

Police arrest man in knifing

A Hertford man attacked a woman with a knife Wednesday of last week following a domestic argument, Hertford Police report.

The woman, Shirley Cooper of 208 King Street, was treated and released from Chowan Hospital after suffering cuts above her left eye, on her left cheek, neck and upper chest.

Police arrested Johnnie Lee Bishop, 37, of Route 1, Hertford, forcibly restraining him after he allegedly attempted to resist Hertford Police Capt. Robert Morris. He was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious bodily injury and resisting arrest.

Police believe Bishop attacked Cooper at the residence of Bessie Ferebee at 109 King Street. According to police, Bishop attacked her with a pocket knife at about 3 p.m. that day after an argument broke out between the two.

Morris arrested Bishop at the scene of the crime. The suspect was released on \$750 bond.

Police also arrested three Hertford men after a fight in the alley behind the Pinball Palace on Church Street last February 24.

Zachery Derryl Madre, 19, of Route 3, Hertford, and Mark Allen Lane 18 of Route 3, Hertford were charged with a simple affray, and Charles Eddie Wharton, 24, of Route 3 Hertford was charged with assault and battery.

Police believe an argument between Madre and the other two men in the amusement center led to the fight in the alley at about 8 p.m. According to police, the other two men accused Madre of being a police informant.

All three were released on their own recognizance.

Holiday Is. woman commits suicide

Mrs. Barbara Ann Ashley Everett, 29, of 36 Tranquility Lane, Holiday Island, was found at her home Saturday between 5-5:15 p.m. after she allegedly shot herself in the head with a .22 caliber pistol.

Perquimans County Sheriff Julian Broughton found Everett after receiving a call of suspicious activities. Everett died enroute to Chowan Hospital.

Broughton said an investigation is continuing.

A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Everett had resided in Holiday Island for the past seven years.

She was the widow of the late Harry Warner Everett, Sr.

Surviving her are her father, Horace P. Ashley, Jr. and stepmother, Mrs. Joyce Ann Ashley of Norfolk; a stepson, Harry W. Everett, Sr. of Chesapeake; a half sister, Miss Shirley Ann Ashley of Norfolk; a brother, Horace Clifton Ashley of Norfolk; her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Nina W. Ashley of Norfolk; and her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Nannie Holdzkom of Norfolk.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Rosewood Memorial Park in Virginia Beach.

Graham Funeral Home of South Norfolk is in charge.

Fighting a mysterious, deadly ailment

Woodville boy struggles with sudden infant death syndrome

By SUSAN HARRIS

Watching William Kempinger is like watching other young children at play until you realize that William is 40 months old.

Small for his age, William has only learned to walk and talk within the past eight months. If you listen you can hear his labored breathing as he plays.

The son of Frank and Paulette Kempinger, William weighed 2 pounds 1 ounce at his premature birth on November 18, 1978. The Kempingers took their young son home on January 24, but within six days had to return William to the hospital where he stayed until February 16.

Mrs. Kempinger noticed as soon as she brought William home that his breathing was abnormal, and that he had a very feeble cry.

That was the beginning of the rollercoaster ride for the Kempingers that still has not ended.

In October 1980 William had his first real crisis. Although the pediatricians at Albemarle Hospital stayed by his bed all night long, they were at a loss to find William's problem.

Within 48 hours of his admission to the hospital, William was in full respiratory distress.

After being transferred to Kings Daughters, William turned blue, his heart failed and his liver was enlarged.

Again, the doctors could not pinpoint his problem.

Mrs. Kempinger knew it had something to do with his breathing, but she could not convince the doctors of her theory.

In desperation, she taped William's breathing and played it for the doctors at Kings Daughters on a subsequent visit, who then realized he did not breathe like a normal child.

William was transferred by air ambulance to the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, one of only two SIDS institutes in the country.

In Baltimore, doctors who have studied apnea in children examined William. He was labeled a potential SIDS victim.

Adding to William's problems are mild cerebral palsy and being developmentally delayed.

William's trachea (breathing passageway) is two sizes too small for him. In an effort to clear the passageway, he has had his adenoids removed three times in the past fifteen months.

