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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Hertford Council deals with dog problem

New ordinance ups fines for loose dogs and cats in town

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Hertford Town Council is dog-gone tired of having to deal with loose canine problems.

Some even suggested that if enacting a tougher loose animal ordinance doesn't work, the town will look for a way to add its own animal control officer to the payroll.

After hearing repeated complaints from residents about being chased and bothered by stray animals within the town's limits, council unanimously voted to pass an updated animal ordinance in regular session Monday evening.

The new ordinance raises the fine for having a loose animal from \$10 to \$25. It will also contain provisions requiring owners to place owner identification tags on their animals.

State law requires that all dogs wear tags bearing proof of rabies inoculation. Failure to do so can result in the issuance of a criminal citation and a \$65 district court cost fee, according to Hertford Police Chief Bennie Murphy.

Loose dogs will be picked up by the county's part-time animal control officer. The animals' owners will be issued a citation and required to pay all fines before being allowed to pick up captured animals. Anyone claiming to be the owner of an animal without proper identification tags and a rabies tag will be issued appropriate citations.

Citations can be issued by the county animal control officer for Hertford police officers.

Town manager John Christensen said he and Murphy met with county manager Paul Gregory after council's last meeting to discuss the town's animal control concerns. Christensen said there will be a concentrated effort to get rid of loose animals in the town. He said the town will aggressively go after violators.

Councilmen Erie Haste and Billy Winslow voted to enact the new ordinance, both of which expressed concern that further measures may be required.

"The problem is we need someone here...this is a daily thing, hour after hour," Winslow said. He added that it is often hard to trace the owners of stray animals.

Mayor John Beers said if the tougher ordinance is not effective, the town should look to hiring its own animal control officer. He said that stray animals are a concern voiced repeatedly by the residents of the town, and that the council is responsible to its citizens.

The ordinance initially presented to council only raised the fine for loose animals. Council instructed town attorney Walter Edwards to incorporate the identification and rabies inoculation requirements, and to add that the town may seek relief under all other provisions of state law.

THE COLORS OF SPRING



PHOTO BY JEFF HUTCHENS, THE DAILY ADVANCE
Nellie Harrell of New Hope Road weeds her flowers Tuesday morning in front of her home.

"Miss" Mamie turns 100

She's lost her gall bladder, but not one bit of the sharp wit she was born with on May 8, 1895.

Mary Louise "Mamie" Long Sawyer celebrated her 100th birthday Monday, enjoying a lunch with her three nieces at Captain Bob's and returning to Morgan's Rest Home for a party in her honor.

Miss Mamie said she hasn't figured out yet how she's managed to stay so healthy for so long. According to Sylvia Rae Morgan of Morgan's Rest Home, Miss Mamie takes very little medication and only has to visit her doctor for annual checkups.

Bill Goodwin, the husband of one of her deceased nieces, jokes that it's the onion Miss Mamie eats each day that's kept her in such great shape. Miss Mamie said she eats onions raw, fried, even boiled in salt water.

Perhaps it was thinking of others that helped Miss Mamie reach 100. She didn't have to think at all when asked what the best thing that's happened to her is.

"I thank God today that he gave me strength and help that I could take care of (my sister) until she died," Miss Mamie responded. Miss Mamie's only sister died 14 years ago at the age of 90. She required constant care for 9 months before her death. Miss Mamie provided all of that care.

Until 1990, Miss Mamie lived alone in Edenton, doing all her own chores. A fall led her to Morgan's, where she arrived, along with her rocking chair.

Miss Mamie was born in the Bethel section of Perquimans County, the youngest of seven children. Her mother died when she was only six. She remembers a lot from her childhood, including seeing electric lights for the first time, watching Dr. Cason drive the first car she ever saw, attending the one-room Piney Grove School with its pot-bellied stove, and the solar



Miss Mamie Sawyer relaxes in her room at Morgan's Rest Home in Winfall Tuesday, resting up from her 100th birthday celebration on Monday.

eclipse in 1903. She said her mother smoked a piece of window glass for her so that she could watch the eclipse.

Children today have it made, Miss Mamie thinks. They missed "the good old days" when students chopped wood for the school stove and built the fire each morning. That, of course, was during the few months children went to school back then. The other months were spent working on the farm. Social events included going to church and hog killings.

She also remembers meeting her future husband at Edenton Baptist Church. Duffy Sawyer rode the train up from Washington to visit a girl in Edenton. He arrived to find that the girl already had a date with someone else. Miss Mamie was introduced to Duffy, who later wrote her. She wasn't going to answer, but her friend, Ethel, asked if she could write. Ethel did write, getting a response from Duffy that Miss Mamie said she had to answer. Miss Mamie wrote the next letter, which prompted Duffy to write back and ask to visit her. He arrived one day on the 2 o'clock train and had to stay until the train pulled back out

at 11 p.m.

