SIERRA LEONE

## **Chimps involved in fatal** attack return to sanctuary

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone
- Most of the 31 chimpanzees
that escaped a sanctuary and
attacked a group of sightseers
two weeks ago have returned,
but the leader of the group is
still missing, the sanctuary
director said Saturday.
The April 23 attack on a
taxicab of American and
Sierra Leonean tourists left
the car's driver dead. Another
Sierra Leonean man lost his
hand in the mauling. Others
reported minor injuries.
Twenty-one of the chimps
have returned, said
Balasingam Amarasekeran,
the head of the Tacugama
Chimpanzee Sanctuary out-

Bruno, were "still out on the hills."

"We expect Bruno to be the last to return," Amarasekeran said.

Amarasekeran said the chimpanzees had escaped in the middle of the night by using sticks to disable a sliding metal door.

"We never thought they could use sticks to destroy the slide," Amarasekeran said. "We are dealing with species that are very intelligent and which bypassed one of the safety mechanisms we put in place."

This was the first accident.

opened 10 years ago, Amarasekeran said. The sanctuary has been closed to the public since the incident. "We are very sorry for the loss of life. The whole incident was very unfortunate," he said. Chimpanzee attacks are unusual but not unprece-dented.

unusual but not unprecedented.

Last year, two chimps escaped from a California sanctuary and mauled one man, injuring his genitals and limbs before a bystander shot the primates.





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## From ex-cons to grads

By Sommer Brokaw THETRIANCLE TRIBUNE

DURHAM — The graduation of 10 ex-felons from a Department of Corrections program that aims to help transition them back into the community was bittersweet.

Supporters of the program were happy to see the progress it has made over the last year and a half, but, at the same time, were saddened that this was the last class to graduate.

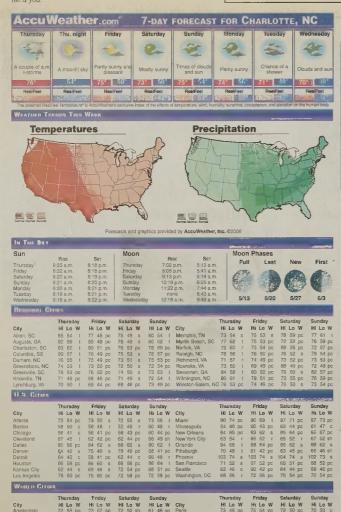
The project, REPAIR: Reentry Partnerships Aimed at Individual and Community Restoration, started last year. The Department of Corrections' Going Home Initiative, designed to address the stages an ex-offender goes through when released back in the community, funds the initiative. Participants receive a weeldy stipend while they participate in job training.

The third class to graduate on April 28 at the N.C. Mutual Insurance Co. was the final one because the program's funding is set to expire next month. Ex-offenders enrolled in the fourmonth program receive training through Durham Community Technical College for construction trade, along with life skills, business and finance.

"At 35 years old (and) coming out of prison, I was scared. I didn't know what I was going to do, where I was going to go," graduate Alvin Thomas said. "This was important because it gave me some sort of direction. I feel good about myself. I don't feel like I have to go back to the way I was before."

Reginald Johnson, senior assistant to City Manager Patrick Baker, gave the keynote speech.

"On behalf of the Durham community, we need you," Johnson said. "While some may want to look at your past and throw you away, we don't want to leave this place without telling you we need you."





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