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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Girl, 3, attacked by dog

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A two-year-old girl was seriously injured Tuesday morning when she was bitten in the face and neck by a family pet and later flown to a Norfolk hospital.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said a chocolate lab attacked the girl while she and her mother were outside. The child bent down to remove her flip flops and the dog attacked unprovoked, he said.

The incident occurred at 818 Lake Road at the home of Robert and Sharon Cooper.

Members of Perquimans EMS responded to the scene and transported the child to the Perquimans County Athletic Fields in Winfall where they transferred the child to the Nightingale helicopter. Members of Winfall Volunteer Fire Department set up the landing zone for the helicopter, and members of the Perquimans Sheriff's Department assisted with traffic control.

Nightingale flew the child to Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters in Norfolk, Tilley said.

The dog is quarantined at the Chowan Animal Shelter for 10 days. Family members told police that the dog is up to date on its shots.

The investigation is being conducted by Animal Control Officer Stephen Chappell.

No further information was available at press time.

Man hurt in hit and run

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

One man was injured after being hit by a car while riding on a motorized cycle last week. The driver of the car left the scene, and witnesses say gunshots were fired as well.

Patrolman Josh Turpin with the Hertford Police Department said Marvin Moore of Harvey Point Rd. was driving the cycle, commonly known as a "moped," last Tuesday afternoon around 5:15 when he was struck by a black Lexus allegedly driven by Tice Blount, 31, of Albemarle Street. The incident occurred at the intersection of Wynn Fork Court and Wynn Fork Road.

Turpin said approximately 20-30 people were in the vicinity at the time, including some who were picking up children at a bus stop.

"I'm not sure just how close they were to where the incident occurred, but



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HALL OF FAMERS



FIVE INDIVIDUAL ATHLETES AND a team were inducted into the Perquimans Athletic Hall of Fame Friday evening. Individuals inducted included (left to right) Marvin Hunter Sr., Rufus Rouse, Tyronne Spellman, Bobby Tolson and Billy Winslow. Also inducted was the 1997 state 1-A softball champions. See story and another photo on page 4.

HPD didn't spend entire budget last year

Christensen says chief orders items

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Amid complaints that the town doesn't support its police department, a look at last year's budget shows the police department didn't spend all of the funds appropriated.

Last year's fiscal figures, provided by Town Manager John Christensen, show that out of a police budget of \$537,172, only \$508,253.91 was spent. Areas under spent included salary and wages, uniforms, travel and training, maintenance and repair, and capital outlay.

A total of \$28,918.09 was not spent.

Christensen said each department head determines what equipment is deemed most important and how to spend what money is allocated to that department.

Any purchase order over \$50 must be approved by the town clerk, he explained. Cindy Sharber is the town

clerk. Concerning complaints that the town has not provided the police department necessary items like up-to-date bullet-proof vests, shotguns, and tazers, Christensen responded that it is the department head's responsibility to get that equipment.

"I don't dictate where to spend the money in each department," Christensen said. "I hire department heads to make the budget requests and spend the money."

"There is money for bullet-proof vests sitting in the budget right now that hasn't been spent yet. It's not my job to know if officers have shotguns in the trunks or not. It is the department head's responsibility to get that equipment," he said.

No requests were made to him for shotguns, handguns or tazers, he added. He said the police chief did talk with him about providing tazers to his officers, but nothing was decided, Christensen said.

"There are equipment and overtime grants available to police departments,"

Christensen said. "It is the chief's responsibility to locate these grants, determine the requirements, and ask for permission to apply. I approved applying for overtime and equipment grants, but we cannot find this was ever done. The grants are simple to do and do not require grant writing experience to apply."

The current budget includes \$1,750 for bullet proof vests, he said. Vests usually worn by the officers typically cost approximately \$600 each, he added. He said the police department usually takes advantage of a matching grant program through the League of Municipalities that allows the town to buy more vests for their money.

"I have never denied any safety equipment for any department," he continued.

When it comes to funding the town departments, no department gets everything they ask for in any given budget year, Christensen said.

"Our citizens simply cannot afford all the wants of every department," he added. "Part of my job is

to determine what is most important for the town and to be as balanced and fair as I can be. I strive to present a budget to the council that provides a good level of service to our residents without the burden of large tax increases."

He said three new positions for the police department were requested in previous years' budgets, but were not approved.

"Given that each position created costs the town approximately \$75-\$85,000, I could not support that recommendation," Christensen said. "...I did say I would support one position partially funded by a grant, such as a COPS grant, and I asked that the chief look for grant funding for that position. I made the decision to support one officer based on the growth that I believe the town will see in the next two to three years. Police officer grants typically pay part of a salary for two to three years, and after that, the town is responsible for paying the entire amount. I have not been informed of any grants available for police officers."

Contract will let deputies work for Hertford

Town must OK amendments

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The first step to allow county law enforcement officers to patrol Hertford during their time off was taken Monday night.

Members of the Perquimans Board of Commissioners approved an agreement presented by the town of Hertford that will allow deputies to work shifts in the town and be paid by the town during the town's police manpower shortage. Sheriff Eric Tilley also approved the agreement.

The agreement basically says county law enforcement officers may volunteer to work shifts for the town, and be paid time and a half their sheriff's department hourly salary by the town for any hours worked. The town must also pay 17.5 percent for associated payroll costs as well as 50.5 cents per mile for gas.

The original agreement, which was given to the county by Town Manager John Christensen, only addressed salary, not associated costs or gas mileage. County commissioners recommended those changes prior to approving it. The agreement must now be approved by members of the Hertford town council before taking effect.

If approved by the town, some officials think this will mark the first time in the history of the county that such an agreement has been developed.

The sheriff's department will issue the town a monthly bill for time worked, and the town will pay the county.

The town police department is without a chief and a sergeant. It now has five officers working, but one is out on sick leave, and a second one is currently riding along with experienced officers since she only recently graduated from basic law enforcement school. With basically three patrols available, the town isn't

CONTINUED on page

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 75 LOW: 67
T-SHOWERS, WIND

FRIDAY
HIGH: 74 LOW: 65
RAIN, THUNDER

SATURDAY
HIGH: 76 LOW: 64
T-SHOWERS

Rotary renovates water fountain

The historic fountain on the courthouse green is back in place and sporting a spiffy new look.

The circa 1950s water fountain recently underwent a refurbishing thanks to the Hertford Rotary Club. It was dismantled back in January and shipped to California where Murdock Manufacturing, its maker, repaired the inner workings of the fountain, and refurbished the outside.

It was reinstalled the first of September in an effort to have it back working in time for the town's Indian Summer Festival.

The local Rotarians received a \$980 Rotary International District Simplified Grant to restore the bronze/cast iron fountain that was installed on the green before 1960.

Murdock Manufacturing



produced the fountain and it is believed to be over 50 years old. Its classic design complements the historic nature of the courthouse green.

John Christensen, proj-

ect chairman for the Rotary Club, said he spoke with Bob Murdock, the company owner who is interested in restoring older models of his product. Because of Murdock's interest, Mur-

MEMBERS OF THE HERTFORD Rotary Club recently reinstalled the historic water fountain on the county's courthouse green. The circa 1950s bronze/cast iron fountain is now in working condition and has a spiffy new look.

dock did a budget repair on the fountain.

"Normally, it would have cost more," Christensen added.

The Rotarians themselves performed the outside painting and applying chrome to the fountain's bowl. The fountain now works, offering drinks of water from its faucet.

Rotarians worked in conjunction with the county, town and Historic Hertford, Inc. with the restoration.