"That's the way it started and we ended up in marriage," Miss Mamie remembers.

The couple married in 1922 and moved to Waynesville. Miss Mamie remembers riding along on the old mountain roads in a Model T Ford.

Meanwhile, Ethel married one of Miss Mamie's brothers.

Duffy died in 1931. Miss Mamie moved to Edenton around 1941.

While in Waynesville and Edenton, she worked as a dietitian, for the Navy and at Belk-Tyler. She retired from the Chowan County School system. Her sister lived with her during much of her time in Edenton. Miss Mamie worked, but said she turned her pay over to her sister to pay the bills so her sister would have a role in their partnership.

It was obvious on her special day that Miss Mamie, Goodwin, and Miss Mamie's nieces, Erlene Ward Sawyer, Audrey Ward Tadlock and Sarah Forsland, have enjoyed a special relationship over the years. The room was filled with the good-natured teasing of folks who care deeply about each other.

Maybe that's the real secret of Miss Mamie's longevity.

Student dies in accident

Track team member struck by car on return trip from meet in Gaston

Perquimans High School was relatively quiet Friday, as students reacted to the death of one of their own.

Ricky Carter, 16, of Route 2, Box 116T, Meads Trailer Park, died Thursday evening from injuries sustained when he was struck by a vehicle on the way home from a track meet at Northampton West High School in Gaston. The incident occurred around 8:15 p.m. on N.C. Highway 137 about seven miles west of Gatesville.

According to the accident report filed by N.C. Highway Patrol trooper D.W. Banks, Stephanie Dawn Stallings, 20, of Belvidere was traveling east on Highway 137 when an activity bus pulled to the right shoulder of the roadway and stopped. Carter excited the bus and began crossing the highway in front of the bus. As Stallings passed the bus, Carter darted out into her path and was struck by the 1991 Chevrolet she was driving, the report stated.

Carter was transported to Eure Baptist Church, where emergency personnel had made arrangements to have him airlifted to a hospital. According to the office of Dr. Joseph Weaver, medical examiner for Gates and Hertford counties, Carter was declared dead at the church prior to being airlifted.

No charges were filed in the incident. The Chevrolet sustained damage estimated at \$3,000. The N.C. Highway Patrol said their investigation of the incident is closed.

Sgt. J.P. Robinson of the N.C. Highway Patrol said that the

bus stopped to allow some of the track team members to relieve themselves.

Perquimans Schools superintendent Randall L. Henion said that there were several students who exited the bus when it stopped.

"I believe a coach tried to restrain him (Carter) and he was ordered to come back," Henion said.

Henion said that activity bus drivers have more flexibility in making decisions about such matters as making emergency stops than do drivers of regular school buses.

The superintendent said that he and other school personnel are continuing to gather information on the details of the incident. He said that he has received no information that has led him to take action against the two teacher/coaches who were with the students, Maurice "Buck" Bunch and Sadot Mendez. "We're deeply saddened by this tragic situation," Henion said, adding that in addition to reviewing the incident he and his staff have been concerned about the other students on the bus at the time of the accident.

He commended schools personnel who acted quickly to have crisis intervention personnel on the scene when the track teams returned to the school. Additional counseling has also been available to help the students deal with the incident.

Henion said he and other schools personnel have visited Carter's family.

Baseball and softball games scheduled for Friday and Tuesday were postponed. All four schools dismissed one hour early on Tuesday, the day of Carter's funeral held in the auditorium at Perquimans County High School.

Festivities set for weekend

Saturday promises to be great fun in Perquimans County.

The downtown merchants are once again bringing the melodious sounds of all three Perquimans County Schools bands to the courthouse lawn. The concert will be held from 10 a.m. until noon.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks and desserts will be available for purchase. Proceeds will go toward the 4th of July fireworks celebration.

In the afternoon, the action will move to the high school, as the Perquimans County Schools Athletic Boosters sponsor the annual Old

Timer's game.

New to this year's diamond activities will be an Old Timer's softball game. The 1995 Lady Pirates will face off against former Perquimans players at 1:30.

At 4 o'clock, state champs from the 1950s will play. Following that game, the Old Timer's will take on the 1995 Pirates.

A barbecued chicken supper will be served from 4-6:30. Tickets are \$5 each. A concessions stand and Perquimans sports items will be available all day.

Anyone wishing to help with the Old Timer's game should call Edgar Roberson.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 80s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 80s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 80s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY