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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Two investigated for child sex abuse

One charged, another awaits indictment

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans Sheriff's officers investigated two separate alleged sexual abuse cases last week.

As a result, a Pasquotank County man is being held on misdemeanor charges awaiting grand jury indictments, while a Belvidere man has been charged with sex offenses

involving two of his stepchildren.

Edward Lee Williams of Elizabeth City, a registered sex offender, allegedly admitted to Pasquotank Sheriff's Deputy Randy Smithson that he had three sexual encounters with a 7-year-old.

Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley said the abuse was reported in Perquimans on June 10, when parents reported that Williams, a friend of the family, had committed a sexual offense against their child.

Because Williams lives in Pasquotank County, Tilley contacted sheriff's officials there. It was at that time that he learned

that Williams is a registered sex offender.

Smithson set up an interview with the family and officers from both Pasquotank and Perquimans in the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department.

Williams reportedly visited the victim's home again on June 11, where he was confronted by the parents regarding the sex offense allegations.

Tilley said Williams allegedly threatened to kill the family and burn down their house as a result of the confrontation.

Warrants for communicating threats and trespassing were taken out against

Williams. When Perquimans officers arrived at the scene, Williams had left.

Smithson was again contacted and was able to find Williams in Pasquotank County. It was at that time that Williams allegedly confessed to Smithson that one incident of sexual offense had occurred in Belvidere, two in Morgan's Corner.

Williams is being held on the charges of communicating threats and trespassing while Perquimans and Pasquotank sheriffs work cooperatively to obtain grand jury indictments for charges dealing with the alleged sex offenses.

The same day, Michael Lucas Sr. of 1507 Belvidere Road, Belvidere was arrested and charged with two counts of sexual offense by a substitute parent.

The arrest came after Deputy Marlow Reel and Department of Social Services personnel went to Lucas's home on Belvidere Road to investigate the possible sexual abuse of children in the home.

Tilley said the officer and social worker had statements from two of Lucas's stepchildren that they had been sexually abused by Lucas in the home. Both children were under age 12, and alleged that Lucas had abused

them on more than one occasion.

Reel tried to speak with Lucas, Tilley said, but he would not allow himself to be interviewed.

Reel and the social worker determined that it would be in the best interest of the children and the agencies involved to remove Lucas from the home. He was charged with two counts of sexual offense by a substitute parent and placed under a \$30,000 bond.

Tilley said he does not expect that the children will be removed from their homes as they have been separated from the alleged perpetrators.

Two charged with racing

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Two men were charged with pre-arranged racing in the Chapanoke community earlier this month.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said Robert Wendell Mallory, 31, of Chapanoke Road, Hertford, and Karongi Lacey Banks, 24, of Okisko Road, Elizabeth City, were arrested by Deputy Shelby White and charged with prearranged racing; resist, obstruct and delay; and various motor vehicle violations on June 1.

Tilley said he had received complaints about racing on Chapanoke Road and Hurdletown Road the last two Sundays in May. It was reported to the sheriff's department that racers and those watching had actually blocked the road, stopping traffic from flowing.

On June 1, Tilley told White to check the areas where racing had been reported often during White's shift. White kept checking the area and also got a call that racing had begun.

When White got to the Chapanoke Road location, he found six or seven people in the roadway, a car across the road blocking traffic and two motorcycles coming around a curve "laying in the wind."

White stopped the cyclists, arrested them and impounded their motorcycles.

"We want folks to know that we are watching and that if we catch them racing, we are going to impound their motorcycles or vehicles and we are going to arrest them," Tilley said. "We want to break this up."

Tilley added that there have been reports about racing in a couple of county communities and deputies are patrolling those areas routinely while on duty.

Officers had responded to racing complaints before June 1, but were unable to catch anyone on those occasions.

SUDDEN WIND RIPS THROUGH BARN

Thunderstorms have been common over the past few weeks, but have brought mostly downpours and perhaps a few tree limbs downed.

But last week, a sudden and unexplained wind during a late afternoon storm ripped the tin roof off of a barn on Harvey Point Road, hitting with such force that a board from the structure was ripped off and pushed into the ground behind the barn.

Elton and Minnie Wilma Hurdle were looking out the window of their home when the sudden gust of wind hit the barn in their yard, tearing off half the tin roof and causing one side of the structure to bow, while not even blowing one fig off the tree right behind the barn.

"We had a terrible storm here," Mrs. Hurdle said. "It just ripped the roof right off that building. It just seemed like all that force was right there."

The barn was on the property when Mrs. Hurdle's family moved onto the site when she and her sister, Mary Ruth Smith, were children. The women said the barn was probably built around 1875, and had withstood many storms coming off the river. It had



While most of the county just had strong showers last Tuesday night, Elton and Minnie Wilma Hurdle watched a sudden wind tear through an antique barn on their property, sending tin and timbers flying through the air. The wind was so forceful that one timber was pushed into the ground.

served as a wonderful place to play when they were children.

"I climbed on it, jumped off of it, did a little bit of everything," Smith said.



Emergency Management Coordinator Harry Winslow said the call from The Perquimans Weekly to inquire about the storm was the first call he had got-

ten about damage from the storm.

He said the damage may have been the result of an isolated straight-line wind and later visited the site.

THERE WILL BE LIGHT



After three years of planning, site work has finally begun on the Main Street lighting project. The project, being constructed in two phases, will bring period street lights from the S-bridge through downtown. It is funded with TEA-21 grants and local matches.

4th activities planned

There will be fireworks and entertainment in the park for the 4th of July.

Historic Hertford Business Association spokesperson Mary White said that the American Legion has again organized the fireworks show and HHBA has arranged food and entertainment.

Activities will be in Missing Mill Park on Friday, July 4, 4-9 p.m. Loose Change will play

and food vendors will be on hand to offer summer favorites.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 85
Low: 66
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
High: 80
Low: 62
SCATTERED SHOWERS

SATURDAY
High: 80
Low: 63
PARTLY CLOUDY

County noted

Perquimans appears in the premier issue of the Outer Banks magazine.

Downtown Hertford, the Newbold-White House, Layden's Supermarket and other area highlights are in the beautiful magazine.

To get a copy, which sells for \$8.95 plus tax, see Sid Eley at the Chamber office.

Deputy resigns

Sheriff: No officers under investigation

SUSAN R. HARRIS

A Perquimans County sheriff's deputy resigned last week, providing grist for the local rumor mill.

Rumors have been spread that Nathan Zachary was fired, that Sheriff Eric Tilley is under investigation for criminal activity and that the sheriff's department in total is under investigation.

Tilley confirmed that Zachary, 29, had resigned, but would not comment on why the deputy left the department. Tilley said it would be inappropriate for him to comment on a personnel matter.

The sheriff did say that as the county's chief law enforcement officer, he tries to instill in all deputies a code of conduct that includes conducting themselves with the utmost professionalism and integrity.

Tilley also addressed the rumor that he and other deputies are under investigation by the SBI.

"My department, me or no one else here is the subject of any investigation," Tilley said.

He added that he and SBI officers have spoken over the past few days and that both parties agree that there is no need for any investigation into any type of criminal activity involving the sheriff's department or its officers.

Zachary was hired by former Sheriff Ralph Robinson and continued to serve under Tilley. He was the department's lead investigator.

Prior to signing on with the sheriff's department, Zachary had served as a law enforcement officer for both the Elizabeth City and Hertford police departments.

Deputies Marlow Reel and Shelby White have been assigned investigative duties as a result of Zachary's resignation.