

Boston charged with robbery, kidnapping

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

A convicted felon recently released from prison was arrested and charged with alleged crimes arising from robbing a hotel.

Edenton Police said George Cleveland Boston,

66, no address provided, was arrested Feb. 12 after he allegedly verbally threatened a 16-year-old hotel clerk by saying he had a gun before stealing \$433 from the cash register at America's Best Value Inn on Virginia Road. Police said Boston allegedly broke into

a coin-operated vending machine and stole two bags of Cheetos worth \$1 as well as causing \$500 in damage to the machine.

Court documents said Boston allegedly moved the clerk from one place to another, so he was charged with second-degree kidnap-

ping. When EPD Officer Austin M. Wynn arrested Boston on Feb. 13, he was charged with robbery with a deadly weapon, second-degree kidnapping, vandalism and larceny from a vending machine. Boston's bond was set at

\$100,000. He remains at the Chowan County Detention Center.

Boston's next appearance in Chowan County Superior Court will be March 6.

Interim Police Chief Daroyll Brown said Boston was released Jan. 31 from Central Prison in Raleigh.

Court documents reveal that Boston served 10 years and five months of a 13-year sentence for assault by strangulation.

Boston has been convicted on various felony charges and he has served time in prison off-and-on since 1972.

Nixon's Beach home destroyed by fire

Library avoids Alexandria's fiery fate

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

No one was hurt when a fire destroyed a home last week on Nixon's Beach Road.

Captain Billy Bass, Edenton Fire Department, said when the fire was reported around 6:13 a.m. Thursday morning, firefighters arrived moments later to find the house at 225 Nixon's Beach Road fully engulfed in flames.

Firefighters were on scene for more than four hours battling the blaze.

He said the home was a total loss.

Bass said no one was home and the cause of the fire is under investigation. The property owner's identity was not available before press time.

Edenton FD was assisted by Center Hill/Crossroads and Bethel volunteer fire departments.

Wednesday evening (Feb. 21), Edenton FD responded to a very minor fire reported at Shepard-

Pruden Library.

Librarian Jennifer Finlay said the fire was so small that it was not enough to activate the sprinklers. Fire department was called as a precaution.

Library is safe. Books are safe. Larry, the library's big stuffed dog, is safe.

Moreover, Finlay made a reference to a famous fire from classical antiquity as to why librarians take fires seriously to this day.

Long ago, a fire destroyed the famous library at Alexandria, Egypt. His-

torians past and present still lament how that fire destroyed all sorts of documents that would have shed light on subjects ranging from cartography to the paradoxes of Zeno.

Also worth noting for the record, contrary to Elizabeth Taylor's assertions in the movie "Cleopatra," the fire was not Julius Caesar's fault nor that of his Roman legions.

Back to the present, see Finlay's fantastic column on page B3 about Edenton's role in the Civil Rights movement.



MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Shepard-Pruden Librarian Jennifer Finlay's wise precaution and Edenton Fire Department's quick response averted a very minor fire last Wednesday that had almost no chance, but you never know, of turning the library into another "Alexandria" — a reference to a fire that destroyed a famous library from classical antiquity.

Alleged robber preferred cash, not a check, for refund

BY REGGIE PONDER
For the Chowan Herald

ELIZABETH CITY — A Chowan County man who backed up his demand for a cash refund by allegedly pulling a gun on the store owner, faces robbery with a dangerous weapon and other charges, accord-

ing to the Pasquotank County sheriff.

Norman Wayne Forbes Jr., 49, of Soundside Road, Edenton, is charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon, assault by pointing a gun and second-degree trespassing. Forbes was arrested by deputies from the Chowan County

Sheriff's Office, Pasquotank Sheriff Randy Cartwright said.

In addition, Forbes' father, Norman Wayne Forbes of Northside Road in Elizabeth City, has been charged with second-degree trespassing. He turned himself in at the Elizabeth City Police Department, according to Cartwright.

The charges stem from a Feb. 13 incident at One Shot Firearms at 994 U.S. Highway 158 in Elizabeth City, Cartwright explained.

Both Forbeses had a dispute with the gun shop over a scope and demanded a refund, Cartwright said. When the shopkeeper offered to write a check for the refund, the

younger Forbes pulled a gun on the shopkeeper and demanded cash.

