

Animals (Continued from page 1A)

"P.S. (To The Haven) They are not spayed."

"What do people think we are — psychic?" Spears said of the situation. "How can we know when they (people) leave pets abandoned in garbage cans, culverts or in closed up homes that we will find them?"

These are the stories, of Spears, cruelty investigator Kim Shelton, director of the Hoke County animal shelter managed by the Hoke Raeford Humane Society, and cruelty investigator Michelle Queja. They are protectors administering tender mercies, adoptions, rescues or cruelty prevention for discarded, stray, injured, neglected or abused animals. They are urging people to become good Samaritans to animals.

The victims are: "Precious," a/k/a John Dog, now deceased after being injured by a car; "Prince" renamed Trooper, soon to be euthanized because of starvation, cruelty and untreated cancer; "Sweetie," a homeless puppy who was almost strangled from an in-grown collar; and "Baby Dawg," a small, abandoned Chihuahua who needs surgery for maimed feet due to suspected confinement.

"We want people to be aware of what is going on," Spears said.

Precious

John Morrison of Fayetteville Road could not bear to see the dog, later dubbed "Precious," suffering. The dog was struck by a car on Saturday next to Morrison's home, according to Spears. The dog, described as a gentle, very neglected chow-Labrador had to be euthanized after Spears tried to save him at a veterinarian clinic. Its spine was severed.

"He said he saw law enforcement at the accident scene for more than one hour," Spears said. "He said the dog was injured so badly that it was dragging its hind legs and could not lift its chest off the ground."

"The dog slithered off the road, and one officer shone his flashlight on the dog, but apparently did nothing."

Spears said apparently Animal Control may not have been contacted to rescue the animal, but no one at the scene (allegedly) helped this dog to be treated.

"On Monday morning, the dog crawled back into the road where school buses were going around her, and Mr. Morrison spotted her," Spears said. "He brought her to the shelter in the trunk of his car."

That was the sad end for Precious, and I credit Mr. Morrison for his help."

Spears pondered why no one else attempted to get assistance for the animal.

Prince

Prince, since named Trooper by Shelton and Queja, is a nine-year-old Husky still clinging to life. Queja described him as having massive abscesses around his neck and a terrible

stench, another tumor on his ear, as being malnourished, and having other small tumors covering his body. He is suffering from apparently untreated cancer and heart worms. Queja rescued him from an East Donaldson Street owner after neighbors called for emergency assistance when they became suspicious of the dog lying in the backyard for so long.

"He was shaking so badly from the cold," Queja said. "He had no food or water or shelter," she said. "We put him in a pet carrier, gave him a blanket and took him to Dr. Timothy Jordan at Cross Creek Animal Clinic in Fayetteville. He was in shock. Dr. Jordan said the dog's condition of neglect and suffering was 'prolonged.'"

Queja's daughter, Tiffany, supported her efforts at the veterinary clinic during the ordeal of attempting to save him.

Charges of animal cruelty are pending against Prince's owner for cruelty to animals, and warrants are waiting to be served. A court date is already set for April 8.

"The owner called me after he realized we had taken the dog," Queja said. "He said 'I love that dog and he was only laying down on the ground for the past three days.'"

"I said to him, 'How could you do this to a pet? How would you feel if your wife or child had a tumor as big as a grapefruit on them, and it was not treated?'"

Queja said the prognosis is not encouraging for Prince-Trooper. Jordan is conducting a final test to see if he can be saved, but he may have to be euthanized.

"We do not want this dog to suffer any more," Queja said. "If he cannot be treated, we want to do the right thing."

Queja said she has bonded with Trooper. Yesterday when she visited him at the clinic he started howling and crying as she walked away.

"If we have to euthanize him, I will have to go and say good-bye," Queja said.

Shelton coordinated the rescue of Trooper with husband Donald Louya, an officer in the Humane Society. She was adopting Hoke animals at Pet Smart in Fayetteville on Saturday when she was contacted by Queja about the cruelty case. Shelton, who transports animals weekly to Pet Smart to avoid euthanasia, coordinated the rescue and subsequent medical care for Trooper.

Sweetie

A happier ending may await "Sweetie," a Dachshund mix that is the only surviving puppy of its family. She is available for adoption at The Haven after she was treated for a string tied around her neck like a rope.

According to Spears, it had grown under Sweetie's skin through the

muscle. She was in danger of strangling, she said.

"They were both running loose at a nearby Hoke trailer park," said Spears. "The story is incredible. The mother was under a trailer with her puppies, but the trailer burned down."

"She was wandering around the trailer park so all the other puppies died. The owners apparently just left them and moved away."

Spears said Sweetie's neck was raw from the embedded string.

"It was surgically cleaned out, and now we hope to find a home for Sweetie," she said.

Sweetie's mother is recovering from ascarid "cherry" eyelid. Spears said it went untreated for so long that the dog's infected eyeball might have led to blindness.

