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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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No one arrested for dog attack

SUSAN R. HARRIS

A Hertford woman remains in Pitt County Memorial Hospital recovering from injuries apparently inflicted by several pit bulls in her neighborhood.

Zalene Bunch, 44, was transported from Chowan Hospital to Pitt on July 25 after being severely bitten by the dogs. Her condition was at first critical, but was soon upgraded to stable.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said Tuesday that Deputy Shelby White drove to Greenville last week to interview Bunch, but was unable to get clear answers to questions about the attack. The deputy felt that the medication given to Bunch may have made it difficult for her to provide details of the incident. Tilley said he and White hope to return to Greenville this week to speak with Bunch again.

Meanwhile, the dogs remain in the animal shelter, where employees are documenting each injury to the dogs for possible charges against the owner. Officials suspect the dogs were used for fighting, which could result in cruelty to animal charges against the dogs' owner. The dogs had puncture wounds, bite marks and scratches on their legs, ears, chest and heads.

"At this point I feel pretty confident that if we go in front of a judge, the dogs will not be returned to the owner at all," Tilley said.

Charges involving the attack on Bunch cannot be determined until she can tell officers what happened on the day of the incident.

The attack occurred in the yard of a mobile home on Third Avenue shortly after 2 p.m. on July 25. It was reported by Daniel Roulhac, a Lowes Drive resident who identified himself as Bunch's boyfriend.

When animal control personnel and sheriff's deputies arrived at the mobile home, they found five pit bulls, three running loose in the front yard and two chained to a tree in the back yard.

Two of the three loose animals ran towards deputies when they arrived on the scene. Tilley said there was blood on all three dogs, as well as on one of the chained dogs.

The owner of the home where the attack occurred was visiting neighbors when deputies arrived, Tilley said. The man, identified as Kevin Foreman, told deputies the dogs belong to his son, who was not home at the time.

Foreman helped animal control officials secure all five of the dogs in cages for transport to the animal shelter in Chowan County, which also serves Perquimans.

Body found in river identified

Friend of deceased disappears

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The body found between the Yeopim and Perquimans rivers on July 24 has been identified as that of a Chowan County

woman.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said the dead woman is Lorraine Parker, 48, of 221 Evans Bass Road in the Rocky Hock community.

An acquaintance of Parker's who lives in the Hertford area told investigators that he hadn't seen Parker in two weeks, but did not report her as missing.

After being questioned

in connection with the case by Deputy Marlo Reel and SBI Agent David Nance last Thursday, the man "is not to be found," according to Tilley.

Tilley said when the man was first questioned, there were inconsistencies in his story. Those inconsistencies are what caused Tilley to call in the SBI.

The man was under electronic house arrest for

other charges, but has apparently disappeared.

The badly decomposed body was found by a man working at the edge of the Perquimans River off Goose Nest Lane. The state medical examiner's office in Greenville said Parker could have been in the water up to two weeks.

The cause of death is still unknown, Tilley said, due to the condition of the

body after having spent so much time in the water.

When her body was found, Parker was wearing cut-off blue jeans and a white T-shirt imprinted with the words "God Bless America" and a picture of an American flag over a bathing suit.

Anyone with information about what may have happened should call the Sheriff's Office at 426-5615.

Belvidere man charged with arson

SUSAN R. HARRIS

A Belvidere man was charged with attempted first degree arson Monday night after allegedly setting his bed on fire.

David Owens, 22, of 1824 Belvidere Road, was placed in Albemarle District Jail under a \$25,000 secured bond. His first appearance in court is scheduled for Aug. 6.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said Belvidere-Chappell Hill Fire Chief Jimmy Chappell called the sheriff's department to the scene after firefighters learned that the blaze to which they had been called at 1824 Belvidere Road may have been intentionally set.

Tilley said the boy's grandmother, Lucy Jennings, with whom Owens lives, told law officers that Owens got mad around midnight when she refused to take him to Wal-Mart. He then allegedly set the bed on fire.

Tilley said it appeared that most of the damage to the house came from smoke.

