



Whichard sisters getting along on the court — 6A

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13 wrecks in 12 months mar Edenton police

Six crashes occur within a month

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Edenton police have been involved in 13 vehicular crashes over the past 12 months, including an officer who wrecked his cruiser after falling asleep at the wheel.

"Of those 13 accidents, four were non-preventable, where the police officer did

everything reasonable to prevent the accident and was not at fault and nine were preventable, where our officer failed to act in a reasonably expected manner to prevent it," Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton said via email.

Six crashes, five preventable, occurred between Sept. 7 and Oct. 9.

At 4:52 a.m. Oct. 9, officer Ronald Rascoe was driving north on Broad Street when he fell asleep with his patrol car veering left

across the centerline and the two southbound lanes before striking a utility pole at Gale Street, according to reports. Upon impact, Rascoe's cruiser spun around for about 12 feet. Estimated damages were reported to be \$10,000.

Rascoe's latest wreck marks the officer's second preventable crash in recent months. On June 22, he collided with a vehicle that had stopped for a traffic signal on Virginia Road. Rascoe was looking away

when he failed to stop in time, an accident report states.

Once five preventable crashes occurred between March and July, Knighton requested that Police Chief Jay Fortenbery implement a policy that required driver training for officers as well as disciplinary action for future preventable wrecks.

"The police chief issued a preventable accident

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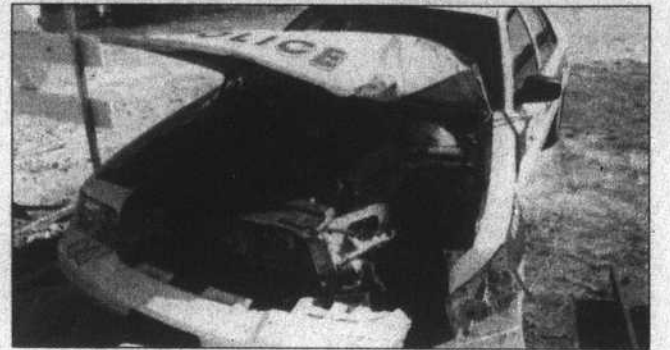


PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

This Edenton police cruiser was destroyed after the officer fell asleep at the wheel and struck a utility pole at the corner of Broad and Gale streets.

Girl, 7, hit by car

Second-grader suffers broken leg

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

A 7-year-old girl is recovering from a broken leg after she was struck by a car last Wednesday afternoon.

Zy'miah Shanae Brown underwent surgery Thursday whereby metal pins were used to reset a broken right femur, Brittany Lassiter, the girl's mother, said Friday.

Brown suffered the broken leg after darting between two lanes of traffic on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue at 5:56 p.m.

"All of a sudden she came out of nowhere," said witness Anthony Hathaway III "The only thing on that child's mind was getting to the other side of the street."

Brown, a second grader at White Oak Elementary School, was playing at a nearby playground when she ran across the yard of a neighboring residence before attempting to cross MLK at Valentine Avenue, according to an Edenton police report. Once Brown ran into the path of an eastbound car, that car's driver stopped suddenly to miss hitting the child. It was seconds later when a running Brown entered the westbound lane that she was struck by a 2007 Chevrolet driven by Johnny Lee Rountree, Jr. of Edenton, the report stated.

"She (Brown) darted from the opposite side of the street between cars and the driver couldn't see her," Hathaway said.

Brown was thrown onto the lawn of 700 MLK Jr. Ave. upon impact, according to the report.

Traffic had just resumed after being stopped in both directions due to a school bus letting children off at MLK and Valentine, the report states. Estimates show Rountree was traveling at about 15 miles per hour in the 35 mph zone when he struck Brown.

Hathaway said he believes Brown wasn't hurt any worse because of the slow moving traffic. He added that it was obvious at the scene that Brown's leg was broken.

Lassiter said her

See BROWN, 3A



PHOTOS BY KIP SHAW

Current and future John A. Holmes Aces march in the 37th annual Peanut Festival Parade, Saturday.

Peanut Festival yields bigger return

Merchants reap sales boost

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Continued tweaking of the Edenton Peanut Festival has advanced the annual event into anything but peanuts.

Saturday's 37th annual Peanut Festival trumped last year's event in several categories. Organizers projected as many as 3,000 visitors flooded downtown's Broad Street for the daylong festival. Part of event sponsor Destination Downtown Edenton's goal is for the festival to bolster commerce among existing

merchants as much as the visiting vendors.

"We had way more people for this year's festival. It gets bigger and better each year," said Jennifer Harriss, DDE executive director.

Some merchants agreed with the assessment after experiencing a healthy spike in revenue directly due to the festival.

"This is real busy for a parade day, but it's been all day and not just for two hours," said Belinda Flynn, Edenton Coffee House. "I think it's good for everybody. It's definitely better than last year's."

Another local eatery estimated that the event tripled its typical haul for the day.

"I've never seen so many people," said Barbara Jones of the Soda Shoppe. "There's a lot of people I don't recognize," suggesting that many of the visitors were from out of town.

Jones added that the sunny October day helped contribute to the sizable

See FESTIVAL, 3A

House hopefuls explain differences

Steinburg, Luton vying for District 1 seat

By REGGIE PONDER
The Daily Advance

Republican Bob Steinburg and Democrat Bill Luton agree education is a central concern in the 1st District N.C. House race — but their perspectives could hardly be more different.

Luton, a member of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education, has campaigned against what he terms the GOP legislative record "over the last two years of cutting and gutting education." A vote for Steinburg, according to Luton, "would be a vote for more of that."

Throughout the campaign, Luton also has criticized Steinburg for being on record in support of a General Assembly budget that

cut funds to the Golden LEAF Foundation and the N.C. Rural Center.

But "everything hinges on education," Luton said last week. The legislature needs to make public schools a priority and listen to teachers, who are the real experts on education, he said.

Steinburg, former chairman of the Chowan County Republican Party, talks a lot on the campaign trail about an idea for a technical

and career charter school in the northeast region.

Asked about that proposal last week, he indicated that he has been talking to people in Elizabeth City and they are developing a way to operate the school while taking into consideration the lack of state funds for brick and mortar.

The idea now is to partner

See RACE, 2A

Flash mob needed for YouTube video

Rehearsal, taping being held Oct. 27

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

One of the more unique events planned during the celebration of Edenton's 300th anniversary will take place Oct. 27th.

Citizens of all ages are encouraged to come to Historic Hicks Field at 10:30 a.m. to rehearse for a flash mob video. A tap-

ing by Shannon Studio of Edenton to be aired on YouTube will follow the rehearsal.

For those unfamiliar with the term, a flash mob refers to a group of people who assemble on the spur of the moment to express themselves through dance and other forms of artistic expression. They then appear to disperse as quickly as they gathered.

This particular flash mob event is the product of the 300th Anniversary

committee member Sally Francis Kehayes as a way to get Edentonians of all ages involved in the celebration.

"This is going to be a lot of fun," Kehayes said. "If you can dance, and want to do that, that's great. If you can't dance, just wave your arms and smile!"

Choreography for the video is being handled



by Linda Brown, owner of the Edenton Dance Stars studio.

Brown, who has been teaching dance for 16 years, said that working on this project is completely different from anything she's done before.

Brown said that the crowd will be taught some basic dance steps that they can perform to "Smash the Windows," a jig created

by the Itinerant Band that performed here during the Cupola House's Easels in the Garden event in April.

Brown said that the steps she has in mind should be appropriate for all skill levels. "And if you make a mistake during the taping, that's all right," she said, laughing. "We just want everybody to have a good time and celebrate our community."

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