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Sheriff resigns

Lane leaving July 31 to accept new position

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Editor

Perquimans County Sheriff David Lane submitted his letter of resignation Monday. He will leave office on July 31.

Lane said Tuesday he is leaving to pursue other job opportunities outside the area. He declined to say where he will be going or what his new position will be. He said he is leaving now because the opportunity might not be available at the end of his term in December.

County Manager Paul Gregory confirmed Tuesday that Lane did give Gregory a letter of resignation on Monday. Gregory said the county commissioners will meet next week to accept Lane's resignation and to appoint an interim sheriff.

Lane, 44, is in his first term as sheriff. In the Democratic primary on May 5, D.A.R.E. officer and former deputy Ralph Robinson, 70, defeated Lane 1,012 votes to 832 votes.

Serving as sheriff of Perquimans County has been one of the most satisfying experiences of his life, Lane said. But Lane did not enjoy his last campaign or the lies and half-truths he claims were circulated in the days leading up to the election.

"I did want to set the record straight before I left here," Lane said.

Lane said contrary to Robinson's claim that Lane fired him, the D.A.R.E. officer was not an employee of the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department at the time and therefore could not be fired.

"How could I fire somebody who retired in December of '95?" Lane asked.

The sheriff said Robinson was hired as the D.A.R.E. officer under a contract that ran from Sept. 1, 1997-May 31, 1998. Robinson was asked to turn in his car and uniforms at the expiration of the contract, Lane said.

Lane also said that funds are available to operate the D.A.R.E. program during the 1998-99 school year.

"Drug raids, and drug related arrests by the sheriff's department are almost non-existent," Robinson stated prior to the election.

Lane, however, said that arrest reports on file in his office discredit that claim. He said the sheriff's department has confiscated over \$400,000 in drugs and made over 90 drug arrests during his tenure. The department has also received \$9,554 in drug revenue from the state, he said.

The sheriff added that the sheriff's department has helped send 14 drug dealers to federal prison through work with other agencies.

Robinson also blasted Lane because the sheriff's department was not a member of a drug task force. Lane said he has a signed contract with the state Department of Crime Control and Public Safety Joint Counter Task Force. Through that agency, Lane said his department has had access to equipment, per-

sonnel and other resources.

He said when he was first elected, he was part of a move to organize a 5-year task force, but the grant to fund the operation was not approved. Lane said 2-year programs often begin to show results just as the funding ends, and local governments many times choose not to fund them.

Lane said he considered joining the task force of which Pasquotank County is presently a member, but would have had to find the \$54,000 within the budget for that fiscal year. That would have meant losing two employees or two vehicles, Lane said, cuts he felt would be detrimental to the Perquimans department.

Lane said even though the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department is not formally a member of the Pasquotank task force, his department has worked cooperatively with task force officers and other area law agencies on drug-related cases as well as other cases.

Pasquotank County Sheriff Randy Cartwright confirmed Tuesday that he has worked with Lane on several occasions. He said Lane had never refused to cooperate with his department.

Robinson also said prior to the primary that five officers hired by Lane had resigned.

"The other deputies that were hired to replace these officers were not indigenous to this county," Robinson said.

Lane said that he was born in Chowan County, and spent part of his childhood years in Perquimans. He went into the U.S. Army after attending high school in Edenton, and settled in Hertford upon his retirement. His father has lived in the county for about 30 years. The sheriff said that his mother's family has lived in Perquimans County since the early 1700s.

Deputy Darlene Jacobs, Lane's cousin, can also trace her roots in Perquimans County back 200 years, although she herself did not move here until a few years ago.

Lane added that Deputy Billy Spruill has lived in the county 12 years and his wife is a county native, as is Deputy Dean Cartwright's wife.

In addition, the husband of department secretary Bonita Williamson is a native.

The sheriff said that leaves only two employees with no roots in Perquimans County.

"Sheriff (Julian) 'Little Man' Broughton gave Ralph a chance to work in the sheriff's department when he moved here from New York," Lane said. "Am I not supposed to give qualified people the same opportunity to work in the community that he got when he moved here?"

Lane said he did not argue with Robinson's claims during the campaign because he thought his record of service spoke for itself and because drug arrests and other issues had been published in the newspaper.

Robinson could not be reached for comment.

Teen indicted for rape

School report leads to arrest of family member

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Editor

An Elizabeth City teen was arrested last month and

charged with sex crimes involving a juvenile family member.

David Cartwright, 18, of 1190 Four Forks Road, Elizabeth City, was arrested on June 19 and charged with first degree rape of a child and indecent liberties. He was released on bond, which was set at \$10,000 secured for the

rape charge and \$120,000 unsecured for the indecent liberties charge.

