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NEW HANOVER

Parsley unit also positive for mold

Bellamy students were moved this week

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Mold has been found in one mobile classroom at Parsley Elementary School, where some Bellamy Elementary school students were sent this week after mold was found in mobile classrooms at that school.

New Hanover County Schools tested Parsley Elementary's five mobile class-

rooms and found airborne mold in one unit, according to a release from the district. That classroom will be shut down and renovated to remove the mold, according to the release.

Four mobile classrooms at Bellamy Elementary that housed about 100 fifth-graders were shut down Tuesday after they were found to have

See MOLD | 4A

Little change in violence

Wilmington | Religious leaders see gun use changes

By ADAM WAGNER
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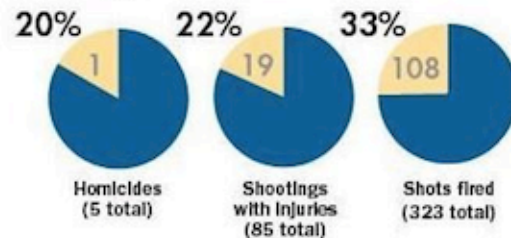
Local faith leaders' call for a 90-day cease-fire did nothing to change the rate of gun violence, according to statistics from the Wilmington Police Department.

Statistics for the 90-day period between June 24 and Sept. 22 – about a third of the year, five days before the cease-fire began through Sunday – show 108 of the city's total 323 shots-fired calls for the year have occurred during this period.

Nevertheless, area pastors are adamant that their efforts have had an impact throughout the city.

"What isn't measured is how many conversations

See CEASE-FIRE | 4A



SOURCE: Wilmington Police Department

Staff art

CEASE-FIRE

Continued from 1A

have been held, how many people have decided to not use their firearms," said Clifford Barnett, pastor of Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion Church.

Local religious leaders will address that and other topics, including what's next, during a press conference at 10 a.m. Friday in Wilmington City Council chambers.

Another religious leader pointed to violence moving away from public housing projects and other traditional hot spots as a sign of the effort's success.

Gang members "see this is a community that's not just gonna take it lying down. So for the most part, unless they're hard core, they take it up the street somewhere," said James Jamison, pastor of Hope Baptist Church.

There was a slight let-up in the number of gun-related injuries during the cease-fire period, with 19 of 85



Police investigated a fatal shooting Sept. 21 on Forest Hills Drive in Wilmington. Joseph David Williams was shot in the back while riding on a moped. Photo by Julian March

shooting injuries happening during the 90-days.

Furthermore, while the Sept. 21 killing of 18-year-old Joseph David Williams marked Wilmington's fifth

shooting murder in 2013, it was the first of the cease-fire period.

Williams' murder marked the first of five gun-related incidents from late after-

noon Sept. 21 to the early hours of Sept. 23.

In an earlier interview, WPD Chief Ralph Evangelous said recent arrests of several gang leaders had led

to a violent power struggle.

One of the pastors echoed the chief's sentiments.

"Most of them have been incarcerated, but what happened was they created a void where people who weren't able to express themselves in a violent manner in those areas saw a void and saw this as their chance," said Jamison, who also is security coordinator for the Wilmington Housing Authority.

Despite the spike in gun fire during the past week, the pastors insist they'll keep trying to root out violence by strengthening families and giving inner-city youth a chance at jobs with programs such as Youth Build.

"I understand the challenges, I understand that there's a lot of stuff going on even right now, but we haven't lost hope, we haven't given up on our kids, we haven't given up on our communities," Barnett said.

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