

Fire department gets camera

Page 3

Sports updates

Page 6

Student achievements

Page 7

May 7, 2003

Vol. 71, No. 19 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

P14/C5
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
110 W ACADEMY ST
HERTFORD, NC 27944-1306

RECEIVED
MAY 07 2003

35 cents

Muddy Creek man charged with statutory rape

SUSAN R. HARRIS

A 19-year-old Perquimans man was arrested on Saturday and charged with two counts of statutory rape.

Jason Renaldo Robertson of 430 Muddy Creek Road, Hertford, was arrested by Sheriff's deputy Nathan Zachary. He was placed under a \$120,000 secured bond.

Also arrested were Jason Robertson's brother and sister-in-law, Michael Robertson, 27, and Lisa Robertson, 35, both of 430 Muddy Creek Road. Both were charged on Monday with two counts of aiding and abetting statutory rape and were each placed under a \$100,000 secured bond.

Zachary said the case against the Robertsons unfolded quickly, and began with a phone call to

his office on Saturday morning from Albemarle Hospital. The victim in the case, a family member under the age of 18, was treated at the hospital. During the treatment, hospital staff had reason to believe that the underage victim had been involved in a sexual relationship with Jason Robertson. By law, the medical professionals were obligated to contact the appropriate law

enforcement authorities with their findings because the victim is a minor.

Zachary said Jason Robertson allegedly began having a sexual relationship with the minor in September 2002 and that it continued until April 2003.

Michael and Lisa Robertson allegedly knew about the relationship and took no steps to stop it, and in fact, Zachary said, enabled the relationship to

continue.

There is no evidence the rape was forcible, Zachary said; however, in North Carolina having a sexual relationship with someone under the age of 16 is considered statutory rape.

The investigation in the case is ongoing, Zachary said, and there are other charges pending.

The case has also been turned over to social services for their review.

While on routine patrol in Miller and Meads Mobile Home Park on Monday morning, Zachary observed a drug transaction in progress.

Quinton Wayne Pierce, 29, of 1808 County Line Road, Belvidere, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana and maintaining a vehicle for the purpose of selling/delivering marijuana.

Relay for Life is this weekend

Cancer survivors and those committed to raising money for cancer research will take to the track at John A. Holmes High School this Friday and Saturday for the 9th annual Chowan/Perquimans Relay for Life.

Relay for Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate the survivorship and to raise funds for research and programs of the American Cancer Society.

Prior to the event, teams hold fundraisers to raise money. During the event, teams of people take turns walking or running laps.

The Relay for Life event kicks off with a survivor reception at 5 p.m., and then the opening ceremonies at 6 p.m. Call Sherry Harrell at 426-5145 to register or for information.

The traditional luminary ceremony will be at 9 p.m. on Friday. During the ceremony, lights are extinguished at the track and luminaries lighted in honor and memory of those who have battled cancer. Call Brenda Newbern at 426-8349 to purchase a luminary.

The closing ceremony will be at 12:30pm on Saturday. Relay ends at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

There will be tons to do at Relay 2003 for family and friends, as well as teams. There will be music, games, and food. Those who wish to participate may want to bring a lawn chair.

DJ's Outer Banks 2000 and Dennis the Menace will be on hand to provide music on Friday and Saturday, and several local entertainers will perform during the event. The entertainment includes Albemarle Sounds, Andy Faircloth, Jenna Leigh Renner and Justin Smith, Sydney Lassiter, Carla Winslow and Elmer Overton, the Perquimans High School Marching Band, the Edenton United Methodist Church Puppet team, Center Hill Baptist Hand Bell Choir, and The Rocky Hock Grand Ole Opry Band.

For more information about the Chowan and Perquimans Relay for Life, please call 482-3681.

