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PERQUIMIANS WEEKLY

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Four teens charged with kidnapping

Charges stem from report of armed break-in

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Four area teenagers could spend several years behind bars for an alleged weekend incident, even though they realized after barging through the front door of a home and holding the occupants at gunpoint that they had the wrong house.

Rashie Belfield, 19, of Edenton; and Christopher Hinton, 18, Quinton Porter,

17, and Andrew Jordan, 16, all of Perquimans County, were charged with second degree kidnapping, first degree burglary and attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon. All remained in Albemarle District Jail in lieu of bonds of \$75,000 secured as of late Monday afternoon, according to census records at the jail.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said Monday that the men knocked open the front door of a house on Beech Springs Road late Friday afternoon, then entered the residence. Once inside, they allegedly held four adults at gunpoint. There was also an infant in the

house, Tilley said.

"One of the suspects realized they had the wrong house and actually apologized and left," Tilley said.

Tilley said the suspects were allegedly looking for a specific house in the neighborhood, possibly to steal weapons.

When the foursome left the house, those they had allegedly held captive reported the incident and gave law enforcement a description of the car in which they left.

Deputy Shelby White responded to the call and met a car on Beech Springs Road matching the description called in to law

enforcement.

Hertford Police Officer T.J. Langley was on the look-out on the outskirts of Hertford for the vehicle, and it also passed him.

White and Langley attempted to stop the vehicle, Tilley said, but the driver would not pull over. A chase ensued which reached estimated speeds of 120 miles per hour down U.S. Highway 17 South.

Tilley said White reported that the vehicle was weaving in and out of traffic. The driver finally lost control and the car left the roadway, coming to rest in a cut-over.

One of the suspects

never left the car and was immediately apprehended, Tilley said.

The other three ran into the woods, where two of them were caught after going through a briar patch.

The fourth suspect, Porter, evaded capture until Saturday morning, when sheriff's officers received information that he was at Wynn Fork Court. Hertford officers Langley and McPherson could not get Porter to open the door, and called his father, Winfall Mayor Fred Yates, who helped the officers.

Tilley said the weapons recovered from the suspects were determined to

have been stolen about a month ago in a break-in in the New Hope Township. He expects to add possession of stolen property to the charges the four already face.

The investigation into that case continues, and Tilley said officers have not determined if any of the four had anything to do with the break-in in New Hope during which the weapons were stolen.

Tilley expected all four suspects to have their first appearance in court on Dec. 17.

If convicted, Tilley said, sentences faced by each will depend on past records.

Dragstrip owner robbery solved

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department used tips from other law enforcement agencies in the region to solve a break-in that occurred in March 2002.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said Monday that indictments were handed down Monday in connection with the March 29, 2002 robbery of the home of Curtis Trueblood in Chapanoke.

Kenneth Lacy, 38, and Clinton Dawson, 32, both of whom are now serving down in the Neuse Correctional Facility in Goldsboro, will be charged with breaking and entering and larceny for allegedly entering the Trueblood home and taking what the sheriff said was "a substantial amount of money" and several other items.

Trueblood, who owns the Northeast Dragway, had taken the proceeds from the track to his home when the robbery occurred.

No money or items were recovered, Tilley said.

The case was solved when Tilley followed up on a tip from a federal drug investigation in Greenville involving Lacy.

Tilley described Lacy as a "career criminal without a doubt," and said he had previously been arrested for the robbery of the home of a dragstrip owner in Wilson.

Both men have been convicted on a variety of state and federal charges, Tilley said.

A third individual is still being sought.



The roofs on the buildings at Perquimans County Middle and Hertford Grammar schools need replacement, school officials say. The roofs were already in need of renovation when Hurricane Isabel came through in September and did extensive damage at Perquimans County Middle School.

Schools need roofs, HVAC systems

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Schools Superintendent Kenneth Wells told the school board Monday night that the school system will soon begin formal talks with the county commissioners about needed repairs at Perquimans Middle and Hertford Grammar schools.

Wells said he will probably meet with county officials, possibly at a work session, in January.

