



## Police charge students in Halloween fight

Holmes suspends haunted house attackers

By REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Three John A. Holmes High School students have been suspended and charged with assault for an attack on Halloween night.

The students allegedly started a brawl during the school's second annual Halloween haunted house fundraiser. When JROTC students working at the haunted house, held at the old armory building, went outside to check on an egg-throwing incident they were attacked and physically beaten, according to police and school officials.

According to Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery, the teens

charged with simple assault are Darian Copeland Jr., 16, of Twiddy Avenue, and Kashese Bond, 17, of North Broad Street. An unnamed 15-year-old has been charged as a juvenile.

The mother of an injured student said she feels stiffer charges are warranted. She also claims the fight was gang-related, adding that the suspects were wearing identical clothing and bandanas.

"We aren't ruling that out," Fortenbery said when asked whether the incident was gang related.

Fortenbery added that because the student who was beaten did not suffer injuries such as cuts that required stitching, and was not held overnight at the hospital, his injuries did not rise to the level of a more serious charge such as assault with intent to injure, which is

a felony.

According to the injured student's mother, however, her son was beaten so severely about the face and head that he currently has no memory of what happened during the assault. She said he could remember being at the haunted house and later at the emergency room at Chowan Hospital, but nothing in between.

"Does that sound like simple assault to you?" she asked.

The woman said her family has contacted the district attorney's office to see if anything can be done to upgrade the charges.

Fortenbery said he was unaware of the student's apparent amnesia.

"If the evidence shows it is warranted, we would certainly consider upgrading the charges," he said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This photo shows facial injuries to a teen attacked outside a Haunted House at John A. Holmes High School Halloween night. Authorities say the attack may have been gang-related.

See HALLOWEEN, 4A

## Butterfield to talk economy, jobs

From staff reports

Congressman G. K. Butterfield (D-N.C.) will join local and state elected officials at a joint Rebuild the American Dream and Chowan Democratic Party Town Hall today at 1 p.m. at the Edenton-Chowan Public Library, 106 West Water Street, Edenton, N.C.

The town hall meeting will address many local, state and national issues. However, Butterfield will focus his remarks on the economy and job creation.

"The middle class is shrinking and income inequality is growing," said Butterfield in a press release. "When you couple that fact with the latest unemployment rate, which dropped to 9 percent, it underscores the need for job creation. Instead of focusing on the next election, Democrats remain committed proposing and passing measures that will get our economy back on track."

## Suit to block maps vowed

Feds will not object to new NC districts

By GARY D. ROBERTSON  
Associated Press

RALEIGH — North Carolina's journey toward new district boundaries for the Legislature and Congress is about to detour into court, even though federal attorneys

See SUIT, 4A



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## FIRST-TIME HUNTER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kathryn Green, 9, of Rockwell and guide Leon Nixon show off the third-grader's first kill on her first hunt, following the 4th annual Hunters Helping Kids event in Edenton. HHK invited Green to participate as a way for her to further adjust to her right-eye blindness.

## HHK invites visually impaired girl, 9

Third-grader notches first hunt

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

Blind in her right eye since birth, her parents have begun to help their daughter become better acclimated with her physical challenge.

"She's limited in her sports

so we're trying to find something she can do," said James Green about his 9-year-old daughter Kathryn. "We're trying to let her spread her wings."

Kathryn lost her vision due to congenital glaucoma, a disease that strikes one in 1 million children, James said. The rare disease narrowly claimed her left eye, which would have left the third-grader completely blind.

Kathryn became the exception of the Albemarle's 4th annual Hunters Helping Kids held Friday and Saturday in Edenton. Typically, the event is reserved at providing young girls who have wounded fathers who have served in the U.S. military an opportunity to experience the outdoors during a deer hunting expedition. The

See HUNTER, 2A

## Business owners buy Moore building

Groups outbids pastor

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

A group of local businessmen are the new owners of the former George C. Moore building after outbidding a church at \$250,000.

Previously listed at \$1.2 million, the 149,000-square-foot building and near 25-acre site sold for a fraction of its value during Thursday's owner ordered auction. Doug Hollowell, Bud Perry, and Charlie Creighton outbided Shalom International pastor Jonathan Downing for the site in an auction that took less than one hour to complete.

Although the new owners are not yet certain about their plans, Downing said her church had grand plans for the site.

"We wanted it for our children - to get our kids off the street," Downing said. "We could have had it all right here."

Downing went as high as \$245,000, but her reluctance seemed to grow during the later bids. Auctioneers kept the pressure on as she continued to bid.

Although she failed short, Downing had a supportive cast watching. Others on hand seemed to admire her grit for attempting such a purchase. Several observers on hand approached her after the bidding was over, including Dana Bowman, president and CEO of the Moore Company, and Butch Miller, managing director of CBRE in Raleigh who had been trying to sell the industrial facility.

"Obviously, it was important to her," Miller said.

"This is a new chapter for this building and the town of Edenton," he added.

Bowman said he was glad to see that a group with local ties would control the fate of the building that housed the Moore

See MOORE, 3A

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