

Maul

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No charges have been filed against Foreman or his son, and the attack is still under investigation, Tilley said.

"We have to talk to Bunch first to find out what happened, why she was in the area before we consider charges," he said. "That may be tomorrow (Saturday); it all depends on her condition."

Tilley said it appeared the dogs had been used for fighting. Each had puncture wounds, bite marks and scratches on their legs, ears, chest and head.

Reel confirmed that the department has been told that the dogs have been used for fighting in the past, and they are looking for more information on those allegations.

She added that the department expects to receive notification to euthanize the dogs.

Robinson honored

Blake Robinson was pretty mild-mannered in the halls of PCHS.

His manners stayed with him on the football field, even when he was pummeling opponents with a vengeance.

For his positive conduct on the field, Robinson was one of eight individual winners of sportsmanship awards in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Student Services Team Recognition Program.

The Student Services Division of the NCHSAA recognizes schools whose teams have gone ejection free for the entire academic year. In an effort to expand that recognition, individuals from any team which was ejection free may be submitted by their coach for further consideration.

These students must not only have exhibited good sportsmanship but exemplified citizenship, character and community spirit.



Blake Robinson participates in pre-graduation events.

Then all those individuals who were nominated are eligible for a drawing each to receive a \$100 scholarship.

The 2003 graduate will be sorely missed by the Pirates this season, but chances are, opposing offensive players will be glad they don't have to deal with Robinson's bruising tackles.

Researchers aim to halt sales of noxious weeds on Internet

Some plants and seeds sold on web sites illegal

Web-savvy gardeners beware: Certain plants and seeds sold on gardening web sites are considered illegal by the federal government.

Many online vendors sell plants that appear on the federal noxious weed list, making the Internet the newest pathway for exotic plants and associated pests to invade the nation's natural resources.

"Some of the vendors may not know the species they are raising are invasive plants and are listed," said Dr. Ronald Stinner, professor of entomology and biomathematics and researcher at the National Science Foundation's Center for Integrated Pest Management (CIPM) at North Carolina State University.

But a team of researchers from CIPM and the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is developing a web application that searches the Internet for web sites selling noxious weeds. The application, called Agricultural Internet Monitoring System (AIMS), frees regulatory inspectors from manually searching the Internet.

"Can you imagine trying to use an Internet search engine to search for a thousand different pests?" Stinner asked.



Purple loosestrife is sold as an ornamental plant despite being an invasive plant.

"The idea of this application is primarily notification," stressed Stinner.

Technically, vendors aren't in violation until they've actually completed a sale. When AIMS spots a web site peddling invasive plants or seeds, APHIS notifies vendors that sales of those items must be discontinued. But AIMS also helps authorities keep tabs on web retailers who continue selling illegal plants after they've been notified.

Violators who refuse to comply are prosecuted and subject to heavy fines, said Stinner.

Each year, the United States spends billions of dollars fighting invasive plant species in crops, gardens, forests and waterways. APHIS estimates that

more than \$9.5 billion is spent fighting weeds and diseases in gardens and animal forages alone.

Because they often have no native enemies in their new habitat, exotic species often outcompete native plant species, resulting in drastically altered ecosystem biodiversity.

Purple loosestrife is a classic example. Like the ubiquitous kudzu, loosestrife was originally viewed as a harmless groundcover. The flowered perennial was introduced to the northeastern United States in the 1800s, but it quickly became an overzealous invader in wetland habitats across the country.

Today, purple loosestrife can be found in almost every state, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plant chokes both fresh and saltwater wetlands, forming dense stands that reduce open water habitat for amphibians and waterfowl. Many people don't recognize purple loosestrife as an invasive — despite its damaging characteristics — so it continues to be sold as an ornamental plant.

That's exactly what AIMS attempts to prevent, Stinner says. And the novel web application may soon be doing some spreading itself. APHIS is looking to develop a cooperative program with equivalent organizations in other countries; authorities in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have already expressed interest.

"We see this as an application that could be used by many organizations that have an interest in trying to stop the spread of invasive species," he said.

Dismal Swamp deer hunt scheduled

Refuge Manager Lloyd Culp released the framework of the 2003 hunt program at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The hunt will consist of 13 dates for hunting white-tailed deer in October and November.

The annual shotgun/archery deer hunt dates have been scheduled for Oct. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 24, 25, and 31 and Nov. 1. Hunters can purchase the Refuge permit for these hunts by sending their name, current address, and telephone number (including area code) on a 3x5 index card to the Great Dismal Swamp NWR, 3100 Desert Road,

Suffolk, Virginia 23434, Attn: Deer Hunt. In addition, a check or money order for a \$15 non-refundable permit fee, made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, must accompany the application card. Applications will be taken from Aug. 1 - Sept. 15. All individuals who apply for a permit will receive one. All applications with fee must be received in the Refuge office no later than Sept. 15. Hunters will receive their hunt permit and hunt information package in the mail.

Individuals who have a Golden Age or Golden Access Passport will receive a 50 percent dis-

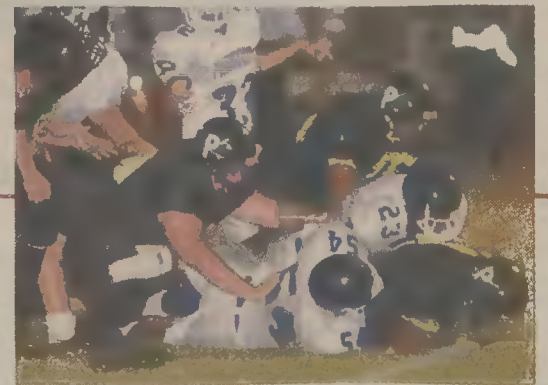
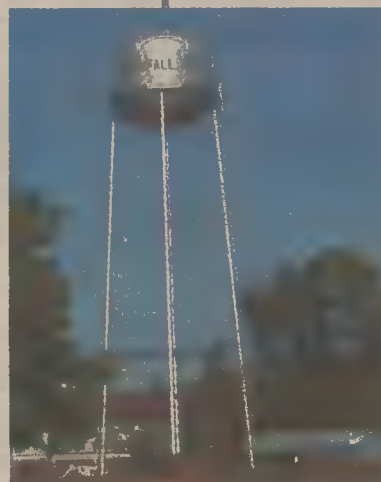
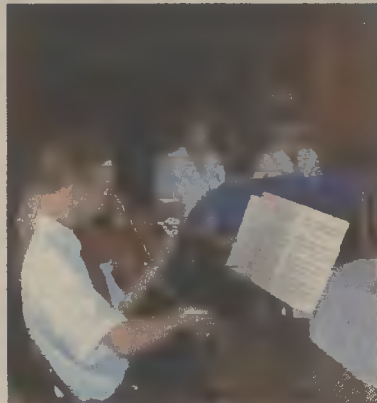
count on the hunt fee. The Golden Access Passport is free and is for individuals of all ages who are disabled. Both passports are available at the Refuge office during business hours.

The Refuge will offer two scouting days on Sept. 26 and 27. The Refuge has land open to hunting in both Virginia and North Carolina. Hunters will also need to have the appropriate state hunting license to participate in the Refuge hunt.

For further information, please contact the Refuge office at (757) 986-3705, Monday - Friday, 8a.m. to 3:30p.m.

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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