

COAST GUARD INVESTIGATING

Sinking Shrimp Trawler Spills Petroleum

BY DOUG RUTTER

Coast Guard officials are investigating a petroleum spill that occurred over the weekend when an old shrimp boat sank and leaked an oily liquid into the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway at Holden Beach.

The 50-foot trawler *No Way* started taking on water and keeling over at its waterway dock on Friday, and the U.S. Coast Guard noticed a sheen Saturday caused by a small petroleum spill.

"There was a sheen surrounding the stern of the vessel," said Ensign Karl Delooff of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in Wilmington. "It's not a massive spill. We classified it as a minor spill."

The *No Way* started sinking at its dock near Holden Beach Bridge after bumping into another vacant trawler, the *Sundowner*, which was moored next to it, said Petty Officer Norman McLeod of the Oak Island Coast Guard station.

"They were tied up. I believe they just hit each other and holes were knocked in the *No Way*," McLeod said. "It went down by the stern and keeled over a little bit to its port side."

McLeod said the Coast Guard responded to the incident Saturday morning and later contacted

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Marine Safety Office

the Marine Safety Office. The vessel was moored at the old Reeves Fish House on the waterway.

Specialized Marine Inc. of Wrightsville Beach was hired to contain the spill. "Currently the spill is being contained by a containment boom," Delooff said Tuesday afternoon.

Delooff said the boat's owner isn't able to pay for cleanup of the spill or the raising of the vessel. The Coast Guard is using funds from the National

Pollution Fund Center to pay the contractor to contain the spill.

The National Pollution Fund Center is a "superfund" set up to pay for environmental cleanup when the responsible party is unknown or unable to pay for the cleanup, Delooff said.

"The owner of the vessel had intended to try to raise it and refloat it, but to our knowledge at this point he has not been able to," Delooff said.

The Coast Guard won't know the type of petroleum that leaked from the trawler until it receives results of lab tests. Delooff said it was either diesel fuel, bilge or motor oil that leaked.

"Sheen on the water essentially is a violation," Delooff said. "That actually has to go before a hearing officer before it can be classified as a violation. Right now it's a possible violation."

Delooff refused to provide the name of the boat owner. But he said the owner could be fined up to \$25,000 if a hearing officer determines that a violation occurred.

In addition, the National Pollution Fund Center could require the owner to pay back any funds that are used to contain and clean up the spill.

Marine Goes On Trial For Girlfriend's Murder

Jury selection began Tuesday in the Brunswick County Superior Court murder trial of a Camp Lejeune Marine accused of fatally shooting his girlfriend at her Leland mobile home last May 31.

The state will not seek the death penalty in the first-degree murder trial of 25-year-old Alfonza Lee Staley, who is charged with killing Stephanie Bradley, 30, of the Old Mill Road mobile home park.

"It's not a death penalty case," Assistant District Attorney Lee Bollinger said. "The issue will be whether the shooting was intentional or accidental."

Bollinger said the state's evidence will show

that Staley was visiting Bradley for the weekend and was among the guests at a Sunday afternoon birthday party for her daughter.

"Staley left the party, and while he was gone the birthday party evolved into a grown-up party," Bollinger said.

Later that evening, Bradley took all the guests home except her friend Rick Ballard, who worked for Bradley in her picture-framing business. Ballard had stayed behind to talk with her about some money she owed him, Bollinger said.

Staley returned to the trailer at about 10:30 p.m. At first, he gave no indication that he intended to do Ballard any harm, Bollinger said. Then Staley suddenly attacked Ballard and threw him outside.

As he walked toward his truck to leave, Ballard noticed that Staley had a gun, Bollinger said.

A short time later, Staley called 911 to report that Bradley had been shot. Staley flagged down a sheriff's deputy and told him he had shot Bradley, Bollinger said.

Bradley was pronounced dead on arrival at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington.

Testimony in the trial was expected to begin Wednesday before presiding Judge Craig Ellis.

Jury selection had begun in the Staley case Feb. 16, when Judge Lynn Johnson postponed the trial due to a family illness.

Health Staff Getting Ready For Countywide Leash Law

BY ERIC CARLSON

Controls on roaming dogs and public smokers were among the items discussed at a meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Health Monday night.

Health Director Michael Rhodes told the board that he met last week with County Manager David Clegg, Animal Control Supervisor Bob Grissett and Environmental Health Director Andrew Robinson to discuss implementation of the county-wide leash law that becomes effective April 1.