PERQUIMANS IN PRAYER



Over 150 people gathered in downtown Hertford last Thursday to observe World Day of Prayer, organized by the Ministers' Council for Education and Communities in Schools. Prayers were offered for state leaders, local leaders, the nation, leaders, communities, families and youth during the half-hour event by Larry Higgins, Fred Yates, Landon Mason, Willie Vaughn, Mark Baker, Ken Wells, and Faye Rouse. Estelle Felton and Barbara Gustafson opened and closed the program. The Perquimans Pipers (below left) played two selections, while Billy Briggs and Cynthia Stallings (right) sang "The Prayer."



Officials think OLF not coming here

SUSAN R. HARRIS

County commissioners Ben Hobbs and Charles Ward said they believe Perquimans will not become home to a military outlying landing field.

The pair, who sit on a committee representing counties in northeastern North Carolina opposed to building a military outlying landing field in the region, said Monday that they feel a decision has been made, and that Perquimans will not be the designated site. The decision is scheduled to be announced in July.

Officials and residents in Perquimans County acted immediately when they found out around January 2002 that the Navy was seriously considering locating an OLF in Whiteston. Community meetings, public hearings and letter-writing campaigns were organized and officials contacted federal leaders.

Snug Harbor man questions animal control tactics

Officers said they acted in best interest of neighbors

SUSAN R. HARRIS

A Snug Harbor man said the county animal control officer and sheriff's deputies were inhumane and unprofessional when they responded to a dog call on Evergreen Street in the subdivision on April 29.

Animal control officer Thomas Stanton and sheriff's deputy Nathan Zachary, however, say they followed procedures proscribed by law and acted to protect the community when they responded.

Tim Wescom, who lives in the neighborhood, said the dog could have been noosed instead of chased around and shot four times before finally being put down.

According to Wescom, the dog belongs to Thomas

Man, who is presently incarcerated. He said the dog has been in the neighborhood for about a year not on a leash, and that the dog had been outside for at least the last two weeks. He said it was Mann's wife who called animal control.

Wescom said the dog was playing rough with a cat, but didn't kill the animal, and that he understood Mrs. Mann had reported to animal control that the dog had turned on her and her child.

He thought the dog should have been noosed or tranquilized and removed from the neighborhood before being put down, and that the shots taken in the neighborhood were dangerous for neighbors.

Stanton said Monday that he responded to a call that a dog was aggressive with a woman and child. The woman told Stanton she feared that the dog possibly had rabies because it had attacked a cat and tried to get to her child through the door of her house. The dog was familiar to the

woman and had not made aggressive moves toward she or her child before, she told Stanton.

The animal control officer told the woman that he would respond to the call, but that if he was unable to catch the animal, he would have to put the dog down.

Stanton said the woman told him to do whatever he had to do to get the dog off her property.

When Stanton responded, he took Zachary and deputy Shelby White with him. He said he always takes a deputy with him when he knows he is responding to a call that may require putting down an animal.

When the three arrived, the dog growled at them and acted vicious, according to both Stanton and Zachary. They made several unsuccessful attempts to catch the animal before trying to shoot the animal.

Zachary said Stanton thought he had a clean shot at the animal, but the dog moved and was only injured and ran again.

Two more shots still failed to put the dog down.

The dog ran under the house and the officers said they attempted to get him out when he exited through a second manhole in the house. He ran away, jumped into a canal and swam to the other side. The officers followed the dog to the other side of the canal, where Zachary put the animal down.

Stanton said the law states that if animal control officers can't catch an animal, the officers may put the animal down by any means possible.

Tranquilizing a dog in the wild is very difficult and usually unsuccessful, both Zachary and Stanton said.

Both officers said they did what they felt was justified to protect the neighborhood after receiving a call that a dog had tried to attack a woman and child. They reiterated that they followed procedures set down by state statute.

"The Perquimans County Sheriff's Office

doesn't want to portray the image of being animal abusers, but we have to act to protect the residents of Perquimans County," Zachary said. "No shots were taken that would put anybody in danger. All shots were aimed towards the ground."

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 81
Low: 64
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
High: 82
Low: 63
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 81
Low: 61
PARTLY CLOUDY