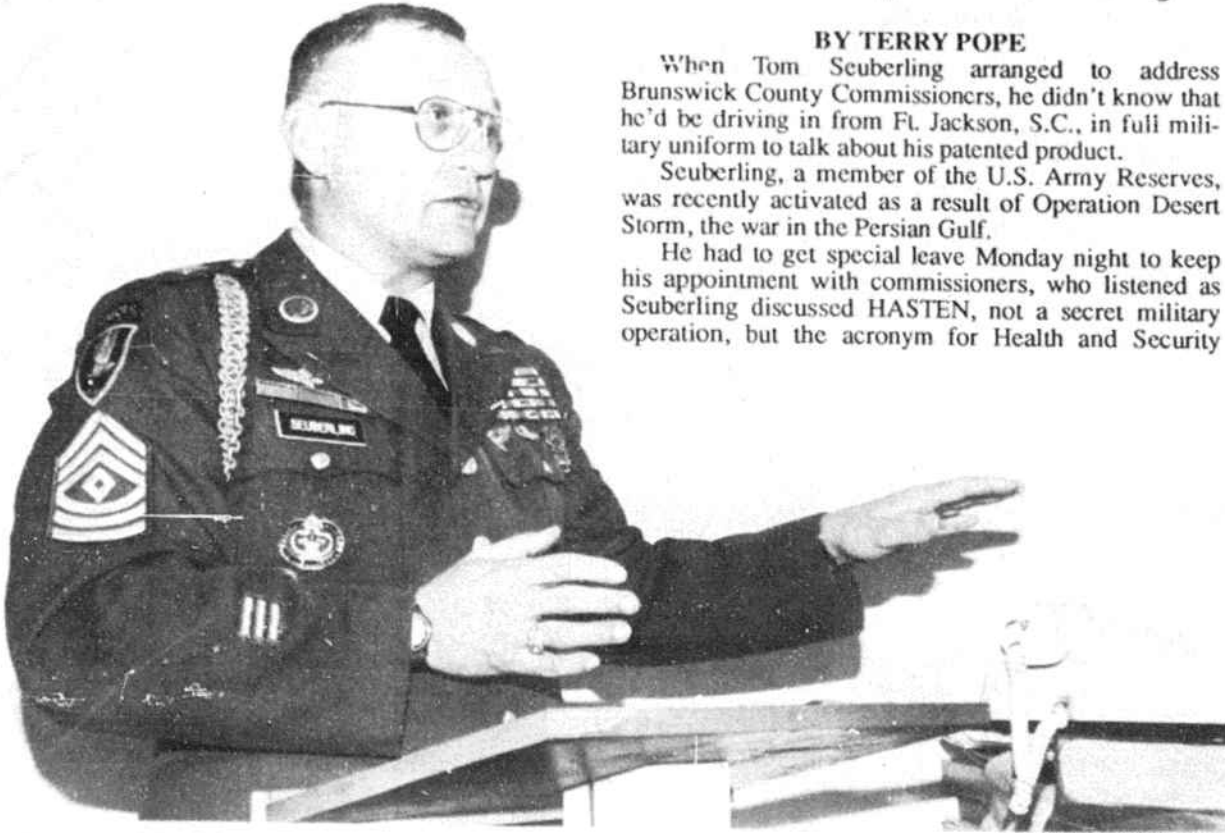


County To Check Compatibility Of Home Alert System With 911



TOM SEUBERLING got special leave from his reserve unit at Fort Jackson, S.C., Monday to address Brunswick County Commissioners about his telephone monitoring system.

BY TERRY POPE

When Tom Seuberling arranged to address Brunswick County Commissioners, he didn't know that he'd be driving in from Ft. Jackson, S.C., in full military uniform to talk about his patented product.

Seuberling, a member of the U.S. Army Reserves, was recently activated as a result of Operation Desert Storm, the war in the Persian Gulf.

He had to get special leave Monday night to keep his appointment with commissioners, who listened as Seuberling discussed HASTEN, not a secret military operation, but the acronym for Health and Security

Telephone Emergency Network, a patented product Seuberling sells which monitors elderly and disabled persons in their homes.

HASTEN uses a direct telephone line that connects a home telephone with a central receiving station which could be located at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department if the county decides to endorse the program. When a patient needs help, the unit can be activated without having to dial numbers. The sheriff's dispatcher would send help to the address listed on a computer printout.

County officials have agreed to study the equipment to see if it would coincide with the 911 emergency communications program the county hopes to have in operation by next Jan. 1.

