

Contact: Mary-Hope Vass
Public Information Officer
Harrisonburg Police Department
Office Phone 540-437-2618
www.harrisonburgva.gov/police

News Release

HPD Arrests Woman for Child Endangerment

June 2, 2011

The Harrisonburg Police Department responded to the report of a child, who had been left in an unattended vehicle.

Yesterday, at 2:05 p.m. officers responded to a shopping center parking lot in the 100 block of Carlton Street. Two citizens could hear a baby crying and looked until they found the child abandoned in an unlocked vehicle.

The child, who turns one year old this month, was taken to Rockingham Memorial Hospital for evaluation as a precaution. It appears as though the child did not suffer any life-threatening injuries.

Socorro Benito Pacheco, 24, of Harrisonburg was charged with child neglect/endangerment (felony).

When the child was removed from the vehicle, the outside temperature was 89 degrees. The temperature inside of the vehicle, at the child's safety seat, measured 118 degrees.

"We are thankful these concerned citizens recognized a child was in need and offered their assistance." said Mary-Hope Vass, HPD's Public Information Officer and Crime Analyst.

HPD would like to stress the importance of safety during months with hot temperatures.

Below are some tips to keep you and your children safe this summer:

- Never leave a child alone inside or around a vehicle, not even for one minute
- Put something (your purse , wallet, office keys, etc.) near your child's safety seat to remember they are riding in the vehicle with you
- Call 9-1-1 if you ever see a child left unattended in a vehicle. If the child is hot or sick, remove them from the vehicle as soon as possible.
- Take plenty of water and snacks with you, when traveling in a vehicle.



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