The \$245 in cash taken in the incident and the handgun that was used, a .380 Ruger, have been seized as evidence in the case, according to Cartwright.

Reggie Ponder is a staff writer for the Daily Advance.

CRIMEWATCH

EDENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ARRESTS

Feb. 16 — Darren Bryant McClain, 36, of Filberts Creek Drive, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of failure to appear.

Feb. 16 — Xavier Tra'nal Copeland, 18, of Oakdale Drive, was charged with one misdemeanor count of failure to give info/aid

to an injured person, one misdemeanor count of reckless driving and one misdemeanor count of providing a false report to police.

INCIDENTS
Feb. 18 — Breaking and entering and larceny on Coke Avenue.

Jan. 29 — Breaking and entering and larceny at Waterford Place/Wedgewood Place, Chowan Court and Dr. Martin Luther King

Jr. Avenue. **CHOWAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ARRESTS**

Feb. 20 — Jose Alberto Chavez, 22, of Percy's Lane, was charged with one misdemeanor count of assault on a female, one misdemeanor count of interfering with emergency communications and one misdemeanor count of injury

to property. He was placed in the Chowan County Jail on a 48-hour domestic violence hold.

Feb. 19 — Christopher Mark Talmadge, 23, of Goosie Lane, Hertford, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of failure to appear (possession of drug paraphernalia).

Feb. 19 — Sentoria Ariel Johnson, 27, of Willow Drive, was

charged with one misdemeanor count of failure to return rental property.

INCIDENTS
Feb. 20 — Larceny from buildings on Pasquenoke Trail.

Feb. 15 — Burglary (forcible entry), larceny from buildings and fraud (obtaining money/property by false pretense on Lynnhaven Drive.

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COA
Continued from 1A

Contributions to their own building, enjoyed the speakers, entertainment and sweet trip down memory lane as presented by two of COA's members of the Student Government Association. SGA planned the event.

"In a time such as this, it is important to band together and educate our youth about their heritage," SGA Senator Makenna White said.

The three featured speakers, Pastor John R. Shannon of Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Bishop and former Hertford Police officer William H. Downing, and Charles Boyette of the Edenton Welcome Center, lent their experiences in Black History as well as amazing life lessons and calls to action for the older generation.

In addition to the speakers, a wonderful memorial PowerPoint presentation was shown, created by White, and her mother Shante White sang "Soon I will be Done" by famous African American gospel singer Mahalia Jackson. Two thought provoking poems were given, one by school administrator Shirley Blount and the other by COA and ECSU Professor Brande McClearse. Finally, culturally significant refreshments were served afterwards for the audiences enjoyment.

Shannon uplifted the audience with the chronology of his church, three of the oldest universities in North Carolina — Shaw University, Roanoke Rapids University and Elizabeth City State University, all of which began as teaching schools for blacks who wished to become literate and teach literacy. This all took place 50 years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, ensuring the freedom of blacks slaves in the United States.

Shannon highlighted the

contributions of Carter G. Woodson, considered by many to be the father of Black History Month, and his tireless passion to see blacks celebrated more than just one week out of the entire year.

"The most significant events in our nations history happened fifty years apart from each other," Shannon said.

Downing placed a call to action on the seniors of the group, the educators at the campus, and the ministers of the church. His message was one of accountability on behalf of the children.

"I am a little shocked because I was expecting there to be more students at this event, since this day is for them," he said.

Exams were being conducted at the time of the event, which prevented many of the students from attending.

"But there's a lot of seniors here, which makes me happy, because now I feel right at home!" Downing said in amusement.

Downing made a strong case for the power of the older generation talking to and teaching their grandchildren about their pasts. He said that his eldest daughter came home from school confused about a Black History assignment she'd been tasked with, saying that she had no knowledge of her roots. After Downing took time to explain it to her, it sparked such an interest in her that she researched and compiled a findings in a book.

To round out the guest speakers, Boyette gave an abbreviated history of Edenton's most famous former slave and civil rights activist, Harriet Jacobs. A tour of her life as a slave, the people in her life, and the woman to which she owed her life — Molly Hornblow — is on exhibit during the Harriet Jacobs tour in Edenton. More information on the tour is available at www.visitedenton.com.

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