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Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Teen stabs Tyner woman

Victim, 77,
fights back

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

A 77-year-old Tyner woman is recovering after a teenager broke into her home and slashed her throat, according to Chowan County Sheriff

Dwayne Goodwin. Ruth Mansfield was taken to Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville with a knife wound to her neck Thursday night, Goodwin said. She returned home Friday to recover from her injuries.

Deputies charged Dashawn Gregory, 17, of 531 Sandy Ridge Road

with first-degree attempted murder and burglary in the attack, records show. He is being held in the Chowan County Jail in lieu of a \$300,000 bond.



Gregory

Ruth Mansfield and her husband, C.T. Mansfield, were watching TV at their Center Hill Road residence when the home suddenly went dark around 9 p.m. C.T. Mansfield had gone outside to see what happened when Gregory attacked Ruth Mansfield in a doorway, Goodwin said. Gregory had appar-

ently tripped a breaker to extinguish the lights in the home, Goodwin said. Gregory used a knife from the Mansfields' kitchen to stab the victim.

Ruth Mansfield managed to strike Gregory with a flashlight, Goodwin said. The suspect then fled the scene. Deputies responding

to the 911 call observed Gregory, dressed in all black, riding a bicycle in the area, Goodwin said. He was later charged after learning that Gregory matched the suspect's physical description.

A family member who answered the telephone at the Mansfield residence declined to talk about the incident.

OPERATION SABER SUPPORT



STAFF PHOTOS BY THOMAS J. TURNERY

N.C. National Guardsmen from the 690 BSB Alpha Co. fuel a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during a training mission at the Northeastern Regional airport, Friday.

Guardsmen practice refueling helicopters

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

The 690th Brigade Support Battalion's Alpha Company of Edenton performed first time training maneuvers Friday aimed at refueling helicopters during combat.

Dubbed Operation Saber Support, some 88 soldiers from Edenton's N.C. National Guard practiced the drill at Northeastern Regional Airport. In addition to combat preparations, the exercise could result in the Edenton unit becoming a hub for search and rescue efforts in the aftermath of storms and flooding.

"That's the long-term goal — that we could be that in the event of a hurricane," said Capt. Neely Mahoney.

Since the National Guard unit already serves as a distribution, supply, and a fuel and water platoon, Friday's exercise gave the soldiers additional training in refueling helicopters.

"You train to do something, then you get an opportunity to do it makes it all worthwhile," said



A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter takes off after being fueled by N.C. National Guardsman from the 690 BSB Alpha Co. during a fueling training mission at the Northeastern Regional airport, Friday.

Sgt. Madison Phillips.

Soldiers began the morning with specific instructions about their assigned duties.

"The Army is big on crawl, walk, then run to minimize the room for error," Mahoney said. "We are looking to expand

the MOS (military occupational specialty) training of these soldiers," she added. "Aviation assets will train those who are non-aviation, giving the soldiers an advantage with additional

See SABER, 7A



SUBMITTED PHOTO

N.C. Rep. Tim Spear has apologized for using Nazi soldiers in a campaign mailer touting his legislative support for the military.

Spear apologizes for soldiers ad

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

N.C. Rep. Tim Spear, D-Washington, riled military veterans and the Republican Party with a campaign mailer that touts his legislative support for soldiers, but depicts a photo of World War II Nazis.

Some 10,000 people in House District 2 received the flyer in Monday's mail. One side included a photo showing the backs of Ger-

man soldiers moving afoot over terrain. The other side includes a photo of Spear and comments about how he has been working on behalf of the state's military personnel. It read in part, "one legislator is covering our soldiers' backs."

Spear acknowledged that the photo was a "horrible mistake" and was made a part of the flyer without his final approval.

See SOLDIERS, 7A

County to hire Parker as the county manager

From staff reports

Chowan County has initiated hiring negotiations with the interim county manager for the permanent job with a formal announcement slated for Monday.

The Board of Commissioners met in closed session Oct. 19, voting to authorize that Chairman Eddy Goodwin began salary negotiations with interim County Manager Paul Parker. Both Parker and Goodwin confirmed the negotiations.

On Friday, Goodwin insisted that the negotiations are still ongoing with an official announcement planned for Monday's commissioners' meeting.

County sources, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said an agreement has already been reached with Parker. Sources also said Parker's wife, Roxanne, has begun seeking a job in Chowan County. She had been working for the Pender County Clerk

of Court.

The Parkers still have a house in Pender County and have been alternating weekend visits between there and Chowan.

Since accepting the interim post on July 1, Parker has repeatedly said he hoped to parlay the temporary job into the fulltime position. Chowan had received 70 applicants for county manager with Parker assisting with the selection process.

Parker, 55, previously worked as an assistant county manager in Pender County, thrice serving there as interim county manager.

Chowan has been paying Parker an annual salary of \$75,000 and providing him lodging in a county-owned house. Last week Parker said he would accept the same salary to keep the job permanently. The county is expected to keep the rate of pay conservative and less than the former County Manager Peter Rascoe's \$118,000 annual salary.

Parker became interim county manager after Rascoe resigned to accept the position of town manager at Southern Shores.



Parker

Area has good start to early voting

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Voters have steadily filed into the Chowan County Board of Elections, making for a brisk start to Tuesday's Election Day.

As of the end of Monday's early voting, 1,249 voters had cast their bal-

lots at the Board of Elections, according to director Rebecca Lowe. Another 77 have mailed in their ballots.

"We've had a good steady flow of people and sometimes a line," Lowe said. "The longest wait has been about five minutes."

In addition to a fiery election season, Lowe attributes the increasing use of one-stop voting to familiarity and convenience.

"It's more well known and voters are realizing



PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

Marshall Creighton takes advantage of early voting Monday at the Chowan County Board of Elections as her 4-year-old son, Charles, stands by in his muscle man Halloween costume.

See VOTING, 7A



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Tickets \$10.00
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Sponsored by the Rocky Hock
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