"The concept is good," said Doug Ledgett, the county emergency medical services coordinator. "I would need to study it. There are some questions concerning 911."

The county would have to purchase the \$2,000 receiver station and pay the telephone company a monthly fee of around \$38 for the direct line, said Seuberling.

"Whether you have a 911 system or not, it's a benefit to the disabled," Seuberling said. "911 doesn't help them at all if they can't push those three buttons."

The system can be activated by an air tube for paralyzed victims or with a hand control for persons with severe arthritis.

The Greensboro firm would install the home equipment in cooperation with the Department of Social Services community alternatives program, or CAP services, which offers home care for patients who are one step away from being placed in a nursing home.

Currently, there are 43 persons being served by CAP services in Brunswick County.

HASTEN, which was patented in 1980, has been installed in Pender and Cumberland counties, Seuberling said. About 60 persons are connected to the system in Pender County.

"The sheriff's department has a spot for it and the sheriff was very impressed with it," he added.

In other business Monday, the board:
 ■ Reappointed Nancy Ledgett and Van Galloway to their seats on the Nursing Home Advisory Board. Their terms had expired.

■ Voted to delay an appointment to the Brunswick County Health Board. An optometrist must be appointed to fill the position held by Chris Moshoures, who has resigned.

■ Increased inspection fees for multi-sectional housing units from \$25 to \$50, as recommended by County Manager David Clegg, effective March 1.

■ Approved a grant agreement with Brunswick County Airport for \$43,900 in state funds that will be used to expand a taxiway at the airport. No county funds will be involved, Clegg said.

■ Agreed to contract the accounting firm of Brock, Padgett and Chandler to conduct the 1990-91 county audit.

■ Set a public hearing for 6:30 p.m., Feb. 18, at the commissioners' chambers at the government complex in Bolivia, on an ambulance franchise ordinance. The New Hanover Regional Medical Center Mobile Intensive Care Unit has applied to provide transits from the center in Wilmington to Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport and The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Redwine Introduces Lottery Bill, Nixes Annexation Bid

BY SUSAN USHER

State Rep. David Redwine Monday filed a bill calling for a referendum on a state lottery and notified Calabash officials that he does not plan to introduce legislation to add more area to the town.

Redwine said Friday he thinks his lottery bill has a greater chance of success than a similar measure he introduced during the last session. If it

is adopted, voters will get to vote on a lottery during the Nov. 3 elections.

That bill was still stalled in committee when the session ended. Another lottery bill cleared the Senate but not the House.

This year conditions are more favorable, Redwine suggested, with the state searching for additional sources of revenue to offset a budget shortfall of as much as \$1.5 million.

Analysts with the state have estimated a lottery could raise as much as \$200 million to \$250 million.

"I think it has a better chance of getting on the ballot," he said, "but I haven't got the 'feel' of this General Assembly yet. Right now I'm giving it a 50-50 chance."

The 1991 version, H.B. 15, also no longer specifies how lottery profits would be spent, routing all

monies into the general fund.

State Sen. Kenneth Royall (D-Durham) has introduced an identical bill, S.B. 2, in the senate.

When he introduced the previous lottery bill, Redwine said North Carolina was losing money to Virginia and also to Florida because residents play those states' lotteries. Tickets for the Florida state lottery can be obtained in South Carolina.

Those who oppose the lottery argue that it takes advantage of those least able to afford it, the poor. Others oppose it as a form of gambling, which is illegal in North Carolina.

The lottery bill is the only proposed legislation Redwine "pre-filed," he said. He will wait to file others after committee appointments are announced, looking for a "friendly face" to route them to the House floor.

Routing for the lottery bill is "cut and dried," he said. It will go to the Courts, Administration of Justice

and Referendum Committee.

No Short Cut

Redwine has turned down a request from the Town of Calabash that would allow it to take into its borders "pockets" of property without going through the usual process of annexation.

Town officials have been pressing for an answer to a request made last fall for a local annexation bill. Redwine had held back giving an answer until he could discuss the issue with the area's other legislator, Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. of Tabor City.

"He told me Thursday he was in agreement with the contents of the letter I plan to send the town," said Redwine. "But he certainly can still introduce anything he likes in the Senate."

"I do not plan to introduce any legislation to add any more area to the Town of Calabash."

Soles, who had not returned a Friday telephone call from the Beacon as of Tuesday, had at one point

suggested the possibility of a local bill that would provide for a referendum of residents of both Calabash and the areas targeted for annexation, with mutual approval required for any annexation to take place. Several residents of the target areas have approached the town asking to delay annexation until it is in a position to provide services.

