

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Two charged with child sex abuse

SUSAN HARRIS

Two Perquimans County men have been arrested and charged in separate incidents of sexually abusing 5-year-olds recently.

"We're finding this (reports of sexual abuse) more and more all the time," said Sheriff Eric Tilley.

"Kids are coming forward more," the sheriff responded when asked if he thought the incidence of child sex abuse is rising or children are coming forward and telling more

often.

The first arrested was Charles White of 168 Swayne Lane, who was indicted by a grand jury on April 2 for two counts of indecent liberties with a child.

Sheriff's investigator Marlo Reel said White was convicted of child sex abuse in 1998 in Pasquotank County, and was imprisoned until 2005. He is a registered sex offender.

The most recent charges stem from his alleged inappropriate touching of a

family member. He was arrested on April 24.

Reel said the sheriff's department received an anonymous call in October 2007 that led to the investigation. When the sheriff's department believed sufficient evidence had been obtained to arrest White, evidence was submitted to the grand jury for action.

White was placed under a \$5,000 bond. He is out on bail.

A second man was arrested on April 30 and charged with sex abuse of a Bertie

County child.

James D. Dunn, 69, who lives in a camping trailer at the back of farm property at 1280 County Line Road, was charged with seven counts of indecent liberties with a child. He is confined at Albemarle District Jail in lieu of a \$140,000 bond.

Tilley said a Windsor woman reported to his office on April 25 that Dunn had had sexual contact with her daughter. Tilley interviewed the child, and in his opinion, the child had been sexually abused.

On April 28, the child was taken to Tedi Bears in Greenville, a facility specializing in interviewing and assisting child abuse victims. There, the victim was re-interviewed and a physical exam was performed. Tilley said at the end of the visit he determined that he had sufficient evidence to make an arrest.

The mother called the sheriff's department on April 30 and said that Dunn, a family member, was at her home in Windsor. Tilley said the Windsor Police

Department apprehended Dunn near the home of the victim. He was held until Perquimans officers could pick him up.

While he was being arrested and processed, a search warrant was executed on Dunn's premises. Tilley declined to say if anything found bolstered the state's case against Dunn.

Tilley said research into Dunn's background shows that he has spent time in federal prison in Kansas for drug trafficking.

Trash to cash

Towns, county discuss recycling

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Since recycling is now bringing in just as much cash as it costs to dispose of trash, county officials hope the two towns will craft recycling programs that mirror the one currently used in the county.

Last week during their annual joint meeting between county commissioners and town council members from Hertford and Winfall, Bobby Darden, county manager, said the county's goal is to get the towns' recycling programs in line with the county's. Currently, Hertford has limited curbside recycling while Winfall has none.

While recycling materials have normally been sold for \$5-\$25 per ton, that price has jumped to \$50-\$60 per ton in the past year. Darden says the Chinese market is buying up the recyclables in the USA, creating larger demand and driving up the price.

The county currently pays \$60 per ton to dump the county's trash. If county residents can reduce the amount of trash being dumped in the landfill, increase the amount of trash recycled and get paid the same amount for it, recycling could actually be profitable for the county.

"There's a \$120 per ton benefit to recycling if we don't have to pay \$60 per ton to a private landfill and we get paid up to \$60 per ton for recyclables," Darden pointed out.

John Christensen, Hertford's town manager, said only 20 percent of the

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY Hertford



Town celebrates 250th birthday

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Despite a gloomy prediction of rain, sunny skies prevailed Sunday afternoon to provide the perfect backdrop for the 250th birthday party for Hertford.

Approximately 400 people turned out for the three hour celebration which included historical readings, music, food, politicians, and the cutting of the 30-pound birthday cake that sported the town's official 250th celebration logo.

Caterer Louise Ward, who made the three-tier, two-flavored cake, lit the candles on the cake as the crowd sang Happy Birthday to the town that was chartered May 4, 1758.

"It was a great day,"

said John Christensen, Hertford's town manager. "It was well attended, and I think everyone learned a little bit about the town's history that we weren't aware of. As the seventh oldest town in the state, everyone should be proud of our history. We're also glad that the weather cooperated."

Event planner Mary Mc. White also said she was pleased with the day, and thanked everyone who helped make it memorable for years to come.

Among the politicians who turned out Sunday was the state's Lt. Governor Bev Perdue, who is campaigning to become the state's Democratic candidate for governor. She arrived just before the 1 p.m. ceremony began, wished the town well on its 250th birthday

and reminded locals that she moved from Florida to New Bern 30 years ago, and then left to continue on her campaign trail to Durham.

"Anytime you get anybody from Raleigh this far east is a real thrill," said Mayor Sid Eley.

"We really appreciate the interest and support given by Lt. Gov. Perdue," Christensen added.

Others who attended included Representative Annie Mobley who presented a resolution in honor of the day, Senator Edward Jones, and Betty Jo Shephard, field representative for U.S. Senator Richard Burr.

Local historian Ray Winslow told the town's unique history while Lynwood Winslow detailed the history of the quakers in the area.

Music on the courthouse green was provided by members of the College of the Albemarle Community Band and The Renaissance Consort.

Later that evening, the Albemarle Chorale presented an outstanding pops concert at the Perquimans County High School that was well attended also.

Boy Scout Troop 150 exhibited its pioneer campsite on the courthouse green.

The day ended with a commemorative group picture taken of everyone who attended. The crowd gathered in the middle of the historic downtown business district for the picture that was shot by local photographer John Matthews who was hoisted up in the air in the town's bucket truck.

Escapee nabbed

Friend charged with harboring fugitive

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A man wanted for escaping from custody over 30 days ago was apprehended without incident in Hertford April 28.

According to Hertford Police Chief Brian Riddick, Jamie Walker was taken into custody around 11:15 a.m. at 100 Brace Avenue, Apt. 7, following a joint effort between the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, Winfall Police Department, and Hertford Police Department. Local police were looking for Walker after he escaped from custody while being transferred to Albemarle District Jail following a local court appearance in March, said Riddick.

An investigation by Hertford police determined that Walker was seen several times in an apartment occupied by Jennifer Ann Rogers. When a positive identification was made, police confronted Rogers in Apartment 7.

Chief Riddick knocked on the apartment's front door while Winfall police and a sheriff's deputy were stationed around the back. Police said Rogers denied Walker's presence in the apartment and wouldn't allow police to enter the apartment without a warrant, Riddick said. While he was talking to Rogers at the front door, Walker reportedly opened the curtain at the back window and looked straight at the officers, allowing a positive identification by the police officers stationed at the back of the apartment.

Rogers then allowed police to enter the apartment, and Walker was apprehended without incident, Riddick said. According to Riddick, Walker is currently being held in ADJ under \$66,000 bond on several charges including felony breaking and entering and felony larceny of a firearm.

Rogers is charged with harboring a fugitive and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 80 LOW: 67
MOSTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 77 LOW: 57
SCATTERED STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 74 LOW: 57
SCATTERED STORMS

