

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

Vol. 63, No. 52

The only newspaper for and about Perquimans County people

Hertford, North Carolina 27944

High-speed chase ends with death

Routine breaking and entering report in Holiday Island ends with wreck, suicide

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance and
SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor, The Perquimans Weekly

Perquimans sheriffs deputies found out first-hand last Wednesday that no call is a routine call.

After responding to a reported breaking and entering in progress at Holiday Island just after 1 p.m., law enforcement officers from the county and its municipalities chased the suspects into Pasquotank County, where they were joined by Pasquotank County sheriffs officers and the state highway patrol. The chase ended in a car crash and the shooting death of one of the vehicle's occupants.

According to an eyewitness, the car, a white Mustang driven by David Gayle, 16, of Norfolk, Va., spun out of control when Gayle attempted to pass a highway patrol car approximately one-half mile from the intersection of U.S. 17 Bypass and Simpson Ditch Road. The car slammed into a ditch embankment on the eastern side of the road.

A passenger in the car, Ricky Barr, 20, also of Norfolk, was pronounced dead at the scene. The state medical examiner said Thursday that Barr died of a self-inflicted gunshot.

Barr died from a "tight contact wound" from the bullet of a .22 caliber handgun, said Dr. Page Hudson, state medical examiner based in Greenville. Page ruled Barr's death a suicide.

"Everything I have points to that conclusion," Hudson said Thursday afternoon.

Gayle, the apparent driver of the Mustang, was briefly pinned under the car after being thrown from it upon impact with the ditch embankment, said Dean Schaan, director of Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Medical Services.

Gayle was alert and talking while rescue workers freed him, and was in stable condi-

tion when he was loaded into a helicopter for transport to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, Schaan said. Miraculously, Gayle suffered no serious injuries and was released from the hospital Thursday afternoon.

He was taken into custody by Norfolk law enforcement authorities upon his release. He waived extradition and is currently in Albemarle District Jail under a \$10,000 secured bond, charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and felonious breaking and entering.

The chase was triggered when Perquimans County deputy Ersal Overton was dispatched to investigate a breaking and entering at the Shady Lane residence of Ruth Ball on Holiday Island. Perquimans Dispatch received a 911 call, giving a brief description of the alleged perpetrators and the car in which they left the scene. A license number was also given to law officers.

As Overton approached the scene, he met a car matching the caller's description. He turned on his flashing lights and attempted to stop the car, but its driver speeded up. The driver turned onto Harvey Point Road and headed towards Hertford.

Deputy Ralph Robinson set up a road block at the intersection of Harvey Point Road and U.S. Highway 17 Bypass, but the car eluded the roadblock, turning north on U.S. 17 Bypass.

Overton, Robinson and several Hertford police officers began pursuing the vehicle. Speeds reached over 90 mph during the chase.

Shots were fired by one or both of the car's occupants during the chase, according to Cartwright. Cartwright said the officers do not know why the men tried escaping police or why they fired on officers.

"Officers did not return fire because of the danger. They just attempted to keep the vehicle in sight until they



PHOTO BY BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN, THE DAILY ADVANCE

Rescue personnel work to get David Gayle, 16, out from under the white Mustang he was driving last Wednesday before he wrecked during a high-speed chase with law enforcement offi-

cial. Gayle was not seriously injured and is being held in Albemarle District Jail, charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and felonious breaking and entering.

could get the vehicle stopped," Cartwright said.

When the car passed the Perquimans-Pasquotank County line, the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department joined the pursuit. Eyewitness Doug Ambrose of Hertford said he was traveling south on U.S. Highway 17 Bypass when he saw the car trying to pass a N.C. Highway Patrol cruiser.

"They were trying to stop him. I know they (Gayle, Barr) tried getting around the patrol car and lost control. All I saw was mud and water flying everywhere," Ambrose said.

A N.C. Highway Patrol spokesman said the trooper was not trying to stop the Mustang. He was trying to get ahead of the vehicle to clear potentially dangerous sections of highway.

After the crash, deputies found two .22 caliber hand-

guns, a .357 magnum handgun and a .38 caliber handgun when they searched the car.

The homeowner who was robbed had guns in her house, but deputies are unsure if the weapons belong to her.

Other items found included Christmas packages, a metal lock box, and personal and legal papers. Some drug paraphernalia was also found in Gayle's possession, officials said.

Gayle and Barr were seen leaving Ball's home by a neighbor, Mark Warrenner.

Warrenner declined to discuss the incident, but his wife, Alicia, said her husband saw the two men while he was driving home.

Alicia Warrenner said she and her husband knew Gayle, who moved to Holiday Island shortly before the start of school this year.

