

# Street Safe lessons help prevent crashes

From staff reports

The Chowan County Sheriff's Office 4-H Kids and Cops club, with financial support from Street Safe, Colony Tire, Feyer Ford, and Weatherly Insurance, recently hosted a free Street Safe session for teen drivers in Chowan County. Forty-six Chowan County teens participated in the Street Safe Lifesaving Driving Experience which includes lessons in "Drunk Goggles", Distractions, Speed Control, and Stopping Distance.

"The Chowan County Sheriff's Office Kids and Cops program is all about building positive relationships between the youth and law enforcement in our community," Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said. "We want our young people



to be well prepared for the dangers of driving. We want them to be safe drivers."

Car crashes are the number one killer of teens. The Street Safe Lifesaving Driving

Experience puts teens behind the wheel with highly trained First Responder Instructors. All of the instructors in this session were law enforcement officers

from our district, four of which are with the Chowan County Sheriff's Office. For more information on Street Safe visit [www.streetsafeus.com](http://www.streetsafeus.com).



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## CRIMEWATCH

### EDENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ARRESTS

■ May 15 — Amber Marie West, 28, of Willeyton Road, Gates, NC was charged with one misdemeanor count of failure to return rental property.  
■ May 14 — Samuel Lee

Valentine, 46, of North Oakum Street, was charged with one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

■ May 11 — Dennis Leon Hassell, 58, of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, was arrested on one felony count of being an habitual felon.

■ May 10 — Palmer James Yount, 24, of Lynnhaven Drive, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of failure to appear.

### INCIDENTS

■ May 16 — Hit and run on North Broad Street.

■ May 15 — Injury to personal property on South Broad

Street.

■ May 12 — Larceny of a motor vehicle on Elliott Street.

■ May 12 — Larceny of a motor vehicle on McMullan Avenue.

■ May 11 — Larceny at Dollar General on North Broad Street.

**CHOWAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

### ARRESTS

■ May 17 — Casey Thomas Abbott, 26, of Hickory Lane, was issued a criminal summons on one misdemeanor count of failure to extinguish a fire.

### INCIDENTS

■ None reported.

## Bear sighted in Chowan County

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

A black bear was recently sighted at Arrowhead Beach.

"I am worried about the bear because I frequently walk and work outdoors in the Arrowhead Beach community," Henry Hodge said.

Initially, the bear was swimming in the Chowan River before it came ashore Thursday to take a tour of the park by the Arrowhead Property Owners Association's office.

Hodge spoke of children who may be at risk as they wait to board school buses.

"I am concerned about the small children who board the school buses in the area near where the bear was spotted," he said. "Plus, I saw a small child walking just about an hour ago (Monday) whom I know that if a bear was to run out of the woods on here to possibly attack, her small legs would not be able to get away from death quickly enough."

Seniors citizens may be at risk too.

"Mostly, we have seniors in this neighborhood who may not be able to react as quickly to run away from the bear," Hodge said. "Also, if approached unexpectedly, someone could have a mere if not severe heart attack. I am concerned."

Arrowhead POA's Office Manager Brenda DeMoulin said when the bear was first sighted, the Chowan County Sheriff's Office and the NC Wildlife Resources Division were contacted.

NCWR re-routed the bear away from the river and park so as to send the creature on its merry way far from where it could hurt itself or others. Arrowhead Beach is a wildlife and bird sanctuary, so hunting is prohibited.

"The bear was a male about 2 years old and weighed about 200-300 pounds," DeMoulin said. "We were told that it is mating season and they (NCWR) figured the bear

swam across the river and stopped here. He was tired, but not hurt. He rested for about two hours before Wildlife took their truck and ran the bear back to the water. Later, Wildlife was trying to get him in the woods off Rocky Hock Road."

DeMoulin said she was not frightened of the bear.

"I was not scared of the bear. He was calm and just wanted to rest," she said. "We could get pretty close to him, but Wildlife was afraid if too many people approached him he would run up a tree and they would have to wait for him to come down."

