

Gourmet meat thief tracked

By GREG McLEAN

A SERIAL thief with a taste for gourmet meats has been gobbled up by Darwin police.

Casuarina police arrested the 40-year-old offender last week after he was caught stealing high-quality meats from supermarkets in Nightcliff, Darwin city and Coolalinga.

Police allege DVDs were also stolen on at least one shopping raid.

The thief allegedly carried out his meat stealing sprees in March, April and this month.

It is believed the culprit would usually slip the meat products into a bag before walking out of the supermarket without paying for them.

He has been charged with 14 counts of stealing and police are still investigating whether the booty was for his own consumption or if he intended to on-sell the gourmet goodies.

The offender was caught on supermarket surveillance tapes at least 14 times pinching meat products.

Some of the supermarkets he stole from caught him in the act and warned him off the premises with a trespass order.

It is believed he breached some

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of these orders to commit more meat stealing offences.

Constable Brett Wilson said police were unsure how many times the culprit stole from supermarkets but warned any repeat offenders they were bound to be caught.

“It is inevitable that anyone who repeatedly steals from supermarkets or any store where surveillance cameras are installed will get caught eventually,” he said.

“You should just pay for it like everyone else.”

The man has been bailed to appear in court on June 30.

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SAMARITAN: Pamela Harrison with boxes of donations from the Territory for an orphanage in Zimbabwe that looks after kids with HIV/Aids. Picture: MICHAEL MARSCHALL

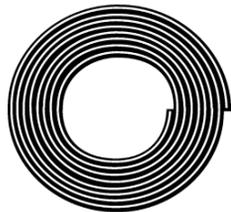
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APOLOGY

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BWAR4023



Making a difference in Africa

By EMMA GUMBLETON

A DARWIN nurse who spent three weeks in Zimbabwe caring for orphans with HIV/AIDS is collecting donations for her return trip.

Pamela Harrison visited the Edenvale Ranch – an orphanage for children who have been born with or have contracted HIV/AIDS – through her work with the charity Aid for Africa Down Under last year.

She will be returning to Southern Zimbabwe next month to help set up new health services at the nearby Chikombedzi Hospital.

Ms Harrison said the smallest cash donations could make a big difference in the impoverished community.

“They’ve got a 160-bed hospital, but they had no doctors,” she said.

“They’ve now got two basic doctors straight out of university, but for \$1000 we can get a senior doctor to top up his salary and guarantee that he’ll stay.”

“A friend has also given me \$500 and I’ll be using that to sponsor an HIV counsellor.”

Last year, the charity sent a container of donated goods

from the Territory, including unclaimed bikes from NT police and immunisation kits and treatment manuals from two Central Australian health organisations.

AFADU is now looking for donated medical supplies, tools, stationery and cloth.

“Because it’s such a worthy cause and because I’m so passionate about it, people are really happy to give and we do make a real difference,” Ms Harrison said.

“The whole community is so devastated by droughts, poverty and flood.”

Death for Saddam call

BAGHDAD: Chief prosecutor in the trial of Saddam Hussein (pictured), Jaafar al-Mussawi, yesterday demanded death for the ousted Iraqi president and two other defendants.

“We demand the maximum punishment (execution) for Saddam, (his half-brother) Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti and (former vice president) Taha Yassin Ramadan,” Mr Mussawi said in court as he was presenting his final arguments.



Boy charged over stealing spree

A TEENAGER has been charged with 22 offences after a spate of thefts in Darwin’s rural area.

Police said the 16-year-old boy was interviewed at the weekend in relation to motor vehicle thefts, break-ins and other offences in April, May and June around Howard Springs.

“Later a search was carried out at the home of the boy resulting in the

recovery of a substantial quantity of stolen property, including sound systems, alcohol, compact discs, a fishing reel and a two-way radio,” a police spokeswoman said.

Police also found two of the allegedly stolen cars.

The boy was summonsed to appear in the Darwin Juvenile Court at a later date.

Protest on conditions at camps

THE residents of Alice Springs town camps are to stage a demonstration today to demand better living conditions.

Organisers said “unacceptable behaviour” was caused by deprivation and should not be blamed on Aboriginal culture.

Eileen Hoosan, who lives at the Mt Nancy town camp, said: “We want everyone to know that we oppose the violence and the behaviour of those who hurt our children and families.”