

Mother fears boy bitten by dog may be traumatized

By PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Six-year-old DeVanté Andre Horton has been so frightened since he was attacked by a dog April 7 that he has been sleeping with his mother at night. Monica Latrice Thomas fears her son might be traumatized.

He's also experiencing pain. Doctors prescribed morphine and some other medicines to help ease the pain.

DeVanté was wearing a large,

white bandage wrapped around his head during an interview at his home at 1609 N. Patterson Ave. late Friday afternoon. He had missed school since the dog attack. During the interview, he hovered around his mother, sometimes sitting on her lap. Several well-wishers came to the home to bring DeVanté balloons and candy.

DeVanté's mother told a reporter, "He's a little better, but he's still frightened."

As a result of the dog attack,

DeVanté had 19 staples on his head and 11 abrasions on his leg, back and buttocks.

The dog attack happened about 4:39 p.m. April 7 at 1515 Patterson Ave., less than 150 feet from DeVanté's home.

Officer R.K. Carty of the Winston-Salem Police Department said that one of the officers that responded to the dog attack shot the dog in the leg when the dog charged the officer.

The dog, a pit bull mixed with Rottweiler, was taken to a veteri-

narian for treatment and placed in quarantine. The dog's wound was not life-threatening.

The dog was current on its shots.

Carty said that a witness, Tracy Laverne Pratt of 310 E. 16th Street, reported that earlier in the afternoon on April 7 she saw two children playing at the dog pen at 1515 Patterson Ave., and she told them to leave the dog alone. Pratt said she came outside again about 4 p.m. and the boys were kicking the dog pin and poking a stick in

the gate, according to Carty. Pratt said she told the boys to leave, according to Carty. About 4:25 p.m., Pratt saw two kids running on a path and a dog running behind them.

Pratt said that Lydia Jackson of 1515 Patterson Ave. tried to hold the dog back by beating it with a stick.

Carty said that Dennis Phillip Jackson of 1515 Patterson Ave. owns the dog. Lydia Jackson is his mother.

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Photo by Paul Collins
Doctors used 19 staples to repair a head wound that DeVanté Andre Horton suffered when he was attacked by a dog April 7.

75 cents

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A ray of hope



Claire Coleman and Justin Mirabel participate in a "candlelight" service Monday. The two were winners in Crossing 52's annual essay/poster contest. For full story, see A5.

Guilford moves closer to redistricting plan

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

HIGH POINT — With the April 27 deadline looming, the Guilford County School Board crept a little closer to finalizing a redistricting plan for the system Tuesday night.

More than 40 people attended the three-hour work session, including members of the N.C. Racial Justice Network, who said a few days before that they would confront the board about their concerns about the plan, though residents are not allowed to talk with board members during these sessions.

More than 25 law enforcement

officers from the sheriff's department and High Point Police Department, including a SWAT team, were on hand.

But nothing happened. Network members waited until a break in the proceedings to discuss their points with board members.

The most pressing issue for RJC members is new schools in the black community.

For months the Network has been adamant in its efforts to get the 11-member board to consider adding a new high school on Franklin Boulevard near the city limits in conjunction with renovating Dudley High School.

After much debate, the board decided that there were not enough

students in the area to support two high schools.

"I have looked at your numbers, I looked at numbers we generated and the justification is not there," said board member Calvin Boykin to Network member Ervin Brisson.

Brisson pointed out that black children at Smith High School could be moved back to Dudley High School and white students who live in Smith's district could be moved from Ragsdale High School, which is in Jamestown — a small town located between Greensboro and High Point — to Smith.

"Why should (black children) have to stay at Smith when you let

the same white (children) right near Smith go down to Ragsdale?" Brisson asked.

Boykin acknowledged the discrepancy but also said there were too many other conditions tied into the Network's proposal for it to work.

"We have to accommodate all the folks in this county," Boykin said.

