



Detectives: Youth minister solicited teen girl for sex

Church responds with firing

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

Rocky Hock Baptist Church fired its music and children's minister at Rocky Hock Baptist Church after his arrest for

soliciting sex from a 13-year-old girl via the Internet.

The action was taken June 25, the same day that



Rose
Cumberland

County sheriff's detectives charged Jonathan Winfield Rose, 35, with one count of using the Internet to solicit sex from a minor.

In an undated letter to the congregation that was distributed inside church bulletins Sunday morning, the Rev. James Horton and Chris Turner,

chairman of the board of deacons at the church, explained the circumstances.

"Late Monday afternoon we received word that Pastor Rose had been questioned by authorities and the decision was made to detain Pastor Rose on the charge of soliciting a minor in regards to conver-

sations over the Internet about sexual acts," the letter said, in part. "Upon receiving this information, Rocky Hock Baptist Church on Monday afternoon relieved Pastor Rose of all responsibilities in any official capacity (as minister of music and children) at Rocky Hock Baptist Church."

The letter went on to state that the church would "continue to support, pray and minister to Pastor Rose and his family" as well as assist the family and the members of the church "during this difficult time."

Rose had worked at

See **ROSE**, 3A

GOING DOWN MEMORY LANE IN A VINTAGE CAR



SUBMITTED PHOTO

John Becker (left) and his brother Simon stand in front of a 1930 Bentley once owned by their father. George Becker bought the car in 1937 from the Maharajah of Jaipur for \$1,000. The Bentley's most recent owner paid \$2 million.

Local man has ties to \$2M Bentley

Dad bought car for \$1,000

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Seventy-four years later, he still has vivid memories of the 1930 6 1/2-liter Bentley that his dad purchased from the Maharajah of Jaipur during the Great Depression. While his dad paid less than 200 pounds, \$1,000 at the time, the same Bentley fetched \$2 million last year.

John Becker of Edenton calls it the "\$2 million that got away." But, what's not gone are the fond images of his dad's affection for

the machine bought from India's royalty and re-imported to the United Kingdom for his driving pleasure. The Bentley had been custom made for the Maharajah by H. J. Mulliner.

"It was my dad's pride and joy 'til the day he died in 1951," John said. George Becker died in an Air France plane crash at the age of 50.

John easily rattles off the Bentley's unique characteristics. It was originally green and black with reddish brown leather interior. Remarkable woodwork complemented the leather. Two spark plugs accompanied each of the six

cylinders (a straight six). He remembers the built-in flasks for the passengers' preferred spirits.

The Bentley managed about 12 miles per gallon of gasoline, which became quite a tall order during World War II.

"When the war hit, we had to put it in the garage on blocks and take the tires off (for preservation) because gas was so expensive," John recalled.

Because John was touring the globe with an international theatrical repertory company when his father perished, he was in no position to inherit the use of the car. His younger brother, Simon, was the

natural benefactor of their father's car. It was through his brother, however, that John vicariously shared his father's passion for the Bentley.

John has a black and white photo of Simon, a professional jazz pianist, racing the Bentley at England's Silverstone Raceway years before he sold the car. All Bentleys from 1928 to 1931 were designed for racing and were frequent prizewinners at Grand Prix events at Le Mans, Monte Carlo as well as other European circuits, John said.

John said the Bentley had a cut-off pedal that

See **BENTLEY**, 3A

Cops 'take down' drug suspects

From staff reports

Five Edenton residents were arrested Friday as part of an undercover drug operation by Edenton police known as "Operation Take Down."

Those arrested, and their charges, include:

- Connie Frances Leary, 46, of Oakdale Drive, charged with intent to sell and deliver cocaine;

- Monta Dequey Privott, 17, of East Queen Street, charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, and selling and delivering cocaine;

- Denzel Dequan Williams, 18, of Chowan Court, charged with two counts of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, two counts of selling and delivering cocaine, possession of intent to sell and deliver marijuana, and selling and delivering marijuana;

- Arkey Clinton Sutton, 26, of South Broad Street, charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine; and selling and delivering cocaine; and

- Torzay Earl Privott, 18, of Sandy Ridge Road, charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, and disorderly conduct.

Williams' secured bond was set at \$27,500. Leary, Sutton and Monta Privott were being confined in lieu of \$10,000 secured bonds. Torzay Privott's bond was set at \$1,500.

"Operation Take Down was initiated with the ongoing cooperation and information from the citizens of Edenton, and is only one part of our constant commitment to stop the illicit drug trade within the Town of Edenton," Fortenbery said.

The operation, Fortenbery added, "demonstrates the Edenton Police Department's commitment to reduce crime, maintain, and improve the quality of life for the citizens of Edenton."



Leary



M. Privott



T. Privott



Sutton



Williams

Three incumbents file for re-election

From staff reports

As of Tuesday morning, three of the four incumbents on the Edenton Town Council have filed with the Board of Elections to seek re-election in November.

Mayor Roland Vaughan, an Edenton jewelry retailer, has filed in pursuit of a fifth term. Councilman Jimmy Stallings, an insurance agent for Farm Bureau, was the first to file

for re-election as he seeks a fourth term as the representative of the 1st Ward. After he was first appointed to fill an unexpired term, attorney Sam Dixon was first elected as councilman in 1999. He too has filed for re-election.

Mayor pro tem Steve Biggs, economic development director for Bertie County, remains the only incumbent yet to file for re-election. He represents the Council's at-large representative. No challengers have filed to oppose the incumbents.

The filing deadline is noon Aug. 12. There is a \$5 filing cost.

Defaced house gets fresh paint, cleanup

From staff reports

The West Queen Street house that caused a stir a week ago isn't the same eyesore.

After it was cited by the town of Edenton for a public nuisance, Queens Landing Investment Corp. of Boca Raton, Fla. — arranged to have the purple and gold brick front of 516 West Queen Street house repainted white on Wednesday. The owner also removed an odd array of yard ornaments apparently erected as part of a protest.

Neighbors and passers-by flooded Town Hall with calls two weeks ago after seeing two men spray-paint the brick front of the house



STAFF PHOTO BY LESLIE FOREHAND

This West Queen Street house now sports a fresh coat of white paint on its front wall, however, the remainder of the house retains its original brick finish. The house was repainted and junk removed from the yard last week following the property being cited as a public nuisance.

in colors consistent with East Carolina University, erect a hubcab-decorated fence in the front yard and display junk around the house.

Among the items the men put on the property were a tattered recliner on

the front porch and empty beer bottles along a brick wall by the carport. Also, strewn across the yard were a tire swing, a large grill, a painted barrel and tub, a junked trailer and a children's swing set moved from the backyard.

A spray-painted "for sale" sign with an asking price for \$500,000 was leaned against the front of the house.

Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery said the

See **DEFACED**, 3A

