

THE WAKE WEEKLY

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HAVING A FIELD DAY...
Franklin Academy, Heritage,
FES students cut loose. **8C**



The Wake Weekly/CRAIG ALLEN

Wake Forest firemen use the department's new ladder truck to fight the blaze, along with Rolesville, Hopkins and East Wake fire departments, at the Bennett home late Friday afternoon. The fire, which began at the home next door, destroyed both homes and damaged a third on Redford Place in Rolesville.

Fire erupts across Rolesville houses

Homes ruined but no one injured

By LA TOVA MACK SUTTON
Wake Weekly Staff Writer



A fireman walks through a second-story window in the Bennett home.

Heat, gas and furniture stripper could have all played a role in a fire that destroyed two homes in the Village of Rolesville subdivision Friday.

The fire started after 5 p.m. on the back deck at 546 Redford Place Drive. Rolesville Fire Department Chief Rodney Privette said a small container of furniture stripper homeowner Chris McCord was using to work on his daughter's dollhouse could have been the culprit.

"The back of the house got so hot, the

(container) just combusted," Privette said.

An LP gas tank was also on the deck. The tank had just been filled the week before, Privette said.

The fire at the McCord's home quickly spread up to the top. Privette said the flames jumped from 546 Redford Place to the house next door at 542 Redford Place Drive, setting it on fire from the top.

When firefighters arrived, flames were shooting from every eave of the first house, Rolesville firefighter Brian Ward said.

See Fire page 16A

Family contends police not trying to find son

By DAVID LEONE
Wake Weekly Staff Writer

The Wake County Sheriff's Office requests the public's assistance in locating Jason Tyrone Jeffreys, 21, of 10304 Shuford Road in Wake Forest. Family members reported Jeffreys missing on Friday night.

Jeffreys was last seen after being dropped off in the Garner Road area near the intersection of Bragg Street in Raleigh, according to a Sheriff's Office press release. The time was either late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning (May 30-31).

Due to follow-up investigative interviews, Sheriff's deputies believe the circumstances surrounding his disappearance are

suspicious, the release stated. Phyllis Stephens, sheriff's office public information officer, declined to elaborate on the details and would not say if deputies believe Jeffreys was involved in criminal activity at the time of his disappearance.

Jeffreys has a long rap sheet with criminal arrests as recent as February of this year and others dating back to 2002. Many of the charges are related to possession of and in-

See Missing page 16A



Jeffreys

Robbed at gunpoint

Man pistol-whipped after not giving up wallet

By EREN TATARAGASI
Wake Weekly Staff Writer

A Wake Forest man was struck in the head by a firearm when he arrived at his home after work on Friday 31.

Eladio Garcia Serrano reported that Rafael Aparicio Basilio, 203 Caddell St., had been injured after a man approached him in his yard and demanded his wallet.

L. Trent Coleman with the Wake Forest Police Department said the suspect demanded Basilio's wallet, and Basilio placed the wallet behind his back and extended his cell phone to the suspect when he

was struck. The blow left Basilio with a two-inch laceration, and he was treated at WakeMed.

The suspect ran away without the wallet, but not before Basilio could get a good description of the man to report to police.

"The suspect is a black male, 6-foot tall, about 170 pounds, 25 to 30 years old," Coleman said. "He was wearing a white T-shirt over his face, a blue T-shirt, blue jeans and black shoes."

Landlord Eric Rush, who owns three homes on Caddell Street, said this is the third instance in which the same or

See Robbed page 16A

Body indentified as man missing since November

Ray of Franklinton found in Falls Lake

By BRIAN J. SLATTERY
Wake Weekly Staff Writer

The worst fears of a Franklin County family were confirmed Thursday when the state medical examiner identified the body of Franklinton man Tommy Ray.

According to Phyllis A. Stephens, public information director for the Wake County Sheriff's Office, a body discovered by boaters in Falls Lake Nov. 26 of last year was positively identified as Ray.

The medical examiner reported drowning as the cause of death. No signs of foul play were reported.

Betty Johnson and her sister, Kathy Truelove, are Ray's closest relatives in the area. Johnson lives between Louisburg and Bunn, off N.C. 39. Truelove lives between Louisburg and Lake Royal.

They were used to their brother's

comings and goings. Ray chose to live as a homeless man.

"Tommy's homeless, but he chooses to be homeless. He always wanted to be on his own," Johnson said after reporting him missing in January.

"We might go a month without seeing him, but never two or three."

The sisters last met with Ray at Truelove's birthday Oct. 6.

After Ray attended Truelove's birthday, Johnson said the last time she saw him was when she passed him on the road in Franklinton in late October or early November.

When Ray didn't arrive or contact anyone at Thanksgiving, the family first became concerned.

The sisters' concern grew when Ray didn't follow his normal routine, to come back to Truelove's

See Found page 16A



Ray

Trapped



The Wake Weekly/CRAIG ALLEN

Francine Scott looks at Wake Forest firefighters as they prepare to pull her from the wreckage Saturday morning at the intersection of Durham Road and Hampton Way. According to officer A.N. Bitting's report, Chadwick Dale Proctor, 29, of Middlesex, stated he didn't see the red light until it was too late, and he couldn't stop before hitting the 2002 Ford Explorer driven by James Odus Scott, 62, 521 Rockwood Court, Wake Forest, causing it to turn over on its side. Francine Scott was trapped in the passenger front seat until firefighters removed the roof. Bitting's report stated she had disabling injuries and was transported to WakeMed North. Proctor was charged with a stoplight violation and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Fire chief: more stations, manpower 'needed yesterday'

By DAVID LEONE
Wake Weekly Staff Writer

People who know Wake Forest Fire Chief Jerry Swift might describe him as a thoughtful, driven, won't-back-down-once-he-sets-his-mind-on-something kind of guy.

Which is exactly what is needed when charging into a burning build-

ing or when trying to fix a fire station shortage the chief says is way behind the times.

The nonproft Wake Forest Fire Department has two fire stations. Station 1 is downtown on Elm Avenue. Station 2, on Ligon Mill Road, was built in 2001.

But the outward growth of the town since then has stretched the depart-

ment thin. Response times to edge-of-town and out-of-town fires is nearing 10 minutes some days, when it should be closer to five, he says.

In his \$2.8 million budget request from the town, Swift asks for more personnel to man the trucks he has in-house. But, he said, he also needs three more fire stations within three years, to keep pace with growth.

New stations can cost \$2 million or more to build.

Expenses could put town in the red

So far, Town Manager Mark Williams has budgeted about \$2 million for the fire department, about \$800,000 less than requested.

The budget is very tight this year,

and if commissioners don't add any major expenses, taxes need not be raised, Williams has said.

Wake Forest commissioners could vote to add to the fire department allocation when they approve a new budget in July, but finding the funding could be difficult, Williams said during

See Stations page 15A

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Calendar of Events 6A
Church News 4-5C
Classifieds, Real Estate 1-8D
Dining Guide 5A

Legal Notices 5-6B
Main News 2-16A
Obituaries 1-8D
Opinions, Letters 14-15A

Police/Public Record 7B
Schools 1-3, 8C
Sports 1-4, 8B
Wedding/Society 7C