Baby Dawg

Spears is hoping someone will have a heart and adopt "Baby Dawg," a Chihuahua that was dumped nearby, suffering from deformed front feet. He is only one-and-a-half pounds when he should weigh 10.

"Baby Dawg is so dehydrated, and he was screaming so terrifyingly when we rescued him," Spears said. "He walks on his bones because his feet are put on backwards."

Spears said the petite dog needs \$400 worth of surgery to save his life. Anyone wishing to donate for Baby Dawg's medical care, or for the care of other rescued animals, may send contributions to: The Haven, 400 Fulford McMillan Road, Raeford, NC 28376, or call (910) 875-6768.

For information on adoption, lost pets, or to send donations to the Hoke animal shelter, call (910) 875-5486.

Two traffic fatalities occur in Hoke

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Two people died in wrecks in Hoke County over the past week, bringing the number of traffic fatalities here this year to three.

Jaime Rodriguez, 20, died Saturday at around midnight after the car he was riding in went out of control, struck an embankment on Calloway Road, and caught fire.

Linda Stephenson Williams, 63, died when her car was struck on U.S. Highway 15/501 near the Moore County line Monday afternoon.

In the Saturday accident, the 1994 Ford Explorer, driven by Isidro Silva Regueira, 32, was traveling south when it went off the road to the right, hit an embankment, which it rode until hitting an oak tree, according to a report filed by Trooper S. Joe. The vehicle then rolled over onto its top and burned.

Mr. Rodriguez was in the back seat and his body was burned beyond recognition, according to the state trooper's report. Regueira and another passenger, Samuel Loper, left the scene but later required medical care and were taken to area hospitals.

Regueira has been charged with reckless driving and misdemeanor death by vehicle.

All three men were residents of 198 Pendergrass Drive.

A blackened area where the wreck occurred can be seen on a curve near the crest of a hill about a mile from Highway 211 West. The scene is up the hill from the site of a February 22,



Scene of a Monday afternoon crash that took the life of a 63-year-old woman in west Hoke.

2001 wreck that instantly killed two young men.

Mrs. Williams died at the scene after her 1987 Oldsmobile was struck by a 1997 Ford pickup. She was on the wrong side of the road, according to a report filed by Trooper P. Marshall.

Facing southwest, Mrs. Williams had evidently stopped to check her mailbox then pulled out in front of the northbound pickup.

Both vehicles ended up on the shoulder on the west side of the road, hers landing in a ditch beside the road. Gray Cottage Lane, that led to her home.

Marshall said Mrs. Williams was wearing a seat belt. The driver of the pickup was reportedly not injured.

The accident was reported at 3:37 p.m.

The first Hoke traffic fatality of this year occurred in the early morning hours of Sunday, February 2. A six-year-old Pembroke boy, Nicholas Bullard, died when the car he was in was broadsided by a minivan allegedly being driven without headlights. That crash occurred at the intersection of Old Wire Road and Highway 211 South.

Equipment (Continued from page 1A)

and is probably packed in surplus. In the Department of Social Services, a word processor and two items of furniture from 2002 were not found, totaling almost \$650. At the Register of Deeds office a 1990 page number machine valued at \$600 was not found.

Approximately \$8,000 worth of the \$14,000 in equipment missing in the Hoke Utilities Department was viewed in place by Edwards and Scurry. About \$6,000 of older equipment was not located. Juvenile Services was shy \$1,000 in old items in Baker's inventory, but Edwards said everything was accounted for and seen. In the Solid Waste division, nothing was missing. A missing colometer and computer upgrade costing about \$1,500 were found. The Hoke Jail inventory from Baker indicated a 1993 Panasonic printer for \$350 was missing, and it was not found by Edwards.

An inventory at the Hoke Court-

house indicated approximately \$1,500 of furniture was no longer on the premises, but Edwards said the furnishings are present. Only a 12-year-old desk valued at \$200 was not found. At least \$5,500 of the \$8,000 worth of equipment reportedly missing from the Parks and Recreation Department was still not found by Edwards. However, the missing intercom and walkie-talkie systems were between 7-16 years old. A \$3,000 Canon copier was found in a closet where it was stored for usage.

At the Hoke Public Library, a microfilm stand and separate printer purchased for \$5,400 in 2000 is still allegedly unaccounted for, according to the updated inventory of Edwards. At the Board of Elections office, an old 1988 IBM display terminal, costing \$738, was found. Baker said many departments were found with no discrepancies. Those departments already reporting all

items accounted for in Baker's and Edwards most recent inventory without questions, were: The Vehicle Maintenance; Animal Control; Hoke Area Transit; Literacy Council; Vehicle Maintenance; Soil & Water; Veterans Service office; Senior Services; Tax Collection; Tax Administration; and Ed Bradley's Office. Only an old metal table, estimated to cost \$100, was not accounted for in the GIS Mapping.