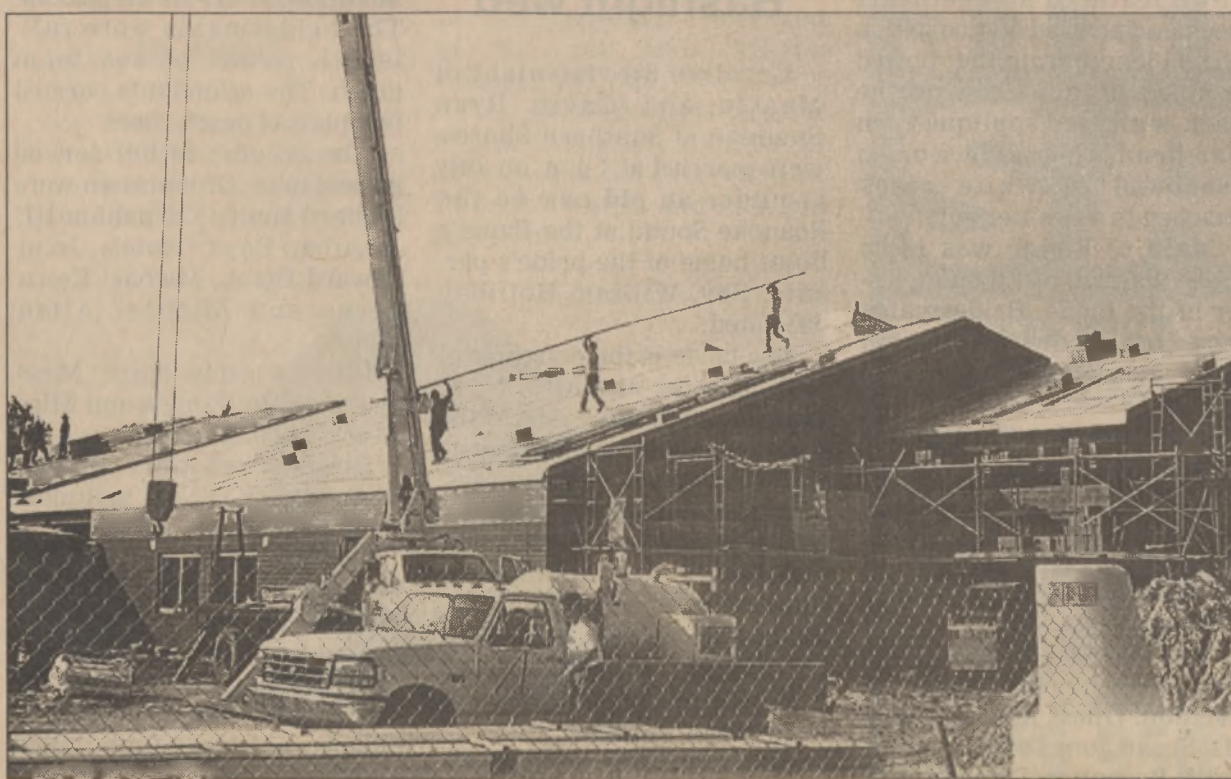
According to Perquimans County Chief Sheriff's Deputy Dean Cartwright, the investigation into the charges began in March when Deputy Kevin Byrd was contacted by Perquimans County Schools.

Deputy Cartwright said the incidents allegedly occurred over a period of time.

Cartwright was indicted by the grand jury the week of June 8, and was subsequently arrested.

The case is scheduled to be heard in Perquimans County Superior Court this week.

NO TIME TO WASTE



Crews are working long hours in an effort to complete the renovation and construction at Hertford Grammar School prior to the opening of school for students on Aug. 24.

HGS set for completion by first day of school August 24

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Editor

Hertford Grammar School is a beehive of activity as contractors work against the clock to get the facility renovated prior to the students' first day of school on Aug. 24.

M.B. Kahn Construction Company officials reported to the school board Monday night that all contractors and subcontractors are pushing to finish the project by the late-August deadline.

"Everyone is working really hard to try to pull this off," said senior site manager Randy Range.

The water and sanitary sewer hook-up at the site was finished last week.

As of Friday morning when the progress report for last week was completed, Hitt Electric and Virtexco Corp. had completed wall rough-in and had begun the overhead rough-in. Sprinkle Masonry was scheduled to top out exterior CMU walls on July 17,

with interior walls to be complete by July 22. Brick work was about 65 percent complete.