Warrenner said her husband went to Gayle and asked him to stop. But Gayle reportedly laughed at him, got in the car and sped away, Mrs. Warrenner said.

"My husband was right in their faces, pounding on the window. Just the thought...I guess what saved him was the fact David knew him and liked him," Mrs. Warrenner said.

Gayle, the Warrenners' son and Ball's son were part of a group of teenagers who hung around together, Mrs. Warrenner said. Gayle apparently lived in a trailer with several other people in their late teens and early 20s.

Warrenner said Gayle apparently left the island three weeks ago, but returned this week. A newspaper carrier reported seeing the white Mustang Gayle was driving at Holiday Island Tuesday evening.

Warrenner said Gayle had been to the Ball home on several occasions. She also said she talked with her son following the break-in and learned it was common knowledge among the island's teenagers that Ball had guns in her home.

There is unconfirmed speculation among some Holiday Island residents that Gayle left the island because sheriff's deputies were seeking to question him about several incidents of vandalism that occurred in Holiday Island.

Cartwright declined to say if Gayle was a suspect in the vandalism that occurred in the community or if it could be the reason why he fled law officers.

"All we can say is deputies wanted to talk with him about another incident at Holiday Island," he said.

Newspaper to raise rates

The continually spiraling price of paper will force The Perquimans Weekly to increase its annual subscription cost on Jan. 1, publisher Richard Brown has announced.

"The rate for an annual in-state subscription will rise to \$24.20, or about 4 cents an issue," Brown said. Out-of-state subscribers will pay \$26.40 per year.

Brown said the subscription rate increase is needed to offset the higher cost The Perquimans Weekly, like all newspapers, is now paying for newsprint.

From Feb. 1994 to Sept. 1995, the demand for newsprint drove the cost up a whopping 55 percent - from \$420 a metric ton (2,205 pounds) to \$740 a metric ton.

Brown compared the hike to an increase in one's rent. "Let's say someone has a \$500 rent and the landlord raises it to \$660. That's what (the rate of) the newsprint price increase is

like," he said.

Worldwide, newspapers are being forced to adopt a number of cost-cutting measures - everything from trimming their staffs and reducing the number of issues they print to shrinking the space they devote to news - simply to stay in business.

The Perquimans Weekly has been able to offset some of its own newsprint cost increases in part because its parent corporation, Thomson Newspapers, is able to negotiate better wholesale prices for newsprint than smaller papers can.

The Perquimans Weekly has also worked to make cutbacks in spending, Brown said.

"As the publisher, our management team is working to eliminate inefficiencies and absorb as much of the price increase as we can. We have cut waste on average by 4.6 percent for 1995."

First influenza case reported in state

Health authorities recommend flu shots for all those 65 and older

The first laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza for the 1995-96 flu season have been reported to the Immunization Section of the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources (DEHNR).

Dr. Newt MacCormack, Chief of the General Communicable Disease Control Section, is encouraging all persons 65 and older who have not been vaccinated to do so immediately.

"Flu is a serious health risk to people who have chronic heart and lung problems, kidney diseases, diabetes and suppressed immune systems," MacCormack said. "These high-risk individuals should receive their annual flu shot as soon as they can." Flu shots are available at many private physicians' offices and local

health departments, and they are covered by Medicare. Part B.

The report included cases of influenza Type A and Type B. The cases were reported in Raleigh, Boone and Wilmington. As flu season continues cases generally span the state. Locally there have not been any reported cases of flu. However, the school systems are reporting an increased number of student and personnel absenteeism, due to illness with flu-like symptoms.

Flu is an illness caused by a respiratory virus. Symptoms begin suddenly and may include fever, severe headache and body aches, sore throat and cough. Flu can make a person more susceptible to pneumonia, an illness which puts a severe strain on the heart and lungs and is especially dangerous to people who already suffer from heart and lung disease. Each year a number of North Carolinians die from flu and flu-related conditions.

Individuals who develop flu-like symptoms should drink fluids, rest and stay home to




avoid spreading the infection to others. Flu-sufferers may also take over-the-counter pain reducers such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen. Aspirin should be avoided since taking aspirin for some forms of flu has been associated with Reye's Syndrome, a serious brain and liver disorder in children.

While there are no prescription medications for treatment of influenza B, there are two

anti-viral medications that doctors can prescribe to reduce the spread of infection and mitigate the symptoms of influenza A. Persons who are at high risk of flu complications should consult their physician to determine whether they may need one of these medications.

For additional information, contact your doctor or the PPCC District Health Department at 338-4400.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		
High: 40s Low: 30s DRY	High: 40s Low: 30s DRY	High: 40s Low: 30s DRY