The superintendent said he had made county officials aware about two years ago that the roofs and heating systems at both facilities needed replacing. The county

requested cost estimates at that time, and said they would begin exploring how to finance the needs.

He has met with County Manager Paul Gregory informally since that time.

The county commissioners and school officials were set to meet this fall, both that tentative schedule could not take place because both groups were involved in clean-up and repair after Hurricane Isabel struck in September, Wells said.

The superintendent shared with board members a letter he had written to Gregory reminding him of the need to meet.

Wells said that the esti-

mates received two years ago totalled about \$3 million, and that based on how prices have risen since then, he expects the cost to rise by about 15 percent.

The school board is also studying plans and looking at cost estimates on building an athletic complex on land across Edenton Road Street from the high school. Wells has been in negotiation with Dr. William Nixon, the owner of the property, for several months. Nixon has indicated his willingness to work with the school system on land acquisition should the money become available for the project.

It's not too late to shop in Hertford

JOSH EURE and SUSAN HARRIS

Standing in the frigid December air listening to the sound of a Salvation Army bell, many waited for the annual Perquimans County Christmas parade.

Some shopped, looking for that just-right item for those on their holiday lists, while others enjoyed the warmth of Intelliport to share with Santa their Christmas wishes.

Several interviewed in Hertford that day agreed that CDs and clothes are among the most-requested gifts for children. While these items are not readily available locally, there are many local businesses that offer a variety of lovely gifts.

Antiques, vintage collectibles, handmade crafts, art classes, fragrances, gardening supplies, home decorating items, picture frames, candles, fine candies, items for the outdoorsman and more can all be found on the shelves in local shops.

In addition, cell phone and internet service is also available locally.

For those who don't know exactly what to get, gift certificates are always good choices.

To fill the needs of those on your Christmas list, check out what is available in local stores located in downtown Hertford, at Ward Shopping Center, Perquimans Commerce Centre and at shops scattered on the outskirts of town.

Holiday deadlines

The deadline for the Dec. 24 issue of The Perquimans Weekly is Thursday at 5 p.m.

The newspaper offices will close at noon on Dec. 24 and reopen on Monday, Dec. 29 at 8 a.m.

Major leaguer Nixon guest at Edenton Steamers benefit

Major league baseball player Trot Nixon will be the special guest at a dinner to benefit the Edenton Steamers on Dec. 28 at the Chowan Golf & Country Club.

Nixon, a right fielder, shone brightly for the Boston Red Sox in post-season 2003.

"Very simply, this is a wonderful opportunity for both the community at large and the Edenton Steamers to be involved with something unique and exciting," said Steamers

General Manager Jeff Roemer. "Trot offers the perfect blend of having ties to the immediate and regional geographic area, as well as being on the national level in our arena (baseball)."

Christopher Trotman Nixon was born in Durham in 1974 to Dr. Billy Nixon and Sandra Hudson Nixon, both of whom grew up in Perquimans County. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Breton Nixon of Hertford and the late Mr. and Mrs. Arvin Hudson.

A gifted athlete, Nixon graduated from New Hanover High School in Wilmington in 1993 having been an integral part of a state 4-A baseball championship team as well as quarterbacking the school's football team.

Nixon had signed to play football for North Carolina State University, but one day before classes began, he opted to ink a deal with the Boston Red Sox, who had chosen him in the first round with the seventh overall pick in the Major

League Baseball draft the previous spring.

At 6'2" and 210 pounds, Nixon debuted with the Red Sox during a 1996 call-up and recorded a stolen base in Yankee Stadium.

A little over a week later, he cracked his first major league lineup when he started in right field at Fenway Park against the Yankees.

Nixon became an established major leaguer in 1999 and has seen his career steadily rise as the Red Sox regular right field-

er. This past season, he posted career highs for batting average (.306), on-base percentage (.396), slugging percentage (.578) and home runs (28). He was part of a Red Sox attack that produced historic numbers on a league level and fell just short of reaching the World Series.

Tickets for the dinner are \$35 and a cash bar will be available. All tickets are advance and are subject to sell-out. Call 482-4080 to reserve tickets.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 50
Low: 33
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY
High: 50
Low: 33
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 57
Low: 34
PARTLY CLOUDY