The ordinance will make it unlawful for a dog owner to allow his pet to "run at large" or "to be off the premises of its owner and not under the physical restraint of a competent person."

Animal control officers will be allowed to impound dogs running loose and to issue citations to the owners. Anyone convicted under a warrant or bill of indictment for violating the law could pay a fine of up to \$250.

Rhodes said Tuesday that the greatest concern he had heard about the law came from those who use dogs for hunting. The law specifically exempts hunting dogs while engaged in hunting with a licensed hunter.

"If you've got a hunting license and its hunting season and your dog is hunting with you, your dog is not running at large," Rhodes said. "It's important for owners to know that we're

The ordinance will make it unlawful for a dog owner to allow his pet to "run at large" or "to be off the premises of its owner and not under the physical restraint of a competent person."

not going after hunting dogs. As long as they are with a licensed hunter, they'll get no problem from us."

He said state wildlife laws also allow for hunting dogs to roam off a leash while engaged in legitimate training.

Rhodes said the animal control office does not have enough manpower to patrol the county looking for roaming dogs and will concentrate on handling complaints from people who have a problem with an unsupervised dog on their property. However, dogs found roaming on public roads will be picked up, he said.

Stray dogs picked up by animal control officers won't be taken to the pound immediately,

Rhodes said. The officer will first attempt to locate the owner and issue a citation.

Dogs without a collar or those whose owner cannot be identified will be taken to the pound. To reclaim an impounded dog the owner must pay a \$10 fee and \$3 room and board for each day the animal remains in county custody. If the dog's rabies vaccination is not current, the owner must pay an additional \$7 to have the pet inoculated.

The health department has been authorized to hire an additional animal control officer to help implement the new ordinance. Rhodes hopes to have the new employee on duty by mid April.

Rhodes also reported that a recently appointed 13-member committee held its first meeting last week to address the issue of smoking in public places. The group agreed to appoint Rhodes chairman and to expand membership to 15 by adding two more smokers.

The committee will meet again Monday, March 15, at 6 p.m.

In other business the board voted unanimously to request an additional part-time community health assistant for the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program. The salary for the position would be paid by state funds. The board of commissioners must vote to approve the new position.

Elementary Student Projects Promoted Good Dental Health

Students at Union and Waccamaw elementary schools recently participated in "Smiles Forever" contests and other activities promoting dental health.

The competitions were sponsored by the North Carolina Dental Society, N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, said school nurse Kate Williamson, R.N.

Fourth grade students whose public service announcements were chosen to air over WDZD Radio Station include Amelia McKoy and Shannon Simmons, Waccamaw; and Sarah Howard, Miranda Pritchard, Khandon Frink and Katie Hart, Union.

Waccamaw School fifth grade poster contest winners are Ricky

Babson, Crystal Milliken, Mary Williams, Stacey Carter, Jessica Stout and Nicole Babson. Their posters are on display in the Shallotte dental offices of Dr. John Ward and Dr. John Madison.

Another local dentist, Dr. David Deeb visited all kindergarten through fifth grades classes at Waccamaw and kindergarten through fourth grade classes at Union. He discussed the importance of preventive maintenance in health care and answered questions from each group.

Both schools held dental health parades, with kindergarten through third grade students dressing as floss, toothpaste and other favorite dental "characters." Waccamaw participants included kindergarten students Robin Evans, Mallary Long, Jay Skaggs, Racheal King, Kyla

Williams, Shanna Jordan, Wesley Long, Sammy Long, Kiera Hemingway, Chris Babson, J.J. Solano, Billy Lewis, Lauren Frink, Amber Grissett, Kate Gore, Tara Dyson, Wade White, Alfredo Barron, Daniel Lewis, B.J. Grainger, Tracy Ellifrits, Felicia Vanoy, Zachary Smith, Ramond Costello; first graders Jessica Hardy, Jonathan Leggett, Justin White, Penny Williams, Patrick McDowell, Kim Oliver, Charlotte Norris, Jessie Powell, James Butler, Seneca Flowers, Lionel Lewis and Shalamar Butler;

Also, second graders Joy Johnston, Lyndsey Evans, Jessica Long, Jordan Pritt, Chad Hughes and Joseph Patterson; third graders Ashley Love, Alex Smith, Brea Wood, Kenneth Keith, Jennifer

Long, Jessica Brown, Cortney Daniels, Latoria Brown, Dana Leggett, Joshua Skaggs, Christie Reeves, Jessica Price, Amanda Babson, Tiffany Simmons, Tammy Stewart, Patrick Williams, Curtis Bullard, Brandon Nobles, Valen Williams, Brian Furr and Robin Bolton.

