

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S UNSOLVED CASES

Family still seeks missing woman's body

LINDELL JOHN KAY
Rocky Mount Telegram

Elizabeth "Betty" Brown's car was found abandoned in 1977 along an isolated stretch of beach in Kitty Hawk.

The Rocky Mount woman has never been seen again.

Often times in such cases, very little information can be found years later for detectives and reporters to sift through. But Betty's family, especially her daughters Cherie and Susan, have taken important steps to preserve case-breaking information in hopes that someone someday will be able to recover Betty's remains. The family wants her to receive a proper burial.

The family created a

DNA profile for Betty to compare with unidentified bodies. They also hired private investigators to run down every possible lead while generating extra clues for police.

Betty, 57, was last seen Feb. 21, 1977, in Manteo. Her 1976 red, white and blue Chevy Vega was found deserted in nearby Kitty Hawk.

Betty's family dismissed her second husband Lee Brown as a suspect for years because he had recently undergone surgery for cancer at the time Betty vanished. The case has more twists than a ride at the state fair with investigative rabbit holes including a murderous biker gang and infamous serial killer Henry Lee Lucas. But the

truth of murder is that it's almost always committed by someone the victim knows.

About five years after Betty disappeared, her family hired private investigators, including the famed Pinkerton's Detective Agency. The Pinkertons tracked down Lee Brown. By 1984, he was living in Daytona, Fla. He told the Pinkertons he had a new wife and didn't want to be harassed.

A few years later, Betty's family hired another private investigator. The investigator submitted a 23-page report with extensive attachments to Betty's daughters on Feb. 23, 1989, a dozen years after her disappearance and nearly three decades ago. However, the report sheds light

on the circumstances of Betty's disappearance and raises questions into the lack of thoroughness during the subsequent police investigation.

The Manteo Police Department never investigated the case beyond the initial report of an abandoned vehicle. A police captain in Rocky Mount initially told the investigator all records that old had been destroyed. But some reports later surfaced.

The captain put the investigator in contact with Charles Ramsey, a retired police officer who in 1977 lived next door to Betty on Pelham Road.

Although Betty's house had been sold and maybe even resold, Ramsey still lived

next door in 1989. He told the investigator he knew Betty and Lee for about three years. Ramsey said the couple kept to themselves except a few times like a night Betty ran outside their home shouting, "He's going to do it."

Ramsey found Lee in the living room with a .38-caliber revolver in his mouth. Ramsey took the pistol but returned it about three weeks later. Lee was sent to rehab by his employer, all according to the investigator's report.

Once Betty's car was returned to Rocky Mount, Lee washed and cleaned it inside and out before later reporting to police that Betty had been missing for a week.

Ramsey said Lee

never once asked for an update in Betty's disappearance. Shortly after she vanished, Lee packed up and moved.

"Mr. Ramsey stated he suspected Lee had something to do with the subject's disappearance but he never had any hardcore proof where Lee could be charged," according to the report.

Lee Brown died soon after speaking with the Pinkertons. Ramsey died in 1996.

Anyone with information about Betty's fate can call Twin Counties Crime Stoppers at 252-977-1111. Calls are anonymous. A financial reward is available.

Lindell John Kay can be reached via email at lkay@rmttelegram.com.

Drugs

From 1 session of cocaine, maintaining a vehicle, dwelling or place to keep/store a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Joyner was placed under a \$75,000 bond, and made his first appearance in Bertie County District Court Sept. 12.

Cpl. Danielle Colon and Deputy Beverly

Peel assisted with the investigation.

In addition, Sheriff Holley reported officers were called to a residence in Bertie County Sept. 14 where a female was in need of assistance during Hurricane Florence.

Cpl. Colon and Deputy Beverly Harrison arrived at the residence, and then contacted Lt. Roebuck because of

concerns in the residence.

Sgt. Phelps and Det. Ronald Rascoe joined Lt. Roebuck at the residence.

As a result, officers found 3.5 pounds of marijuana, three firearms and over \$8,000 in currency at the residence.

They charged Johnathan Speller Jr. with possession with in-

tent to sell and deliver marijuana, maintaining a vehicle, dwelling or place to keep/store a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Speller was confined to the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail under a \$20,000 secured bond.

"Both of these cases are instances of our officers being alert as to their surroundings,

and working together diligently to take drugs off our streets," Sheriff Holley said. "I commend our officers for their work, and also appreciate the assistance of the Down East Drug Task Force."

Thadd White can be reached via email at twhite@ncweeklies.com.

Sought

On Sept. 11, Det. Rascoe obtained warrants for Jarkeese Rascoe of Cedar Landing Rd. in Windsor, Brittany Vanhorn of Old U.S. 17 in Windsor and Salish Cooper of Cooper Hill Rd. in Windsor.

Cooper was arrested and charged with armed robbery, kidnapping, burglary, safe-cracking, larceny of a firearm and larceny.

Rascoe and Vanhorn are still on the lam despite warrants for the charges against Cooper, as well as possession of

a firearm by a felon.

Sheriff Holley said the duo is believed to be traveling together, and are considered armed and dangerous. Their destination or mode of travel is unknown.

Anyone with information as to the whereabouts of Rascoe or

Vanhorn is requested to call the Bertie County Sheriff's Office at 252-794-5330.

Thadd White can be reached via email at twhite@ncweeklies.com.

Shooting

Regional Jail under a \$250,000 secured bond. He will make his first appearance in Bertie County District Court next week.

Thadd White can be reached via email at twhite@ncweeklies.com.

charges of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury.

