

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 59, No. 2

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, January 11, 1990

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Briefs

Mumps outbreak reported here

There have been several cases of mumps confirmed in the health district area according to Howard Campbell, Health Director for the PPCC District Health Department. The Health Department serves Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden and Chowan counties.

Mumps is an acute viral disease characterized by fever, swelling and tenderness of one or more salivary glands. About one third of exposed susceptible persons have no apparent symptoms. Mumps occurs less regularly than other common communicable diseases of childhood such as measles and chickenpox. Winter and spring are seasons of greatest prevalence.

Susceptibility is general. Most adults are likely to have been infected naturally and may be considered to be immune, even if they did not have recognized disease.

If you have a child who exhibits the symptoms of mumps, it is recommended that you see a physician for confirmation. If mumps is confirmed, it will be reported to the local health authority by the physician. Children are advised to return to school 9 days after the onset of swelling. No specific treatment is indicated.

County Heart Association names Board

The Perquimans County Board of Directors for the American Heart Association's 1990 campaign year include the following officers:

Chris O. Lane, president; Pat Rountree, secretary (and Home With Heart Chair); Roy S. Chappell, Jr., treasurer (and Memorial Chair).

Additional volunteers include: Robert E. Lane, M.D. (Fund Raising Chair); Elizabeth S. Thatch (Residential Chair); Paige L. Underwood (Rural Heart Fund Drive Chair); Lessie E. White (Rural Community Chair-Winfall); Juanita Bailey (Food Festival Chair); Sharman Haskett (Telepledge Chair); Suzanne Haste (Poster Chair) and Susan Winslow (Educational Community Program Chair).

The American Heart Association is the nation's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to the reduction of disability and death from heart and blood vessel diseases, which annually kill almost one million Americans. Last year the AHA spent more than \$150 million for research support and public and professional education and community programs.

Minorities are encouraged to get farm loans

Melvin E. Howell, County Supervisor for Farmers Home Administration, (FmHA) in Chowan and Perquimans County is encouraging the participation of minorities in the Agency's Farm Loan program. Howell stated that as a result of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, twenty-one (21) percent of the farm ownership loan funds and farm inventory property will be reserved for minority farmers in North Carolina. The targeting of loan funds to minorities will assist FmHA in its efforts to reverse the loss of farm ownership by that group. Persons interested in the program should contact the local county FmHA office located in the ARPDC Building on Church Street Extended, Hertford, NC (919) 426-5733.

FmHA is a lender of funds for Agriculture and Rural Development within the United States Department of Agriculture.

Catch Pirate fever!

Watch Pirate basketball each Tuesday and Friday

Joint drug operation nets no arrests

"We got burned," said Sheriff Joe Lothian discussing a drug operation conducted jointly by his department and the Hertford Police Department Friday evening.

According to Lothian, an apartment at 225 Wynn Fork Courts occupied by Corlie L. Askew was searched. Informants had given local law enforcement officials information that significant quantities of controlled substances were in the apartment.

Approximately one hour before the search was to get underway, another law enforcement agency in the Albemarle Area called to say that they had received word from their sources that corroborated the information Lothian had received from his informant.

While local officials mapped out their search and seizure strategy, Lothian feels that one of his informants decided to "roll over," to warn Askew of the impending raid. Although this has not happened to Lothian often in his career, he said it sets up real danger for his men.

"The people knew we were coming," Lothian commented.

No drugs were found, but Lothian said the operation was not a total failure.

Although we didn't find any controlled substances, we found various pieces of information that will be turned over to the Nassau County (New York) Drug Enforcement Task Force," the sheriff stated. "We found a lot of information showing a connection between

here and major drug dealers in New York City. For the past couple of months, Chief Sample and myself have been working on an information exchange between here and Nassau County that has proved very productive.

The officers also found other information which indicated that large quantities of money are being moved in and out of this area. "For a low-income housing project, that's kind of an amazing situation," Lothian said.

Another fact draws attention to the drug dealers in Wynn Fork Courts. "It's not unusual to see large luxury cars sitting there, such as Mercedes, BMWs," Lothian stated. There was a Mercedes in the parking lot at the time of the raid.

"There was some success with this particular raid. However, after you work several hours on a search warrant you really hope that you'll get a little bit more in the way of controlled substances than we got," commented Lothian.