According to NCWR, the five counties located between the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds have highest concentration of black bears within the United States. Some of the largest black bears in the world, weighing as much as 700 pounds, have been discovered in that neck of the woods. Biologists say there are as many as four bears per square mile in that area.

According to the NCWR, here are ways to prevent and/or resolve bear conflicts:

■ Do not feed bears! Feeding bears rewards them for coming into residential areas. Bears feeding on unnatural food sources around your home may lose their fear of humans and will be more likely to approach people — a situation that rarely ends well for the bear and could have potential safety issues for humans as well!

■ Remove or secure all potential food sources!  
■ Store garbage inside buildings or other areas that bears cannot get to.

■ If the area is served by a garbage collection service, place garbage and recyclables out only during the day of collection.

■ Purchase bear-proof garbage cans or bear-proof your existing garbage container by outfitting it with a secure latching system.

■ Do not leave pet foods



PHOTO BY BRENDA DEMOULIN

That's not Yogi Bear in search of a picnic basket, but a real black bear who found his way into the Arrowhead Beach community last week.

out overnight. If pets are fed outside remove any excess food after the animals have finished eating. Never store pet food on a porch or in an open garage where a bear can get to it.

■ Clean outdoor grills. After you use an outdoor grill clean it thoroughly and make sure that all grease and fat residues are removed.

■ Compost piles attract bears. Although there usually isn't much food available in a compost pile the odor is enough to draw the interest of a curious bear. Avoid putting pasta or oils in a compost pile.

■ Remove bird feeders and hummingbird feeders if bears are in area.

■ Do not hang bird feeders from your house or deck.

■ Suspend feeder from a free-hanging wire away from your home, making sure it is at least 10 feet off the ground and at least 10 feet away from the trunk of a tree.

■ Bring bird feeders indoors at night.

■ Make bird feeder inaccessible to bears:

■ Alert neighbors of the bear and ensure that no one is intentionally or unintentionally feeding black bears. One person feeding bears can create a problem bear that may affect the entire neighborhood.

■ Repellents. There are no repellents that are registered for use on bears. Some have found that sprinkling ammonia or other strong disinfectants on garbage can mask the odor of food.

■ Make sure dumpsters

are bolted and locked and chain down heavy metal garbage cans and secure the lids.

■ Wood or plastic dumpster lids do not keep bears out. Replace these with metal lids that can be locked and make sure sliding side doors can be latched so only humans can open them.

■ Fencing in dumpsters or garbage collection areas can be very effective. A chain link fence with a barbwire overhang can work well. An electric fence powered with a high voltage, low impedance charger can exclude bears; however, this should only be done if safety precautions can be implemented to protect children and adults. There are several electric fence designs which can be provided by the local district biologist if this is deemed appropriate.

■ Frightening or scaring the bear. Shouting, clapping, blasting a car horn or motion-sensitive lights may scare off a bear temporarily. Do not taunt a bear if it fails to respond to your efforts to frighten it. These methods are only temporary solutions.

■ Crowd Control. Sometimes when a bear sighted, crowds may gather. This seemingly harmless situation can be aggravated or become potentially harmful as the crowd grows. People can cause bears to display unpredictable behavior. Law enforcement personnel should disperse crowds and allow the bear to exit without interference.

## DOT to replace three bridges

From staff reports

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is replacing three bridges on NC 32 north of Edenton. The first bridge is at Ballard's Grove Baptist Church. The second bridge is just north of Welch Road. The third bridge is at the Gates County line.

Traffic will be shifted to a one lane pattern at each

site during construction. A temporary traffic signal will be installed to control traffic at each location. The first lane closure will begin on Monday, June 4, 2018. Lane closures may occur at all three bridge sites simultaneously during the life of the project. Construction should be completed at all three bridges by May 31, 2019. Please expect delays on this section of NC 32.

## WELCOMING KING



REBECCA BUNCH/CHOWAN HERALD

New Edenton Police Chief Henry King, second from left, greets Town Councilmen Roscoe Poole, at left, Jimmy Stallings and Mayor Roland Vaughan at a reception welcoming him to the community. The reception took place last week at the Edenton Coffee House and gave citizens a chance to come by and greet the new chief.

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