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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Police on alert man leering at kids, women

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Local police are monitoring parks and school areas after a suspicious male with a history of leering at women and watching young children was asked to leave the local library.

Chief Dale Vanscoy of the Hertford Police Department, said the 26-year-old Edenton man was told to leave the Perquimans County Library Feb. 20 after library staff said he was watching one particular woman and young child after story time.

Library staff had been monitoring the man's actions in the library for two weeks and told police he would come into the library shortly before their weekly story time for young children. He would get a newspaper and sit at a back corner table and pretend to read the paper, police said.

Library staff, however, watched and said the man wasn't actually reading the paper, but was watching the young mothers and children instead. Staff members also saw him peer through a bookshelf at a young mother, so staff then approached the man and told him he made others in the library uncomfortable and asked him to leave.

Police were called, but by the time police arrived, the man had already left.

By using his library card, Vanscoy said the man's name and address were obtained, and a check with Edenton police revealed that the man was well known in Chowan County for reports of the same type of incidents in that county in parks and even fast food restaurants. A police check shows the man has been arrested twice in Chowan County for being a public nuisance, Vanscoy said.

"As far as we know, he hasn't committed a crime here," Vanscoy pointed out. "But, we are monitoring area parks and the school areas before and after school, and no one has reported seeing him here since the library incident."

"The library staff did an excellent job of handling the situation there," he added. "If they had not picked up on it as soon as they did, chances are we would have had a problem."

The man, whose name is known by police, is described as 5'5", 130 pounds 26-year-old male with dark hair who gives the appearance of being of Hispanic origin. He wears round, wire-rimmed glasses. A picture obtained by police shows a small dark goatee and beard. However, a reported sighting of him at an Edenton fast food restaurant March 6 does not mention any facial hair.

If this male is spotted acting suspiciously around women or children, please contact your local police.

GREEN EGGS AND HAM



READ ACROSS AMERICA AND Dr. Seuss's birthday were both celebrated at Perquimans Central School last week with lots of activities including eating green eggs and ham for breakfast. Administrators and staff helped serve the themed breakfast, donning Dr. Seuss hats to get into the spirit of the observance.



County sets higher seasonal water rates

High-use customers will be charged more

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A higher seasonal water conservation rate for county water customers will go into effect with their May water bill.

County commissioners last week approved a higher rate for customers using more than 8,000 gallons of water a month between May and October in an effort to help promote water conservation. The seasonal rate will not apply to agricultural users or bulk customers like the Town of Winfall.

In the six months between May 1 and October 1, the county will bill the normal rate for the first 8,000 gallons of monthly water use. After 8,000 gallons, however, county water customers will be billed the

seasonal water conservation rate of \$8 per 1,000 gallons.

According to County Manager Bobby Darden, the average county water customer uses about 4,000 gallons of water per month and will see no difference in their monthly bill.

"Based on 2007 usage records, less than 10 percent of the customers will be impacted by the new seasonal water conservation rates," said Darden.

The seasonal rates are used to encourage county residents to conserve water during the months when water demand peaks and operational costs increase.

Darden explained that the normal water rate is \$10 minimum for up to 1,000 gallons of water and then \$6 per 1,000 gallons up to 8,000 gallons. Usage over 8,000 gallons in a month will be billed at the seasonal rate of \$8 per 1,000 gallons.

For example, if you use 4,000 gallons of water, your monthly water bill will remain at \$28. However, if you use 10,000 gallons of water per month, your monthly

water bill will increase from \$64 to \$68.

Currently, the county has 4,750 water customers including several poultry farmers who use a lot of water and who don't qualify as agricultural customers because they don't meet standards of a "bona fide farm" as written in the county's zoning ordinance.

Darden said county commissioners actually approved the new seasonal water conservation rate last March, but put it on hold for a year after the local office of the North Carolina Farm Bureau voiced concerns about the higher rate on behalf of the local poultry farmers.

"The board agreed to a one year delay for the seasonal rate for large users, giving the poultry farmers time to dig wells or take some other action to provide water," Darden said.

In addition to delaying the application of the seasonal rate last year, county commissioners also decreased the cost of water for customers using more than 20,000 gallons per month to

\$5 per 1,000 rather than \$6. That reduction will no longer be in effect beginning May 1.

The seasonal rate will be reflected in the customer's May bill which will include water used sometime in April. If the customer has a leak, and can provide proof of the leak with a repair bill or sign a statement saying the leak was repaired, the customer will be billed at the normal rate and qualify for a billing adjustment under the county's existing leak policy.

Darden pointed out that the county is instituting the seasonal water rates to encourage customers to conserve water and actually lower their water bill. Some ways to conserve water usage is to find and fix leaks; replace toilets, faucets and showerheads installed before 1994 with new water efficient models; and to use smart water techniques for landscaping and gardens obtained from the following websites: www.p2pays.org/water and www.ces.ncsu.edu/publications/lawnngarden.php.

Murder charges

Mother, daughter charged with death of mother's husband

SUSAN HARRIS
Editor & Publisher

A Bethel mother and her daughter were arrested Tuesday and charged with the June 2007 murder of the mother's husband.

Jennie Lee White, 61, and Katherine Ann White, 43, both of 117 Mill Drive, were charged by sheriff's deputies Tuesday afternoon with the first degree murder of Thomas Woodrow White, 58.

The two are being held without bond at Albemarle District Jail. They are scheduled for their first appearance before a judge in Perquimans County District Court on Wednesday.

Thomas White, of 117 Mill Drive, was apparently shot and killed in his own bed as he slept late on the night of Friday, June 22 or early on Saturday, June 23.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said the sheriff's department received new information last week that led to the recovery of physical evidence in the case. That evidence led back to the Whites.

"It was the break that we had been waiting for, which CONTINUED on page 6

Locals netted in Nip Tuck

Operation Nip Tuck, a regional drug sweep that netted 20 suspects on various criminal charges, included two men from Hertford.

According to an indictment handed down late February in U.S. District Court in Raleigh, Michael Leonard Coston, 33 of Hertford, faces a federal charge of possession with intent to distribute five grams of more of crack cocaine on or about Oct. 24, 2007. Coston was not arrested during the regional roundup by law enforcement March 4. A check with area law enforcement officials could not determine whether or not Coston has been brought in since then.

Also charged in the six-month investigation was James Knight, 45, of the 100 block of Kennedy Drive in Hertford. According to police, Knight is charged with possession of crack cocaine.

The investigation encompassed the counties of Pasquotank, Camden, Martin, Perquimans, Currituck and Dare and included 12 law enforcement agencies.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 70 LOW: 52
SUNNY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 73 LOW: 51
CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 70 LOW: 46
FEW SHOWERS