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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

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Three charged for Warren murder

ERIN RICKERT

Three Edenton men have been charged with murder in connection with last month's shooting death of a Hertford teenager.

Skyler Jevelle Holley, 21, of 203 E. Albemarle St. and Darrell Lavone Boyce, 28, of 201 Vance Lane, were each charged with murder on May 9 for the April 14 shooting of 17-year-old Shakim Rolon Warren.

The third suspect, Terry Lynn Jackson, 16, of 105 N.

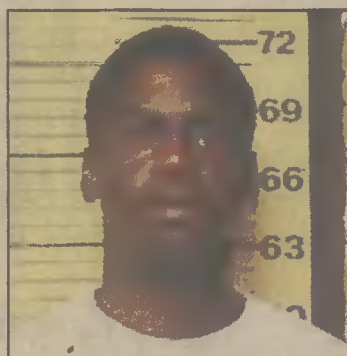
Oakum St. was already in custody on unrelated charges at Chowan Detention Center when he was charged with Warren's murder last Tuesday evening, according to Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

Secured bonds for Holley and Boyce were set at \$1 million.

Vanscoy said law enforcement originally picked up six people as "persons of interest" in the shooting.



Darrell Lavone Boyce



Skyler Jevelle Holley



Terry Lynn Jackson

However, during the course of the investigation the names of three sus-

pects — Holley, Boyce and Jackson — continued to resurface in police inter-

views. "The more people we talked to, the more these

individuals' [names] came to the forefront and eventually led to an arrest," Vanscoy said. "There's no doubt these are the individuals responsible."

Vanscoy said interviews of witnesses placed all three individuals in the green car that pulled up on the 300 block of King Street where 17 year-old Warren and two friends were standing outside his home the night of the shooting.

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Runaway driver crashes into Hertford house

ERIN RICKERT

Police are working to locate a motorist who left the scene of an accident after the Ford Explorer they were driving "took off" from the street and slammed into a Hertford resident's home last week.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said no one was injured in the May 10 crash, but the home at 104 N. Edenton Road Street suffered thousands of dollars in property damage as a result of the accident.

Vanscoy said police are still searching for Michael Coston of 480 Pender Road, the vehicle's owner and the individual police believe was driving that evening.

"The investigation still continues," Vanscoy said. "Coston is unable to be located at this time."

Vanscoy said he was unsure why Coston and at least one other person fled the scene, but believes Coston is still in the Hertford area.

According to Vanscoy, the vehicle was traveling north at approximately 77 m.p.h on Edenton Road Street when the driver lost control of the sport utility vehicle.

Vanscoy said the excessive speed caused the car to hit the street curb and then crash into a more than 25-foot high light pole — snapping the pole in half.

The Explorer then became airborne, according to Vanscoy, taking out the chain link fence in the yard behind the pole and sailing into the screened-in porch on the front of the home.

Vanscoy said the Explorer's momentum finally began to slow once it hit the parked Nissan in the driveway and the chain link fence on the other side of the yard — ending the destruction and landing back in the street.

Vanscoy said when officers arrived at the scene of the crash just after dark that night, they found the empty 1996 Explorer upside down nearly 200-feet from the intersection of Edenton Road and Market streets.

Vanscoy said residents who witnessed the crash told police they saw at least two men inside the vehicle climb from the windows and flee the scene.

The homeowner, Mary Felton, who was in her kitchen at the time of the crash, said she also remembers seeing a man crawl

from the back window of the SUV moments after stepping onto what was left of her porch the evening of the crash.

"I saw one person crawl out of the window," Felton said. "He just walked down the street like nothing happened. He didn't even look at me."

Vanscoy said police continue to work to locate Coston and determine the number of charges he will receive for the damage caused to Felton's home.

"I just can't believe this happened. I heard this awful noise and walked out to this," Felton said as she surveyed the damage to her home Monday. "How could this happen?"

PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Mary Felton stands on what is left of the screened-in front porch at her Edenton Road Street home Monday. Felton's front porch, her fence and her 1996 Nissan were all damaged last week after an out-of-control vehicle plowed into a street lamp last week and across her property.



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Winfall Public Works Director Kelvin Roberson takes a sample at the town's water plant.

Winfall water plant experiencing problems

ERIN RICKERT

The discolored water many Winfall residents began to see late last month pouring from their faucets appears to have been caused by an improperly-mixed batch of liquid polymer that solidified and clogged the sand filter at the town's water plant.

The filter, used primarily to catch iron and manganese, initially clogged April 24 causing the water to turn a dingy-brown color, Winfall Public Works Director Kelvin Roberson said.

This made the oxidation process, which removes unwanted substances from the town's drinking water less efficient, causing high levels of iron and manganese to remain in the water even after it went through each of the plant's filtering processes.

"In 1996 we added the polymers to assist the sand

in catching," Roberson said. "It grabs onto stuff you don't want in water. Things were just done wrong during mixing."

Roberson could not comment on how the polymer was improperly mixed, but said one pound of polymer is typically mixed with 30 gallons of water to create a liquid-like texture with a consistency similar to unset Jell-O.

When properly mixed the liquid-like polymers help the manganese level at the plant to remain at a level of about .015, Roberson said, but tests taken after the improper-mixing showed levels of .575. Iron levels at the plant were also up, reading close to .76 in April tests, rather than the more normal .01.

Though Roberson said daily spectrophotometer tests have revealed manganese and iron levels have dropped significantly since the first April readings —

with May 12 manganese readings coming in at .033 and iron levels reading closer to .01 — levels must still come down.

"We have seen a drastic change," Roberson said. "But we are still working on it. The main thing people should know is the water is still safe to drink. The iron levels may mess with the laundry a little, but we are going to do everything possible to get this plant like it used to be."

Next week, Roberson said he and a few consultants plan to go inside the 7x3-foot filter system to test the filter's sand for unwanted chemicals. From there, Roberson said he would be able to determine whether the town must replace the 10 year-old filter completely.

Roberson said if the filter does need replacing, the town would be forced to discontinue use of the

water plant during the week or more it could take to switch out the filters and test the new sand.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 72
Low: 57
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
High: 73
Low: 56
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY
High: 71
Low: 55
PARTLY CLOUDY