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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Hertford man arrested on drug charges

Agencies cooperate to seize \$33K in cash and 6 grams cocaine

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

A motorist suspected of drunk driving was stopped Friday night and is now in Albemarle District Jail where he awaits an appearance in court on felony drug charges.

Gabee Lewis Coston was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, maintaining a vehicle for the purposes of selling a controlled substance, speeding to elude arrest and resist/delay/obstruct officers in carrying out their duty. He is being held under a \$75,000 secured bond.

Coston was arrested by Agent Rodney Beckom with the North Carolina Division of Alcohol Law Enforcement and Officer Nathan Zachary with the Pasquotank County/Elizabeth City Drug Task

Force, according to a news release issued by the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. During the arrest, the two officers seized \$33,125 in cash and 6 grams of cocaine. The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department also assisted with the arrest.

Beckom and Zachary were patrolling Perquimans County when they stopped Coston because they suspected he was driving drunk. During the stop, Coston sped off and the officers began a chase, according to the news release. The vehicle

chase ended when Coston drove his vehicle into a ditch. He then fled on foot and was apprehended by the officers.

A.L. E. agents, task force agents and Perquimans County deputies were working together to target drug problems in Perquimans County the night the arrest occurred.

"Law enforcement resources across the state are limited," stated Richard H. Moore, secretary of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. "I was pleased that A.L. E. was able to assist the local

agencies in making this arrest."

Pasquotank County Sheriff Randy Cartwright said agencies in northeastern North Carolina are working closer together, and that the arrest shows how effective teamwork can be.

Perquimans County Sheriff Ralph Robinson, tapped by the Perquimans County Commissioners to fill the unexpired term of David Lane effective Aug. 1, said one of his first actions as sheriff was to sign a mutual aid agreement with Pasquotank County.

Alleged dealer arrested

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

Hertford police officers arrested a county man late last month, charging him with assault with a deadly weapon on a government official, possession with intent to sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance and speeding to elude arrest.

George Nathan Felton, 36, of Route 1, Box 839, Hertford, was arrested by officers on July 25. According to Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy, Felton waived his probable cause hearing in Perquimans County District Court last week, and his case has been bound over for Superior Court.

Vanscoy said his department received information about possible narcotics trafficking by Felton from a drug task force member. Felton was initially stopped on Edenton Road Street for having only one headlight. Because of the information from the task force, Vanscoy said a canine unit was called in from Chowan County.

Felton pulled off in his vehicle before the unit arrived, almost hitting one of the officers who stopped him, the chief said. A chase ensued, turning off Edenton Road Street onto Ballahack Road. Just over the railroad tracks on Ballahack Road, Vanscoy said Felton drove his car into a ditch.

Felton was placed under arrest at that time. In his car, officers found about \$3,000 in cash and 20 grams of cocaine. The cash, drugs and the vehicle were seized.

On Aug. 1, officers arrested Covah W. Sawyer, 22, of 200 Crescent Dr., Hertford; Carl Jay Bowden, 28, of 405 E. Burgess St., Elizabeth City; and Ronald Lee Boyce, 32, of Main Street Winfall, and charged all three with crimes dealing with the theft and/or use of a stolen credit card.

Vanscoy said one of the three stole a credit card from an employer. The card was used at several area businesses.

Sawyer was charged with aid and abet financial card fraud, financial transaction card theft and financial card forgery. Bowden and Boyce were both charged with receiving stolen financial card and financial transaction card forgery. Sawyer's bond was set at \$18,000 secured; Boyce's at \$10,000 secured; and Bowden's at \$4,000 secured. All three have previous criminal records.

Vanscoy said other charges are probable.

BACK TO SCHOOL



(BOTTOM) PHOTO BY NORRIS GARDNER

(TOP) PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Students in Mrs. Foskey's and Mrs. Rucker's class at Central School (above) enjoy one of the best parts of the school day — break time! Perquimans County students returned to the classroom Monday to begin the 180-day count-down. Friday night, the Perquimans County High School Pirates varsity football team saw its first action against visiting Atlantic Shores Christian School. The homesteaders held on for a too-close-for-comfort 28-26 win. For information on the game and sports schedules for varsity and junior varsity football and volleyball at PCHS, please see page 6.