It is not unusual to see police cars or hear sirens at Wynn Fork Courts. Several drug operations have been undertaken in the project, and many arrests have been made. There are also numerous calls requesting law enforcement assistance due to alleged assaults and burglary, many instances through to be drug-related.

"Wynn Fork Courts is one of our problem areas as far as drug traffic in this area," Lothian said.



Pictured are items confiscated in drug raids conducted by the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department recently. Cocaine, marijuana, paraphernalia, guns and knives are kept under lock and key and are used for evidence in trials.

Drug raids: Long process, dangerous business

What is behind a drug raid? Do law enforcement officials plan a raid on the word of an informant alone? Are drug operations spur-of-the-moment attempts to nab dealers and quantities of controlled substances?

Not likely, according to Sheriff Joe Lothian. Most drug operations take time and money to set up. Anything done on the spur of the moment can only be done due to prior training of officers, and will only be done if a situation is serious enough to demand immediate action.

And Lothian should know. His department and the Hertford Police Department boast an excellent record for drug arrests. Nine officers from the two departments rated 35th in the state in drug arrests last year with almost 300 arrests. That figure does not include citations issued for such infractions as simple possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia.

Lothian said the record indicates two things: 1. The law enforcement officers here are a very dedicated group attempting to rid the county of drugs; and 2. "When nine officers can make almost 300 drug arrests, it's time everybody takes a look to see just how big a problem we have." The raid set-up

If information concerning drug traffic falls into the hands of law enforcement officials, they know they must work discreetly to avoid allowing those allegedly involved to become aware they are under investigation. Surveillance and buys are two forms of information-gathering.

Officers may keep some alleged traffickers watched almost around the clock. Or they may be watched during certain time periods when officers feel that more useful information can be gathered.

Drug dealers also keep tabs on officers, so they must be careful. The officers do not take any action that might draw attention to an upcoming drug operation. Dealers also hire young children - sometimes under 10, according to Lothian - to watch officers and patrol cars when shipments come in or big deals are going down.

Sometimes officer from departments outside the county buy drugs from local dealers. These buys are expensive, as cocaine is not a cheap drug. Even crack, which is considered a much less expensive drug, must be bought in suffi-

cient quantities to build a solid case. The buys are risky deals for the officer working undercover. If the dealer realizes he's selling to an officer, the officer's life is in danger.

Sufficient evidence must be presented to a judicial official so that a search warrant can be issued.

The search warrant affidavit must be perfect. Any errors could prove disastrous at worst, embarrassing at least, in court. The document is written, then checked thoroughly. It is submitted to a magistrate or district court judge. This judicial official again checks the document for accuracy, and makes sure it meets the criteria for a search warrant issuance. Lothian said the thoroughness of the local magistrates has helped to insure court successes here.

Once the search warrant is issued, all officer to be involved meet to discuss specific duties. Lothian said that when every officer performs his assigned task, the operation runs smoothly. Any deviation can endanger the lives of fellow officers and innocent buy-standers. For this reason, most officers are trained to perform a specific task, and to become an expert in that area.

Just prior to leaving the meeting place to execute the operation, each officer prepares himself. Some tell jokes, others go over entry procedures, still others pace nervously. Finally, when the time is right, the officer in charge gives the word to move out. The group pulls together like a small army heading out to fight the war on drug traffic.

When all officers are in position, the word is given to proceed. The officers assigned to gain entry approach the dwelling and announce their presence. If the persons inside the dwelling do not open the door, the search team may forcibly enter. Once entry is gained, the first order of business is to secure the premises for the safety of the officers and occupants.

After the property is secure, the evidence officer comes in with his equipment and the canine handler brings in the dog. Each room is thoroughly searched with the dog, followed by a manual search. Where evidence is found, by whom it is found, what time it is found and what it is believed to be is carefully recorded by the evidence officer. He is responsible for all evi-

dence from the time it is found until the case comes to trial.

Although the canine search is extremely useful in quickly and easily finding drugs, a hand search can unveil other information, such as written documentation about dealers, that is beneficial to the overall efforts to fight drug traffic. Often stolen goods are found. The sheriff's department has never found a controlled substance behind their canine.