At Union participants included kindergarten students Alan Crews, Heidi Bass, Isaac Morrison, Margo Lundberg and Hailey Heavener; first grade students Tracy Allen, Stephen Duran, Susan Smith, Nicole Lockwood and Julian Auerbach; and second grade students Tiffany Meuse, Shannon Smith, Katy Jones, Shatjuna Greene, Matthew Cooker, Krystal Tarpe, Heather Little, Kayla Hewett, Bridgette Biddle and John Perkins.

Holden Newsletter In Mail

Holden Beach property owners can look in the mail this week for the first edition of the community's new newsletter.

Town officials hope the newsletter will help keep non-resident homeowners informed about the latest happenings at the beach.

Town Manager Gary Parker said the first edition is two pages long. A new newsletter will be sent to landowners about every three months.

Among the items included in the first edition are a calendar of upcoming meetings and lists of town board members and committee members.

"It has news about town accomplishments like new sidewalks and street lights," Parker said.

This quarter's newsletter also informs property owners about the upcoming budget cycle and zoning map update to be done this year.

Each edition also will include reports from the police, public works and other departments and information on new ordinances approved by the board of commissioners.

"We're going to try to see what kind of feedback we get from people," Parker said. "We may add things to it in the future if enough people want to see changes."

For now, Parker said the document is being called the Town of Holden Beach Newsletter. "Maybe we'll come up with a better idea for that too," he said.

Joyce Shore, a clerk and secretary for the town, is in charge of writing and printing the newsletter.

Local Residents Can Hear Hunt Education Talk Today

Brunswick County residents can watch via satellite today (Thursday) as Gov. James B. Hunt addresses the annual joint meeting of the state's three education boards.

The Education Summit will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Locally the teleconference can be viewed from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Teaching Auditorium at Brunswick Community College at Supply.

In his remarks Hunt is expected to focus on ways recommendations of the Government Performance Audit Committee mesh with his administration's vision for education in the state.

The GPAC recommendations address the education continuum between the public schools, community colleges and four-year institutions. The State Board of Community Colleges, the State Board of Education and the University of North Carolina Board of Governors convened their first joint session in 1989 to begin working toward the creation of an education continuum for the state.

One effort to improve linkage between the community colleges and public schools is the joint venture Tech Prep/Associate Degree program. The new program is intended to ensure that students who plan to

go to community colleges and those who intend to go straight to work receive technical preparation and guidance comparable to that given to students who follow the College Prep academic program for students planning to enter a four-year institution immediately after high school.

Others scheduled to speak at the summit include Marc Basnight, president pro tempore of the Senate; Daniel T. Blue Jr., speaker of the House; William F. Simpson, chairman of the State Board of Community Colleges; and Robert W. Scott, president of the community college system. Larry Herman, project director, KPMG Peat Marwick, and Eva Klein, education management consultant, will discuss the GPAC recommendations regarding education.

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This week's entertainment line up: FRIDAY, MAR. 12 Flip Side Band SAT. & SUN., MAR. 13-14 Appearing in our lounge Nashville recording artist Michael Shane SUNDAY, MAR. 21 You be a star! Karaoke Contest Join your friends at... Islander Restaurant & Lounge On the beach at Ocean Isle 579-6474

The Gourmet Dept. of The Calabash Festival Association is proud to announce the Phantom Diner of Calabash has reported: Thomas Seafood Restaurant of Calabash has the best clam chowder in N.C. and S.C. Haley's Restaurant of Calabash has the best she-crab soup the Phantom Diner has ever tasted! We urge you all to enjoy these wonderful Calabash restaurants!

DOCKERS BRUNSWICK COUNTY'S #1 NITECLUB Wednesday—MEMBERS APPRECIATION Night \$1.00 OFF All Mixed Drinks Thursday—Pool Tournament \$100 in prizes Sunday 1 PM—See NASCAR racing from Atlanta on our 52" wide-screen TV Sunday 4 PM—Ladies Only Pool Tournament FRIDAY & SATURDAY CROSSROADS OPEN 7 DAYS 4 PM-2 AM • ALL ABC PERMITS POOL TABLES • GAME ROOM • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT HOLDEN BEACH RD. • HOLDEN BEACH • RESERVATIONS 842-7070