PACKING THE BAGS



Volunteers met at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church recently to pack bookbags for some Perquimans County Schools students. A school supply drive was spearheaded by Communities in Schools and the Perquimans County Department of Social Services, with cooperation and donations from several area businesses, individuals and civic groups. The drive kicked off late last spring, and resulted in the donation of school supplies and cash. Volunteers turned out to pack the bags for distribution to students whose families applied for assistance through Social Services. The rising cost of school supplies and the number of families with limited incomes in the county caused organizers to implement the program. Hundreds of students were expected to be served.

School system holds annual convocation

Employees celebrate success, gear up for good year

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans County Schools personnel celebrated last year's successes and geared up for an even better 2003-2004 during Monday's annual convocation.

Superintendent Kenneth Wells tagged Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Administration Dwayne Stallings "Mr. No Child Left Behind" in his remarks to educators gathered at the high school. Wells said Stallings will play a key role in guiding the system as it implements plans to meet the guidelines of the comprehensive federal legislation.

All four local schools earned recognition for stu-

dent performance last school year under the state's ABCs program. Both elementary schools and the middle school exceeded expected growth on end-of-grade tests, while the high school met its expected growth.

The improvement in test scores marks the fifth consecutive year of overall improvement in the school system. The elementary schools increased from 79.3 percent proficient in 2001-02 to 87.8 percent last year. The middle school climbed from 83.7 percent to 85.4 percent, while the high school moved from 69.6 percent to 71.7 percent.

The schools posted record high reading scores for grades 3-8, and showed strong growth in geometry and math in grades 3 and 4. For the second year in a row, eighth grade algebra I students tested at 100 percent proficient.

While the schools showed outstanding progress measured by ABCs accountability model, they did not meet

the standards for Adequate Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind standards.

NCLB measures growth based on 10 subgroups, and if one of the 10 subgroups in one subject scores below the expected percentage proficient, the school does not meet NCLB standards. Subgroups include schools as a whole, white, black, Hispanic, native American, Asian/Pacific Islander, multiracial, economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient and students with disabilities. In order to qualify as a subgroup, there must be 40 or more students who have been in membership the full academic year.

In addition to test scores, schools must improve attendance rates and high schools must advance their graduation rates in order to be successful under the federal accountability model.

For the past school year, the middle school met the standard in 20 of 21 goals, while Hertford Grammar met 19 of 21 and the high

school, 14 of 17.

Local administrators are confident that with the positive scores from last year, the system can realize the growth necessary to meet NCLB standards.

Wells said that testing information available allows the system to pinpoint which students are having problems testing proficient, and will allow faculty to work with students to improve academic progress.

"Perquimans County Schools is capable of meeting AYP," Wells said. "I really believe that."

A highlight of the convocation was a performance by the Panther Percussion group from Hertford Grammar School under the direction of music teacher Heather Webb. The students enjoyed a two-week percussion camp this summer, and showed what they learned as they played percussion instruments and recorders, and danced.

School begins today (Wednesday).

Six file for two HTC seats

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The end of the filing period brought races to the Hertford Town Council.

Enumbent JoAnn Morris, former councilman Dan Daneker and political newcomers Anne F. White and Drew Woodard all filed for council seats last week. They join enumbent Carlton Davenport and Ralph Autry in a bid for two available council seats.

Sid Eley is the lone candidate for mayor.

Hertford councilpersons are chosen at-large. Each voter may choose one mayoral candidate and two council candidates at the polls. The mayoral candidate with the top number of votes and the two council candidates with the most votes will be elected on Nov. 4. There is no primary election in the municipal races.

While Hertford voters will see choices on the ballot, Winfall voters will not. Present mayor Fred Yates and incumbent councilpersons Kenneth L. Rominger and Bertha Dixon were the only three to file for seats in Winfall.

Rominger is mayor pro tempore in Winfall, while Dixon was tapped to fill the unexpired term of Morris Mitchell.

Residents in the two municipalities must register to vote by Oct. 10. Board of Election hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 85
Low: 72
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
High: 85
Low: 72
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 85
Low: 72
SCATTERED T'STORMS