Scar tissue grows extremely fast in the back of William's throat since his surgery, further blocking his already narrow airway.

Because he cannot get enough oxygen through his airway, William has a build up of carbon dioxide in his bloodstream when he sleeps. When the level gets high enough, he becomes listless and fussy.

William has spent several nights in a sleep lab where he is "totally wired" according to his mother, and all his functions are monitored.

The findings of these tests are that William, for reasons the doctors cannot explain, wakes himself up before he gets to the point where his breathing has stopped long enough to cause death.

Because he wakes himself up so often, he doesn't grow when he sleeps like normal children. Doctors discovered through additional tests that William has in fact stopped growing many times.

"Basically what he needs is time to grow," William's mother said.

"I feel very fortunate" to still have William, she added. "This is the first time we've had real hope."

That hope is thanks to the doctors in the SIDS institute who believed Mrs. Kempinger when she said there was something wrong with William's breathing.

These doctors had the technology and training to put all the results together from the tests William had endured during his short life to come up with some answers.

The treatment for William's problems are difficult to devise because, as Mrs. Kempinger said, "the wrong treatment for him could be his death."

William is hooked up to a

monitor when he sleeps that signals his parents when he is in respiratory trouble.

William has been in and out of the SIDS institute since November, and just this week doctors requested that he check in for another eight weeks.

The doctors are very concerned about William psychologically because he has spent so much of his life in a hospital away from his family.

Mrs. Kempinger said, "He's not the same baby I took in (to the hospital)."

William's illness has taken its toll on his family. No one would listen to Mrs. Kempinger when she first noticed William's problems, which frustrated her, but also made her angry.

"I did go to Baltimore very, very angry," she said. "It was the last hope, but I'm not angry any more."

"The whole experience has been very, very difficult," Mrs. Kempinger said, adding, "You keep going, you keep fighting, and you don't give up."

Although they've only been in Woodville about a year, Mrs. Kempinger said the people here have been wonderful. "People have been just really, really incredible," she said.

"Thank you just doesn't seem to cover it all," she said of the things people have done for them. "You can't do it alone," she admitted.

The Hertford BPW is sponsoring a bake, craft, and yard sale on April 10 to raise money to help with William's tremendous medical bills.

The bake and craft sale will be on the courthouse green, and the yard sale will be on Grubb Street beside the Municipal Building.

Anyone wishing to donate baked goods, crafts, or other items is encouraged to call 426-7737. Cash donations may be mailed to Route 4, Box 20, Hertford.

You wouldn't be able to resist helping out if this adorable blonde-haired tyke had given you the big kiss he gave me when I left him.

I have to agree with William's mother: "He's just a regular kid."



William Kempinger

SIDS stumps physicians

By SUSAN HARRIS

Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is a killer of infants that strikes like a thief in the night, leaving no apparent cause for the death of its young victim.

Although SIDS has been around since Biblical times and has been called overlaying, crib death, and cot death, scientists still have been unsuccessful in finding its cause.

There are no warning signs of SIDS, making it impossible to predict or prevent the killer of 8,000-10,000 infants in the U.S. per year.

The typical SIDS victim is a perfectly healthy baby between one and six months of age who is put to bed as usual, then found dead at a later time.

The autopsy reveals no cause of death, and another loss of life is credited to the unexplainable syndrome.

What is known about SIDS is that it is not hereditary or contagious nor is it caused by suffocation, aspiration or regurgitation. It attacks males more often than females, blacks more often than whites.

It has also been determined that

the parents' ages, feeding techniques, child's position in the family, nutrition, prenatal care, care of the child, education or marital status of the parents have no bearing on SIDS.

Death appears to be very sudden, and because the children do not cry, doctors feel that there is no pain.

There are several theories of SIDS' cause presently being studied. Hopefully these theories will lead to the prevention of the syndrome.

The most promising of the new hypotheses is that SIDS is caused by breathing apnea (or the temporary stoppage of breathing) which is present in normal infants, but is more prominent in SIDS children.

When it is determined that a child has respiratory problems and is a likely SIDS victim, the child may be hooked up to a monitor when he sleeps.