The board also discussed moving Dudley from its current site on Lincoln Avenue to a site a couple of miles east on Franklin Boulevard. Because of the historical significance of the 70-year-old school, the city's only remaining

See School Board on A10

Eversley: Board 'racist and reactionary'

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Van Lawrence brought with him a stern warning for African Americans Saturday when he came to Winston-Salem from Alexandria, Va.

With implementation of the U.S. government's 2000 census effort just months away, Lawrence, a government partnership specialist with the Bureau of the Census, told a group at Winston-Salem State University that it's imperative that blacks respond to all census-related correspondences in a timely manner.

"Census data is used for nearly every allocation of resources in this country," he said. Lawrence added that the federal, state and

local governments also use the census to decide where to build new highways and schools and how to draw school and congressional districts.

African Americans cannot afford to be left out of the census count; it will be politically and economically detrimental, Lawrence said.

"If we get a bad count, we have to live with those numbers for the next 10 years," he said.

It has been estimated that the last census missed 129,000 people in North Carolina alone, a large portion of whom were believed to be minorities.

Democrats, spearheaded by President Bill Clinton, had tried to change the method in which the census is conducted. They argued

that a scientific sampling would be more successful than an actual head count at gauging the nation's population. But Republicans balked at the plan and the U.S. Supreme Court eventually dismissed the sampling idea.

African Americans are notorious for being left out of the census, Lawrence said.

"There are a lot of reasons we don't answer the census, starting with the fact that, historically, we don't trust the government," he said.

But he urged blacks to put such misgivings aside and return their census forms when they begin arriving in mailboxes next year. The census questionnaire will ask citizens to reveal personal information

See Forum on A10

House bill would pay HBCUs for past discrimination

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — The state would pay historically black North Carolina universities millions of dollars to compensate for past racism and funding inequities under a bill proposed by a Durham legislator.

Rep. Mickey Michaux's measure would give the five historically black schools and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, which has a large American Indian enrollment, an extra \$21 million a year to supplement their budgets.

Four years ago, a General Assembly-ordered study concluded five state universities, all predominantly white, were underfunded and said the state's five historically black universities were overfunded, along with six other schools in the system, including UNC-Chapel Hill.

The five underfunded schools have split an extra \$21 million a year from the state since the study was done.

Michaux said he wants to do the same for UNC-Pembroke and the historically black schools — Fayetteville State, Winston-Salem State, Elizabeth City State, North Carolina A&T and North Carolina Central.

Legislators support the idea, Michaux said, "but it's going to be tempered by a realistic look at what our budget is."

He said Appalachian State University and UNC-Asheville could be added to the bill because they are smaller schools with extra needs.

Michaux said the historically black schools judged to be underfunded by the study started further behind the other schools because of decades of racism and neglect.

"We brag about having one of the best university systems in the country, but the system could even be better if we didn't always pour vast amounts of funding into the top three schools," Michaux said. "Put it into some of the ones lower down and bring our whole system up to be the best in the country."

Angela Bassett to be guest of honor at benefit

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

Academy Award nominee Angela Bassett, who spent her early childhood years in Winston-Salem, will be the guest of honor at an evening gala on April 17 to benefit Best Choice Center, a community-based, child-development education program in Winston-Salem.

"We are very excited to have a celebrity of Angela Bassett's fame and stature to join us for this very important fund-raiser," said Dorothy Graham-Wheeler, executive director. "This promises to be a very special evening."

The gala is a community celebration of Best Choice Center's 10th anniversary. The fund-raiser will be held from 8-11 p.m. at the Wachovia Linden Building, 401 Linden Street.

Tax-deductible donations to the gala festivities range from \$125-\$500 and the pre-gala reception is \$1,000 per couple. Contributions to the pre-gala reception with Bassett from 5-6 p.m. include a photograph session with Bassett and two histori-

See Bassett on A10



Geneva's softer side



Geneva Brown discusses why she likes "Road Home," one of seven of her paintings that will be on display at The Delta Arts Center next week. For full story, see A3.