In the Inspections Department and Finance and administration of the county manager, no significant items were missing. In fact, Baker said several items discovered were extra equipment not on the inventory list. Edward's inventory substantiated this, too.

"We are still looking for the missing equipment regardless of how old it is," Edwards said. "We are looking for any records of auctions that may substantiate why this equipment is missing."

Patrol cars (Continued from page 1A)

"Thank you for your assistance," Peterkin said. "We may not need two out of the other four I plan to request at budget time. Drug forfeiture moneys will probably pay for two of them."

The state of our aging fleet was further compounded when no replacement vehicles were ordered during this (last) year's budget."

According to Peterkin, four primary patrol vehicles were lost due to traffic accidents and not replaced under the former administration.

"This created a void of 10 first-line vehicles for our office," he said.

The board approved having Finance Director Scott Edwards establish a capital reserve fund of \$150,000 for the six approved cars. State statutes require an audit certification that money is in place to cover purchases even if delivery is to be later. The two used vehicles will be paid for out of the general fund. Peterkin estimated the used cars would cost \$18,000-\$20,000. They will be purchased from the inventory of used N.C. Highway Patrol vehicles with equipment recycled at no cost from surplus, according to Peterkin.

The Sheriff's fleet consists of 33 front line vehicles and eight support vehicles. Peterkin said 44 percent of the patrol vehicles have been driven more than 100,000 miles. He said unmarked vehicles are averaging about 30,000 miles per year.

Among the fleet are: 17 vehicles with more than 100,000 miles, 14 with more than 120,000 miles, five with more than 150,000 miles, four with more than 170,000 miles and one with more than 200,000 miles.

"One of the goals of the scheduled replacement program is to reduce operating and repair expenses, while increasing the safety, availability and dependability of our fleet," Peterkin said. "Because our officers are required to respond to life and death situations at any given time, it is my duty to ensure that these officers have the proper equipment and vehicles to respond expeditiously and safely to

the needs of our citizens," he added. "Under the current situation, I am not able to meet this critical, life safety task and therefore request immediate relief from the board of commissioners."

Peterkin thanked the board for allowing him to purchase the two used vehicles right away. He said he was also pleased he could order six patrol cars now, eliminating the delay it would have cost if they could not be ordered prior to June 30. Normally, it takes six months to receive a completely equipped patrol car after it is ordered, he said.

"Thank you for your support on this significant public safety issue," Peterkin said.

Peterkin said he will be obtaining bids from Lafayette Ford, and hopes to use a local vendor.

"We are struggling with no spare vehicles," Peterkin said. "We are short. It is costing a lot of money just to repair them."

Wright pointed out that the loss of the damaged vehicle will be covered by insurance, indicating the proceeds will cover one of the used-car purchases.

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Officers charge two men

A Fort Bragg soldier residing in Raeford was arrested last Wednesday for taking indecent liberties with a 13-year-old girl.

Brian Phillip Owens, 20, of Tolson Court, was charged by the Hoke Sheriff's Office. He was placed on a \$10,000 secured bond.

Sheriff Hubert Peterkin said the alleged crime against the minor reportedly occurred on January 20.

In a separate drug arrest, a Shannon resident was arrested yesterday by the Sheriff's Office and the Raeford Police Department in a joint operation. Warrants were issued on February 20.

Euseo Enriquez Jr., 20, of Balfour Road was charged with the manufac-



Euseo Enriquez Jr. faces drug charges.

turing of cocaine, possession with the intent to sell and deliver marijuana, and possession of a stolen firearm.

He was placed on a \$3,000 secured bond.

H.E.L.P. accepts donations

The Hoke Emergency Liaison Program (H.E.L.P.) is a non-profit thrift store. H.E.L.P. is here for your shopping needs and will accept your tax deductible donations. Proceeds go to help Hoke County residents in need. The store is located at 120 Main Street in downtown Raeford. For more information, call 875-8857.



Sweetie is available for adoption at The Haven after suffering from a string that had dug into the flesh of its neck.

CHIROPRACTIC OUTLOOK

Dr. Tony Santangelo
Chiropractic
Physician

FOLLOW THE NFL LEAD

When you go to a chiropractor, you are following the example of numerous professional football players. At least seventy-five percent of NFL players obtain chiropractic care for their body aches and pains, says the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*.

To determine the extent of chiropractic care in the NFL, researchers sent a questionnaire on frequency and treatment type to the head athletic trainers of every team in the league. Of the two-thirds of trainers responding:

- 45 percent had personally seen a chiropractor
- 77 percent had referred players to a chiropractor
- 31 percent had an official chiropractor on their staff

Low back pain, neck injuries and headaches predominated as ailments. If you suffer from one of these conditions or other spinal or muscular problems, be sure to see a Doctor of Chiropractic as soon as possible. You will soon feel good enough to score a touchdown.

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