assailant he had no money. When Dail refused to hand over his money, police believe Larry Hunter shot Dail at point-blank range in the left arm and then robbed him of \$200. The two other men in the truck were robbed of \$2 before the two suspects left the scene, police said.

Both Hunters are charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon. Larry Hunter is also charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill or inflict serious injury and first-degree kidnapping.

Shaun Hunter is also charged with two counts of second-degree kidnapping.

The two men turned themselves in to police on Sunday and are now incarcerated in Albemarle District Jail. Police say Larry Hunter is being held under \$65,000 bond while Shaun Hunter's bond is \$40,000.

Hertford man sentenced in federal court

A Hertford man was sentenced to 72 months in prison Jan. 6 in connection with an illegal drug investigation in Elizabeth City.

United States Attorney George E.B. Holding announced that U.S. District Court Judge William H. "Pork Chop" Felton Jr., 50, who lives at 704 Snug Harbor Road, according to Sheriff Eric Tilley.

Riding into the future



TOWN MANAGER JOHN CHRISTENSEN enjoyed tooling around Hertford recently in the new plug-in hybrid electric vehicle by North Carolina Public Power. The vehicle is one of the latest energy efficient advances among cars and can achieve approximately 100 miles per gallon of gasoline.

Sheriff: 'Beast' is boys playing dress-up

CATHY WILSON Staff Writer

Rumors of a strange creature attacking animals in the Whiteston community have run wild around the county recently. Some call it el chupacabra, a bear wolf, or even an alien being.

The county sheriff, however, says his department has seen nothing that his officers couldn't identify, including two teenagers dressed as monsters trying to scare people.

"Rumors are rampant, but we're not wasting our time looking for any el chupacabra," Sheriff Eric Tilley said. "We've investigated all calls, and haven't seen anything that wasn't confirmed."

Tilley said the rumors began about two weeks ago when someone called the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department reporting attacks on hunting dogs by an unknown creature.

Pasquotank Sheriff Randy Cartwright said calls to his office came from hunters in the area known as "the Desert," located near the Perquimans/Pasquotank county line.

"Hunters reported dogs being attacked by something they've never seen before," Cartwright said. "We have not had any reports of animals being killed."

Cartwright said one hunter reportedly captured a picture of the creature on his cell phone, but investigation later showed that the picture was actually downloaded from the internet rather than from an actual sighting.

From that, rumors began circulating that the creature that attacked the dogs was an el chupacabra, an urban legend that originated in Puerto Rico. The chupacabra reportedly is the size of a small bear, resembles a hairless dog with a row of spines from the neck to the tail.

Cartwright said wildlife officials and biologists confirmed there is no such animal as an el chupacabra, but what may have been seen by hunters is either a coyote with mange, or a sow bear with mange reacting while protecting her cubs.

Apparently the rumors of the el chupacabra spread to the Whiteston area near Belvidere when drivers traveling in vehicles reported seeing a strange creature running in the roadway and walking up to the car.

Tilley says his department investigated and discovered that two teenage boys "were basically dressing up and playing in traffic," scaring some drivers into believing they were seeing a strange creature.

Tilley warned of the danger of such antics. In addition to the danger of playing in the roadway, there is also the danger of being mistaken for some type of animal and being shot by a hunter.

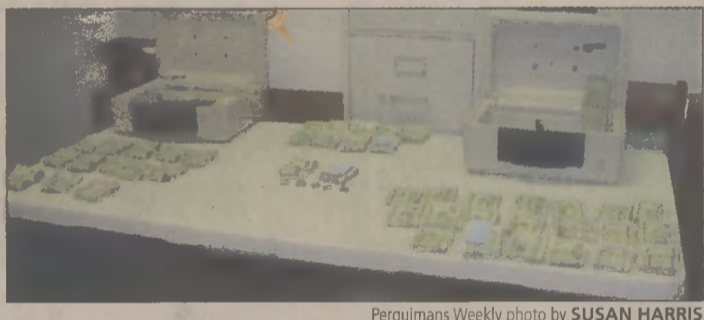
Deputies seize over \$62K in Friday raid

SUSAN HARRIS

The Sheriff's Department seized over \$62,000 in cash, two small safes, firearms and 30 grams of marijuana seeds Friday afternoon during a raid on the home of a suspected drug dealer.

The entire sheriff's department and an SBI agent arrived at 704 and 696 Snug Harbor Road Friday around 1 p.m. to execute a search warrant and took into custody William H. "Pork Chop" Felton Jr., 50, who lives at 704 Snug Harbor Road, according to Sheriff Eric Tilley.

Based on the search and information obtained during an investigation leading up to the raid, Felton was charged with possession with intent to manufacture,



THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CONFISCATED over \$62,000 in cash and eight firearms during a raid on a Snug Harbor residence Friday.

sell, deliver marijuana; maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of manufacturing, selling, delivering marijuana; maintaining a vehicle for the purpose of manufacturing, selling, delivering marijuana; and possession of firearms by a felon.

Tilley said the investigation was begun after a confidential informant contacted Investigator Shelby White. During the course of several weeks, undercover officers made drug buys from Felton. In fact, the serial number on at least one bill confiscated during

the raid matched the copies made of the bills used to make drug buys.

Felton was convicted of felony trafficking and possession with intent to sell and deliver both cocaine and marijuana in 1995.

Tilley said the condition of the residence led him to notify social services because a 4-year-old child lived in what he described as "filth." Tilley said Felton, his wife, their two grown sons and their 4-year-old daughter occupy the premises.

Felton also has control of the property at 696 Snug Harbor Road, Tilley said.

Because of Felton's prior convictions, Tilley said the case may be pursued by federal law enforcement agencies.

Hill seeks to expand careers choices for teens

CATHY WILSON Staff Writer

Gail Hill wants to introduce teenagers to more career choices. She can dress at least half of them for professional careers as well.

The owner of Career Awareness Development (CAD), a combined career development and budget clothing center located at 405-A Grubb Street, Hill offers career awareness development as well as new and used designer clothes at below wholesale prices. The Perquimans Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting celebrating the grand opening Friday.

One half of the building is dedicated to career development, a subsidiary of Hope CDC (Helping Ordinary People to Excel). She will bring in professionals to give seminars on career choices teens might not experience on a day-to-day basis. Careers in such fields as engineering, photography, and hotel/hospitality management are just a few of the career choices teens may not experience locally. She offers seminars, hands-on training sessions, and motivational meetings to help bring more career awareness to the local population.

The other half of the store is a unique boutique dedicated to selling clothes, shoes, accessories, knick-knacks for the home, and toiletries. Clothes come in all budget sizes including retail and resale. While she mainly caters to women, she also offers some children's clothes for resale as well.

Hill is passionate about helping others find unique career choices as well as finding the right outfit for the occasion. Her family is involved in many aspects of helping to change lives, and her grand opening was no exception. Her brothers are involved in HOPE CDC while her sisters are experienced in the fashion industry. Family members as



A GRAND OPENING RIBBON cutting ceremony was held Friday by the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce for Career Awareness Development located at 405-A Grubb Street. Gail Hill has a passion for helping others find unique career choices as well as the right outfit for the occasion.

well as church and community family supported the grand opening including a sister who flew in from New York to surprise her.

Representatives from Perquimans County, the town of Hertford, and the Perquimans Chamber of

Commerce welcomed Hill's new business venture.

Career Awareness Development is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and will be open some Saturdays.

For more information, call 426-1154.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 47 Low: 25
CLOUDY/WINDY

FRIDAY
High: 35 Low: 24
SUNNY

SATURDAY
High: 41 Low: 32
SUNNY

