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### **Dog attack tops sheriff's reports**

A 5-year-old girl playing in her yard in rural Lonoke County near Cabot was attacked by a pair of Labrador retrievers. The attack left the child badly hurt.

According to sheriff's reports, the attack occurred at about 3:50 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 18, on Kenzie Drive. A call for help was received by the sheriff's dispatcher at 3:52 p.m. and Deputy Carla Lucas responded.

Initial reports were that a single dog attacked the child, though later it was determined two dogs were involved.

The child was taken to Cabot Medical Clinic for emergency care, and then was taken to Arkansas Children's Hospital at Little Rock where she underwent three hours of surgery.

One of the dogs was described as a stray "that had been hanging around the neighborhood." The dog was captured by the Ward animal control officer, and later euthanized when an owner could not be determined. The state Health Department would conduct rabies testing, Roberson said.

Roberson said any attempts to speak with the child would wait until her condition improves. "The first priority is her health and welfare," he said.

Sheriff says sweep

nets thousands of dollars

in back child support

Lonoke County Sheriff Jim Roberson said the six-month-old crackdown on child support has produced thousands of dollars for families.

"Within the 180-day period, more than \$31,000 in back child support has been collected," he said.

A total of 103 individuals have been located, said Roberson, and each has either been served an order of compliance or arrested.

In Lonoke County, alone, there had been warrants for the arrest of 107 individuals for failing to maintain child support, said Roberson. As of this information release, there remain only four people with outstanding arrest warrants, he said.

The numbers do not include court orders from other counties that were served, he added.

"We will continue working with the Office of Child Support Enforcement to track down individuals who disregard supporting their children," said Roberson. "Cpl. Michael Gebhardt has done an outstanding job in locating these individuals. Teamwork can accomplish a lot."

Mother, boyfriend arrested after child makes 911 call

At about 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21, the Lonoke County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a 15-year-old boy who claimed to have been assaulted by his mother's boyfriend. Sgt. David Bufford and Cpl. Mike Gephardt responded to the residence on N. Stagecoach Road in Cabot.

At the residence, investigators were told that the 15-year-old and Melissa Renee Booker, identified as his mother, had been having a dispute. During the dispute, Paul Christian Files, identified as Booker's boyfriend, grabbed the 15-year-old by the neck, held him against a wall and choked him. Deputies could see marks around the neck, arms and back of the 15-year-old.

According to the report, when the 15-year-old fled the residence, Files threatened to kill him if he came back.

Files, 40, was arrested and charged with second-degree domestic battery and first-degree terroristic threatening. Booker, 43, was arrested and charged with permitting child abuse. Both were transported to the Lonoke County Detention Facility.

The 15-year-old and an 8-year-old sibling were taken into protective custody.