Medicaid recipients to enroll in managed care

Carolina Access will serve most local recipients

Managed care is coming for most Medicaid recipients in Perquimans County, according to Carlyn Chambers of the Perquimans County Department of Social Services.

On Oct. 1, Medicaid recipients here will begin enrolling in Carolina ACCESS, a managed care program. Chambers said the goal of the program is to provide a more efficient and effective health care system for Medicaid recipients, while also containing costs. To accomplish this dual goal, Medicaid recipients are linked with primary care providers who deliver and coordinate

individual health care needs.

Approximately 70-75 percent of Perquimans County's 1,880 Medicaid recipients will enroll in the Carolina ACCESS program. Recipients will select a primary care provider when they apply or recertify for Medical benefits at the department of social services. Because the enrollment process is gradual, it takes approximately 12-18 months for a county to reach full enrollment.

Primary care providers contract with Carolina ACCESS. They receive a management fee of \$3 per member per month up to 250 members and \$2.50 for each member over 250. For this fee, they coordinate patient health care. This management fee is in addition to the Medicaid fee for service.

There is no additional paperwork when filing claims for Carolina ACCESS members.

The primary care provider is responsible for:

- rendering all preventive health care services
- authorizing needed specialty services
- authorizing inpatient hospital admissions and approving non-emergent emergency room treatment when appropriate
- providing after-hours medical advice.

Recipients receive many benefits from participating in the Carolina ACCESS program:

- an opportunity to select a primary care provider from those participating in the program

● the ability to establish a consistent, ongoing relationship with one provider

● improved access to both preventive and sick care service

● access to the local Carolina ACCESS plan representative when questions arise

● access to 24-hour medical advice

● educational support from the county, providers and the Carolina ACCESS staff.

Chambers maintains an office at the social services office. She will coordinate the program on the local level through education with the recipients, caseworkers and health care providers.

For information, contact Chambers at 426-7373 or the Carolina ACCESS staff in Raleigh at 1-800-228-8142.

Festival '98 to feature produce contest

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

Think your pumpkins are the biggest you've ever seen? Well, enter them in the Indian Summer Festival Blue Ribbon Produce Contest.

Produce grown in the Albemarle area in 1998 can be entered in the contest. First, second and third prizes will be awarded.

In addition to having produce named the best in the area, the contest also provides the opportunity to have two produce items for sale in the festival farmer's market at no charge to the grower.

Vegetables accepted for judging will be beans, cabbage, canteloupe, cucumbers, collards, eggplant, okra, onions, peppers, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, and honeydew. Fruits and nuts judged will include apples, blueberries, grapes, pecans, black walnuts, pears, and figs. Even ornamentals such as cushaws, gourds, and Indian corn will be accepted.

The deadline to enter the contest is Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 4:30 p.m. Judging will be held Sept. 16 at the North Carolina Extension Service-Perquimans Center.

For more information, or an entry sheet, call Jennifer Layden at 297-2901.

There are still booths available for display, crafts and food. Special rates have been established for church, civic and community service organizations for card table-sized bake sale booths.

The Indian Summer Festival is set for Saturday, Sept. 19 in downtown Hertford. Organized by the Hertford Downtown Merchants Association, the festival will have a county-fair feel.

A wide variety of entertainment, carnival rides, festival foods and quality crafts will fill the downtown area. Merchants will also have booths on the street featuring their merchandise.

The day will end with a street dance featuring the band Dakota.

The fourth annual Miss Indian Summer Festival pageant is set for Saturday, Sept. 12 at Perquimans County High School.

For information, contact Jennifer Layden, Mary White at The Wishing Well or Frankie Eason at Hertford Cafe.