Following the hold, Tabborn was confined to the Bertie-Martin

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NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION BERTIE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

A General election will be held in Bertie County on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 to vote on Federal, State, District, County and Judicial Offices; Nonpartisan Board of Education and Nonpartisan Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor; Constitutional Amendments and County Sales and Use Tax. Official explanations of constitutional amendments can be found at ncsbe.gov/Elections/2018-Election-Information or at Bertie Board of Elections office. The polls will be open for voting on that day from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at each of the 12 polling places. The polling places are located at:

All residents of Bertie County who are registered to vote with the Bertie County Board of Elections may vote in this election. Any person who is already registered to vote need not re-register to vote for this election. Those residents of the county who are not registered to vote must register before Friday, October 12, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in order to be eligible to vote on Election Day. However, a North Carolina resident who is qualified to vote, but misses the 25-day deadline for voter registration may register and vote during one stop early voting only, and will be required to provide documentation of their identity and residence. Voters who wish to change their party affiliation or who have changed their name or address must notify the Board of Elections in writing by Friday - October 12, 2018 at 5:00 pm. Voters who fail to notify the Board of Elections of a change to their name or address must update their information when presenting to vote, and may be required to vote a provisional ballot.

The Board of Elections will meet on October 16, October 23, October 30 and November 5 at 5:00 PM; on November 16 at 10:00 AM; and at other times as may be necessary for the purpose of approving absentee ballot applications.

Absentee ballots are allowed and requests for an absentee ballot must be made using the State Absentee Ballot Request Form, available at the County Board of Elections office and on the State Board of Elections website, and received in the Bertie County Board of Elections office or any one-stop early voting site by 5:00 PM on Tuesday - October 30, 2018. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Bertie County Board of Elections by 5:00 PM on Tuesday - November 6 or postmarked on Tuesday - November 6, 2018. Voters may receive assistance voting a mail-in absentee ballot from a qualified person of their choice. If the voter lives in a facility such as a nursing home, and the voter's near relative or legal guardian is not available, the voter or the facility can arrange to have the county board of elections schedule a visit by a Multipartisan Assistance Team to provide assistance and witnesses. Canvass Day will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 16 at the Bertie County Board of Elections. Voters who require assistance with casting their ballot are entitled to assistance by an appropriate person of their choice or an election official. Registration facilities and polling places are accessible to the elderly and handicapped. Curbside voting is available for voters who are not physically able to enter the polling place. Persons with questions about registration, location of polling places, absentee ballots, early voting at One-Stop locations or other election matters may contact the Bertie County Board of Elections at (252) 794-5306.

BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Carol Woodard, Chair | James Lee, Vice-Chair | Glenwood Mitchell, Secretary | James Perry, Jr., Member
Visit us online at www.ncsbe.gov or www.co.bertie.nc.us/departments/elections/elections.html

Referendum on 1/4 cent Sales and Use Tax
BERTIE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

On Tuesday, November 6, 2018, the Bertie Board of Elections will hold a referendum on the question of whether to levy 1/4 cent sales and use tax. This referendum is for all of Bertie County, and all polling places in the county will be open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm. On Tuesday, November 6th a voter will need to go to his or her regular polling place.

One Stop (early) voting will begin on Wednesday, October 17th and end on Saturday, November 3rd at the
BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE
210 W WATSON ST. WINDSOR, NC 27983

Wednesday, Oct. 17 - Friday, Oct. 19 7am-7pm
Monday, Oct. 22 - Friday, Oct. 26 7am-7pm
Monday, Oct. 29 - Friday, Nov. 2 7am-7pm
Saturday, Nov. 3 8am-1pm

A Bertie County resident who is qualified to vote, but who misses the 25-Day deadline for voter registration may register and vote at a One-Stop Site during the One-Stop Absentee Voting period.

For additional information contact the Bertie County Board of Elections at (252) 794-5306

Carol Woodard, Chair
James Lee, Vice-Chair
Glenwood Mitchell, Secretary
James Perry, Jr., Member
BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Child and Adult Care Food Program Media Release
Kiddie World Agreement Number 7066

Kiddie World announces their participation of the U.S. Department Agriculture funded Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals will be available at no separate charge to enrolled participants. The income guidelines for free and reduced price meals by family size are listed below. Children who are TANF recipients or who are members of SNAP or FDIPIR households or are Head Start participants, are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits. Adult participants who are members of food stamp or FDIPIR households or who are SSI or Medicaid participants are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture, (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency (State or Local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, a program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: <http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaintfilingcust.html>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442; or email at program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Household Size:	YEARLY		MONTHLY		TWICE PER MONTH		EVERY TWO WEEK		WEEKLY	
	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	15,678	22,311	1,307	1,860	654	930	603	859	302	430
2	21,112	30,044	1,760	2,507	880	1,252	812	1,156	406	578
3	26,546	37,777	2,213	3,149	1,107	1,575	1,021	1,453	511	727
4	31,980	45,510	2,665	3,783	1,333	1,897	1,230	1,751	615	876
5	37,414	53,243	3,118	4,437	1,559	2,219	1,439	2,048	720	1,024
6	42,848	60,976	3,571	5,082	1,786	2,541	1,648	2,346	824	1,173
7	48,282	68,709	4,024	5,726	2,012	2,863	1,857	2,643	929	1,322
8	53,716	76,442	4,477	6,371	2,239	3,186	2,006	2,941	1,033	1,471
For each Additional Family member add:	+5,434	+7,733	+453	+645	+227	+323	+209	+298	+105	+149