With the dwelling search over, the officers determine what charges are applicable. The person or persons to be arrested are taken to the law enforcement department in charge of the operation. The suspects are fingerprinted and photographed, then taken before a magistrate who will set bond. If those charged cannot meet bond, they are transported to Albemarle District Jail to await trial. From there, the case makes its way through the courts.

Lothian said his department has never had to use deadly force on a drug raid. He has, however, had officers injured from forcibly entering a dwelling. Officers have also been assaulted by drug dealers.

It is upsetting to any law enforcement officer to go through the time and danger involved in a drug operation only to have a judge hand down an extremely light sentence. Some judges from outside the district have tried cases here, giving such light sentences law enforcement officials felt their work setting up drug operations was in vain.

There is a bright side however. "Our resident superior court judges have a history of taking a hard line against drug dealers in our community," Lothian said, adding that he wishes they could try all his cases.

Officer training is crucial to drug operations. Lothian and Hertford Police Chief Aubrey Sample are working to put together a group of officers from both departments who will receive special training to deal with drug operations. In the last year, instructors from the Salem Police Academy have worked with the men on search and seizure procedures.

"Hopefully, we can get some more people in here to give the men a little extra information on handling these situations," Lothian said.

Meanwhile, drug dealers beware.

Perquimans woman arrested in Day Care sex abuse case

By JOE SOUTHERN
Daily Advance Staff Writer

EDENTON — A Perquimans County woman was arrested Tuesday morning and charged with sexual offenses against seven children at the former Little Rascals Day Care Center.

Robin Boles Byrum, 19, of Route 2 Box 664, Edenton - the address is Edenton though the residence is in Perquimans County - was indicted by a Chowan County grand jury this week on 13 bills, including eight counts of first-degree sex offense, 12 counts of indecent liberties, one count of crimes against nature and one count of conspiracy to commit indecent liberties.

Byrum is being held in the Albemarle District Jail in lieu of a \$500,000 secured bond. She was brought before Judge Frank R. Brown Tuesday morning for a bond hearing. At that time she requested a court-appointed attorney. She is a former employee of the center, and was in charge of caring for two and three-year-olds.

Byrum is one of two defendants connected with five other defendants in the case. Also charged in the case this week was Darlene Harris of Edenton. The other defendants include Robert F. "Bob" Kelly, Elizabeth T. "Betsy" Kelly, Willard Scott Privott, Shelley Alyce Stone and Kathryn Dawn Wilson. The case now involves seven defendants charged with various sex offenses against 27 children at the day care center. District Attorney H.P. Williams said as many as 70 children are undergoing therapy in connection with the case.

Thompson will seek re-election for third term

Representative R. M. "Pete" Thompson announced his bid for re-election to a third term in the North Carolina House of Representatives. He will be seeking one of the two seats in the North Carolina House First District.

Representative Thompson is a native of Pasquotank County and has been employed in Perquimans and Chowan counties as Agricultural Extension service Director. He retired in 1980 and was employed at Chowan Storage, a peanut seed processor in Chowan County. He is married to Carolyn Pemberton Thompson, has one son, two daughters and five grandchildren.

At the present time, Representative Thompson is serving on the Natural Resources Commission as Chairman of the Wildlife Commission. He also serves on the Finance, Health and Public Employees Committees.

Legislation in 1988 that was of special interest was the establishment of the Highway Fund and Senate Bill III that deals with landfills and recycling. Both of these issues have great impact on the first house district.

Representative Thompson said he pledges to continue to work for the benefit of all the people of the First District and believes that his record will deserve the support.

New home

Youthland Children's Wear moved to a new home last week. After 32 years at 123 N. Church Street, Youthland has set up shop at 144 N. Church Street. The Chamber of Commerce sponsored a ribbon cutting on Friday, Jan. 5 in honor of the company's re-location. On hand were Hertford Mayor Bill Cox, Youthland owners Milfred S. and Marjorie F. Rountree, clerk Myrtle Copeland, store manager Elie Forehand, Chamber president Lewis Evans, chamber representatives Nancy Newbern and John Christensen, and Peoples Bank representatives Janie Proctor, Reva Evans and Becky Winslow.

Youthland sells girls' sizes infant to pre-teen, and boys' sizes infant to 12. The store is open six days a week from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