Town officials have said that squaring off boundaries and taking in non-resident pockets would increase the town's population and make it easier to extend services.

"If I did it for them I would have 17 other towns asking for the same," said Redwine. "It would open up a Pandora's box and I don't want that."

"If they want to annex the usual way and feel they can provide services and meet the tests of the law, fine," the legislator said. "Those laws are there to allow for the growth of towns in an orderly fashion."



Efforts Recognized

Vernon Ward (right) of Shallotte Point was recently recognized by Chief Michael Potts (left) of the Shallotte Point Volunteer Fire Department for his service to the department. As secretary-treasurer for approximately four years, Ward keeps the books, pays the bills and most recently, handled the department's first residential letter campaign. He spent approximately 100 hours creating a database of fire district residents' addresses and then sending each household a letter asking for support. The results were excellent, said Potts.

Stolen Truck Found; Charges Filed

BY TERRY POPE

Charges have been filed against a Wilmington man accused of stealing a truck that was recovered by Brunswick County sheriff's deputies over the weekend.

Deputy Steve Mason reported a 1985 Isuzu Trooper stolen from a Savannah Court residence in Wilmington was later found in Leland.

A Wilmington man was arrested at Eldorado Mobile Home Park in Leland for the larceny of the \$16,000 truck.

The suspect has implicated at least two other suspects in the auto larceny, Deputy Mason reported, as an investigation of those allegations continues.

In other reports on file at the sheriff's department:

■ A Leland man reported last Thursday that a man pointed a .357 revolver at him while he was driving home from work on U.S. 17-74-76 near Belville. The victim said a pickup truck passed his vehicle at a high rate of speed, then slowed down as the driver pointed the gun toward him. The suspect then drove away. The victim told deputies that he did not know the suspect but later told detectives that he will press assault charges against the man.

■ A Jeep reported stolen from a Mill Creek residence early Monday morning was found about a half-mile from the victim's home on N.C. 87. Deputy Gene Caison reported the

CRIME REPORT

Jeep was found around 2:45 a.m. about 200 feet from where a 1987 GMC pickup truck had been stuck in a ditch. There are two suspects in the case, both from Leland. Some nylon rope was found near the Jeep, which was returned to the owner.

■ Burglars caused about \$4,000 in damage to drink machines at Old Fort Golf Course off of N.C. 133 in Winnabow early Saturday morning. An undetermined amount of coins was taken from the machines, Deputy Joseph Scoggins reported. The door of a drink machine at Smithville Township Park in Southport was also pried open over the weekend, reported Arch Wilson, park manager. Deputy Becky McDonald's report did not give estimates of damages or losses.

■ Two homes on N.C. 179 south of Shallotte were broken into sometime before Friday, reported Deputy Darryl Marlow. Screens to the front doors at both homes had been cut. Taken from one home was fishing gear and appliances valued at approximately \$650, with an estimated \$2,000 in damages. In another home, about \$490 in food and stereo equipment was reported missing.

■ A Seaside residence was broken into sometime within the last two weeks. The owner told Deputy Bob

Hoagland Friday that approximately \$80 in music equipment had been taken.

■ Someone broke into a Bolivia home and took about \$200 in jewelry, clothes and suitcases, reported Deputy Caison. The break-in occurred Sunday between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.

■ Kay Todd, owner of Top Gun Videos in Leland, told Deputy Brian Sanders Sunday that someone pried open a door at the store setting off an alarm. Nothing was taken in the break-in.

■ Worsley Transport, of Lincoln Industrial Park in Leland, reported someone cut the lock on a storage building last Thursday night but that nothing appeared to be missing, Deputy Mason reported.

■ A 1978 Ford van parked at a residence near North Brunswick High School was burglarized Friday night. The owner told Deputy Mason that apparently a coat hangar had been used to enter the van. About \$475 in stereo equipment and \$150 in damages was reported.

**AT SUNSET HARBOR
BRING HOME
THE BEACON**
On Sale At
SUNSET GROCERY

DISCOUNT FURNITURE WAREHOUSE
OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY, INC.
ON LONG BEACH ROAD IN SOUTHPORT

457-6613

★ FREE ★

**UP TO 12 MONTHS
FREE FINANCING**

On any purchase over \$200 (with approved credit)

★ Feb. 1 Thru Feb. 16 ★

Take the short drive to GREAT SAVINGS!

Something For Every Room In Your Home!

100% Financing ★ **FREE DELIVERY** ★ Open Mon.-Sat. 10-6