The steel erection and roof decking by the steel workers was 100 percent complete. Work continued through the weekend in an effort to complete the roof.

Window installation had begun by Tuesday in the new building.

Metal studs in the building were about 75 percent complete and sheetrock was being hung.

The mechanical loft was complete and the HVAC units placed on the loft. Duct work should be complete by Friday.

Curbs and sidewalks were set to be begun on Wednesday.

Work is also in full swing at the new Central School site in Winfall.

There, exterior masonry wall installation is complete in wing A and 95 percent complete in wings B and C. Interior masonry wall installation is complete.

Brick installation is 95 percent complete in wing A, 80 percent complete in wing B and 20 percent complete in wing C.

Above-ground plumbing rough-in is 90 percent complete in wing A, 75 percent complete in wing B and 90 percent complete in wing C. Mechanical duct installation is 80 percent complete in wings A and C.

Structural steel is complete, as is the hollow metal door frame installation. Metal stud installation is complete in wing A, 80 percent complete in wing B and 95 percent complete in wing C.

The standing seam roofing installation is 35 percent complete on wing A.

Drywall installation and exterior window installation is set to begin this week.

Site utilities are scheduled to begin the first week of August.

Kahn's project engineer Derek Faulkenberry said the project is on schedule.

Three positions remain for schools staffs

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Editor

Perquimans County Schools Personnel Director Brenda Dail told school board members Monday that there are only three faculty positions left to be filled in the school system for the 1998-99 school year.

Still to be hired are a special education teacher, fifth grade teacher and elementary counselor.

The board approved the following appointments Monday: Andrea Boone, English, PCHS; Johanna Broyles, Spanish, Central; Margie

DeAngelis, sixth grade math/science; Patricia Gallop, second grade; Terry Mallory, second grade; Daniel Mullens, social studies and coach, PCHS; Deanna Peyer, first grade; Shonda Pittman, business education, PCMS; Patrick Reid, English, PCHS; Lynette Trueblood, eighth grade science/math; and Darlene Walton, math, PCHS.

The transfer of Spanish teacher Sadot Mendez from Central School to the middle school was also approved.

Dail also announced that superintendent Gregory Todd accepted the resignations of sixth grade math/science

teacher Doris Alligood and teacher assistant Linda Logan as well as the retirement notice of teacher assistant Barbara Lyons on behalf of the board.

Latoya Parker was approved as a substitute.

Monday's board meeting opened with the swearing in of new board member Charles C. Cheezum and incumbents Marjorie Rayburn and Walter Leigh. Outgoing board member Helen Hunter was recognized with a plaque.

Wallace Nelson and Leigh were re-elected chairman and vice chairman of the board, respectively.

Sheriff, wife victims of anonymous campaign

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Editor

Events that occurred during the May primary election campaign season will make Sheriff David Lane think twice before seeking public office of any kind again.

Lane said he, his wife and his employees received mail bearing derogatory messages from anonymous senders, most of his campaign signs were destroyed, nails were put in his driveway and he and his wife were awakened one night by shots fired in front of their home.

The sheriff, who resigned Monday effective July 31, brought the mail received by both he and his wife to The Perquimans Weekly Tuesday.

There were mock campaign signs for both Democratic primary sheriff's winner Ralph Robinson and former deputy Ersal Overton sent to the sheriff at his office. The photographs of both men were taken in the sheriff's department offices and both were in department uniforms.

A sympathy card sent to Lane at his former address on Grubb Street bore the typed message, "So sorry about losing your popularity in your bid for re-election. You just started to late to be try to be sheriff."

"You are a has been. Our first sheriff to only be a one term sheriff!"

"Thank God."

It was signed by "The Ladies Group."

While Lane said he accepted the anonymous mail directed at him as part of politics, he said he was angered that a person or persons upset his wife by sending her postcards at home, at work and at the couple's former address.

"Personally this did not affect me but when they tormented my wife, that was the end of the line," Lane said. "It was dirty, cruel and very unprofessional to hurt my wife and attack my employees. My wife had nothing to do with this election."

One card read, "Mrs. Lane, Whos dating who and whos being true in the sheriffs dept.? Or does your husband discuss his dept. with you?"

"Mrs. Lane, What does David Lane and Bill Clinton have in common? Bill has his female intern — David has his female deputy! Doesnt it make you wonder whats going on?" another read.

Lane and female deputy Darlene Jacobs are first cousins.

Lane produced 13 items mailed to him, seven to his wife, one to his family, one to Mr. and Mrs. David Lane and one to his deputies. He said he threw the first six or seven he received in the trash.

Since the election, at least two sheriff's department employees have received anonymous cards.