This monitor signals when the child has stopped breathing, so that the parent can wake him up which automatically stimulates his breathing.

(Continued on page 2)

NC 2000 holds public hearing

The public meeting of the Perquimans County NC 2000 attracted only 18 persons, but if one goes by the quality, rather than the quantity of participation the meeting could be considered a successful start for Governor James Hunt's program to invite citizens to suggest plans for the twenty-first century.

The meeting was short on the very citizens the governor wants to include, but present were several community leaders who by their positions add some clout to the county's meeting.

Among the people there were state

representative Charles Evans, County School Superintendent Pat Harrell, County Democratic Party Chairman Estelle Felton, County Commissioner W.W. White, former town councilman Erie Haste, and county NC 2000 committee co-chairman R.S. Monds. The other co-chairman, Hertford Mayor Bill Cox, was unable to attend because of a last-minute engagement.

The program for this meeting was largely background information on what is to be expected in this county and the state by the year 2000.

(Continued on page 2)



State representative Charles Evans talks with citizens and local officials at the NC 2000 courthouse last week. public hearing at the county

Cheese distribution was a cinch

By TOM OSTROSKY

The infamous cheese giveaway began and ended in Perquimans County without a hitch, to the delight and surprise of county Social Services Director Paul Gregory.

Gregory said he had had nightmares about distributing the cheese, which the Department of Agriculture is giving to states and counties to be passed out to food stamp recipients.

Those nightmares were fueled by reports of near mob scenes, fights, and lines of hundreds of people during distribution of the cheese in other North Carolina counties.

But in Perquimans County, there were no mobs, no fights, very little line, and comparatively little expense involved in the cheese

pass-out.

"I stood in too many lines in college," said Gregory. "I didn't want people here to stand in line, especially for a block of cheese."

The Social Services Department had done all the paperwork in advance, Gregory said. The department decided to distribute the cheese according to the size of the food stamp family, rather than on a first-come, first-served basis that has caused trouble elsewhere.

The department mailed out applications for the cheese to potential recipients, which included the amount of cheese they would receive and the day and time they could pick it up.

Not only were there no lines, but by spreading the distribution over three days it got downright boring for Gregory — who handed out the

cheese himself, with help from another Social Services employee — to stand around the Hertford Ice Plant where the cheese is stored and wait for the next customer.

There were a couple of other surprises also. For one, contrary to reports many have heard, the cheese does not have a half-an-inch of mold on the outside, but rather appears to be perfectly good processed American cheese, just what you might buy in a grocery store.

"It's good cheese for cooking, or putting on a sandwich or something," Gregory said.

There was another surprise though. "What you just saw there," Gregory said after he handed out a block of cheese to

(Continued on page 2)

Town council paves Gaston Drive

By SUSAN HARRIS

An additional 1,075 feet of Gaston Drive will be paved within the next few months if funds permit, the town council decided at its regular meeting Monday night.

Thirteen Gaston Drive residents attended the meeting and requested that the town extend the pavement to the driveway of the last house on the street.

"We've been talking about this a long time," said Douglas Umphlett, spokesperson for the residents.

Umphlett cited several reasons for paving the street, among them the holes caused by inclement weather and the dust problem that affects the whole community.

"I know it's a problem," Councilman Jessie Harris said. "I think the board ought to try if possible to get

that (the paving) done this spring," he added.

Of the cost of the project, Mayor and City Manager Bill Cox reported that paving a 1,075 foot stretch with a 20 foot wide, 1 1/2 inch deep hard surface would cost "in the neighborhood of \$8,400."

"I think we can handle it," Cox further stated.

Galther Builders will have begun its work on the picnic shelter/parking lot complex in Missing Mill Park by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10 or will be considered in default, according to City Manager Cox. He added that he expects Galther to comply with contract terms.

Councilman John Beers told council that he had been approached by several citizens asking that the council take action on trains passing

through the town at high rates of speed.

Mayor Cox volunteered to look into the matter.

This week

Perquimans Union teacher Parthenia Hill is honored by the Jaycees. Turn to page three.

Weather

Partly cloudy through Saturday, highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s.

