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Police avert possible courthouse shooting

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Two men were arrested Monday in Hertford for possessing concealed weapons in what police say was a plan to shoot another man as he left the Perquimans

County Courthouse.

Travoris Ronate Jordan, 30, of Winfall, and Cedric Shaquille Cunningham Jr. 19, of Hertford, both face the weapons charge. Cunningham was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting

arrest by running away.

According to the arrest report, Police Chief Douglas Freeman got a call about noon about a possible shooting that was getting ready to happen. Freeman said that Larry Hunter and Quevon Hunter were rid-

ing around the courthouse and they were waiting for Davon Thatch to get out of court. Thatch was in court on charges of being a habitual felon.

A grey Mercury Marquis matching the description of the vehicle was seen on

King Street and the license plate came back to a car owned by Cunningham.

Minutes later Freeman saw the vehicle in front of the courthouse with several people inside. While police were patting one of the men down to check for weapons,

the car sped off and was stopped by police in the parking lot of the One Stop store on Grubb and Church streets.

After searching the vehicle, Freeman told the

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BACK AT WORK



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Linda White (left) and Tim Aydlett listen to a speaker last week during a going away party for White at Hertford Grammar School. Aydlett is returning to the school as the interim principal.

Aydlett returns as school principal

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Tim Aydlett can't seem to retire.

He thought he'd finally done it in 2006. That's when he stepped down as principal at Hertford Grammar School.

He's tried three times, but this month Aydlett found himself back at the

very same school. Except this time he's got the word "interim" in front of his title. He's filling in because of the departure of Linda White for a job in the Chowan County schools.

"I'm here for as long as they need me, two months, three months, whatever," Aydlett said last week. "It's important that they get the right person for the job."

Aydlett is something of an "accidental educator."

He enrolled at Mars Hill College with the idea that he'd eventually transfer to N.C. State University to pursue a degree as a veterinarian.

But not all of his credits from his bachelor's degree in biology would transfer so he was facing a lot more schooling.

That's when the school superintendent in Camden County asked him what he was doing. At that point Aydlett figured he'd have to work a few years to earn money before going back to school, so he took a teaching job.

There was something else — the Vietnam War. Biology and science teachers were except from the

military draft at the time, and Aydlett figured he was more valuable in the classroom than he would be carrying a rifle in the field.

"I felt I could change more lives in the public schools in a classroom, and I still feel that way," he said.

And teaching is what

See AYDLETT, 6

At least one Hertford restaurant plans to pursue offering liquor by the drink now that the town has passed a referendum making it legal.

Tommy Barrett, who operates Tommy's Pizza, is in the process of filling out an application to get a license. He said customers shouldn't notice the change.

"We're a family restaurant," he said. "We're not looking for anything like a club atmosphere. We're looking at offering it (liquor by the drink) as part of a meal. I'm just looking at it as another product we offer."

Ruth Benjaminson, the owner of Carriage House, said she wouldn't be seeking the license. Other restaurants, Church Street Grill and Captain Bobs could not be reached after repeated attempts.

Both Tommy's Pizza and Carriage House currently offer beer and wine. Benjaminson said she offers beer and wine in case customers want them, but she said few do.

"Honestly having a ABC license for wine and beer has cost me money. I don't sell that much. If I was a sports bar, it'd be great, but I'm a tea house. For me, it (liquor by the drink) doesn't make sense."

Benjaminson admits if her restaurant were open at night, she probably would sell more beer and wine and would consider adding liquor. But she tired it and there weren't enough customers to make it

See LIQUOR, 6

Schools do well in science, trail in other subjects

PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Three of the four Perquimans County Schools met expected growth last year but a new system of testing shows that there are areas where the school system needs to make improvements.

The new READY exam is tougher than previous tests, according to Perquimans County Superintendent Dwayne Stallings. It's designed to track students to make sure that when they graduate they are ready for either a career or college.

Previous tests measured more if a child was ready for the next grade.

"The biggest thing to remember is these (results) are from the 2012-13 school year and are as a result of the implementation of the new common core," Stallings said.

"This is the beginning of a new proficiency standard and students are being on things they've never been tested on before at that grade. Anytime you come up with a higher standard there is an expectation that test scores will be lower."

As a school district, Perquimans County excels at science but is lacking in the areas of reading, math, biology and English according to test results released earlier this month.

Only the high school

didn't meet growth projections. It did meet 18 or 20 federal standards and 43 of the 49 of the state benchmarks.

Both Hertford Grammar School and Perquimans County Middle School met expected growth under the new state standards. Perquimans Central, which serves students from pre-kindergarten through second grade was not included in the report because of the testing. Central is however considered a feeder school for Hertford Grammar so it shares any score that the grammar school gets. The Grammar was classified as meeting expected growth.

Perquimans County shined when it came to fifth and eighth grade

See SCHOOLS, 6

LET THERE BE LIGHT



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Hap Ambrose, a lineman for the Town of Hertford, works on one of the street lights Monday on Market Street. All of downtown Hertford will be lit Dec. 6 as part of Grand Illumination. The annual event will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the courthouse lawn. There will be holiday music and entertainment and a visit by Santa. Children get a free gift. White's Dress Shop, The Perquimans Arts League, Brew-2-Rescue, the Silver Fox, Church Street Grill and Hertford General Store will be open before and after the event.



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