

# Investigators Think Domestic Dispute Led To Arson At A Bolivia Home Friday Evening

A domestic dispute is believed to have escalated into the burning of a building and vehicle at a home in Bolivia Friday evening, according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Monday.

According to Deputy Robert Long's report, an ex-parte court order was served Friday on a man living at Ocean View, off U.S. 17. The man's wife said she left and went to her father's house up the road.

A short time later, she told Long that she went outside and saw smoke rising through the trees in the direction of her house. Arriving home, she reported finding a building beside her house "fully in flames." A 1986 Ford Tempo parked nearby also was burning, she said.

Long noted that earlier that day he and two other deputies had heard the husband say to the wife that "he would get her."

The total amount of the damage had not been determined.

An investigation is continuing into the incident, which is being treated as an arson.

In other crime reports on file at the sheriff's office Monday:

Someone caused an estimated \$5,000 damage to the fourth green at Sandpiper Bay golf course by using two 4-wheel-drive recreational vehicles to "cut doughnuts" on the turf Saturday night. According to Sgt. Don Stovall's report, the suspects apparently removed a section of split-rail fence along Old Georgetown Road and drove the four-wheelers onto the course. Det. Tom Hunter is investigating.

## CRIME REPORT

A woman who lives on N.C. 130 in Ash told Deputy Phil Bryant that she left her mobile home at about 9 p.m. Friday and returned at about midnight to find two bullet holes in the siding. Damage was estimated at about \$100.

A 15-week-old rottweiler puppy was reported stolen from a home on Navassa Road, Leland, Friday night. The owner told Deputy R.E. Duvall that he had let the dog out at about 7:30 and discovered it missing about 20 minutes later. The man told the deputy that the puppy never leaves the yard and had to have been stolen. It was valued at \$1,500.

Deputy Cathy Hamilton investigated a report that someone apparently moved into a vacation trailer on Elkin Road, Supply, without the permission of the owner, who was at home in Charlotte. It was not determined how the intruder got into the residence, but it "appeared to have been lived in," Hamilton said. "Subject also put food in the refrigerator, bought kerosene for the heater and changed the sheets on the bed," she reported. No damage was done.

About \$270 worth of cash and other items was stolen from a 1988 Hyundai Excel parked in the front yard of a home near the Navassa community park Sunday evening. The owner told Deputy William Hewett that she left a pocketbook containing \$225 cash, credit cards and other things on the seat of the car while visiting a friend. When she left the home at about 7:10 p.m., the

pocketbook was gone.

A 10-speed bicycle was stolen from a home off N.C. 179, Route 1, Shallotte, recently. The father of the owner told Bryant that his son had left the bike at a friend's house, where it was discovered missing March 27. It was valued at about \$150.

Someone caused an undetermined amount of damage to a pickup truck parked at West Brunswick High School Tuesday. The owner, a 17-year-old Ocean Isle Beach man, told Deputy S. Caison that he returned to the vehicle at about 3 p.m. to find that the door had been scratched and a piece of trim was bent. There was no sign of entry to the vehicle.

A portable stereo cassette player valued at \$120 was reported stolen in a recent break in and larceny at a mobile home on Lanvale Road, Leland. The owner told Duvall that someone removed the glass from the front door and unlocked it to get in-

side. There was an estimated \$40 damage.

About \$100 cash and an unknown number of checks were stolen in a break-in and larceny at the Maco Truck Stop restaurant on Maco Road Wednesday night. The owner told Deputy Matthew Jenson that the thief or thieves apparently broke in through the front door, causing an estimated \$300 damage.

Twenty-one pieces of lumber were reported stolen from a N.C. Department of Transportation work site off Bellamy Road, Longwood, Wednesday night. Deputy R.W. Long II estimated the value of stolen flooring boards at about \$104.

A washing machine and dryer valued at about \$780 were stolen from a residence at Colonial Court Apartments on Mt. Misery Road, Leland, Thursday. The thieves also broke a water line, which flooded the apartment, causing an undetermined amount of damage, Duvall reported.

## Courses Set For Law Officers

Two courses designed for police officers will be offered through Brunswick Community College this month.

Public Safety Officer Lindsey Walton will teach a half-day session Saturday, April 17, on "Cap-Stun Weapon Systems".

The class will be held from noon to 5 p.m. in Room C-115 of the Classroom Building at Brunswick Community College's main campus on U.S. 17 Business north of Supply. Officers are asked to bring a towel and a shirt to class. Radar operator certification train-

ing will be held April 26-30 at BCC's Leland campus.

Instructor Chester D. Combs will teach the classes from 8 a.m. until noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The 40 hours of training will earn participants four continuing education credits. The manual for the class will cost \$18.75.

Police officers can take either course at no charge.

For more information, contact BCC's Continuing Education Department at 754-6900, 457-6329 or 343-0203.

# Knife-Wielding Cashier Scares Off Robber

The cashier at a Southport car wash foiled an armed robbery Monday night by brandishing a paring knife at a young woman who tried to hold up the business with a toy handgun.

The clerk at the Coastal Car Wash on Long Beach Road told police she was alone in the business at about 8 p.m. when a young woman entered wearing a blue sweatshirt with the hood pulled over her head and a dark bandana hiding her nose and mouth, according to Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Nancy Simpson.

The robber was holding a black gun in her right hand and a bag in her left when she demanded that the cashier "hand over the money," Simpson said.

"The cashier pulled out a knife and pointed it at her and told her to get out of the store," Simpson said. "She dropped the bag and ran out."

Simpson said the cashier told her that she assumed the gun was real when she threatened her assailant with the small paring knife. She had been using the knife to make a sandwich shortly before the robber entered, the detective said.

The cashier chased the robber outside and saw her jump into a red Nissan hatchback that had been left running behind the car wash. Then she went inside and called 911 to give a description of the suspect and the vehicle.

About an hour later, a Southport police officer pulled over a car matching the cashier's description. Inside were two young men.

"They were scared stiff," Simpson said. "They said the car belonged to the mother of a young girl who had let them borrow it."

The driver gave the officer permission to search the car, Simpson said. Inside he found a black plastic toy gun, a bandana and a hooded sweatshirt.

Acting on information provided by the two men, Simpson arrested Jennifer Payton Bellamy, 17, of Southport on a charge of common law robbery. She was being held in Brunswick County Jail Tuesday in lieu of \$5,000 bond.

Simpson said Bellamy could have been charged with armed robbery if the gun had not been found and identified as a toy.

# Three Squads Fight House Fire On Stanley Road

Strong winds hampered the efforts of about 30 volunteer firefighters from three departments who responded to a fire that destroyed an old wood-frame house on Stanley Road Monday night.

The fire had nearly gutted the one-story house near at the intersection of Morgan Road when neighbors noticed the smoke and called 911, said Roger Suggs, chief of Supply Volunteer Fire Department.

Suggs heard the radio dispatch at about 8:27 and immediately called for mutual aid from Civictown Volunteer Fire Department. As he drove up Stanley Road and saw the bright orange glow in the sky, he notified Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department that additional aid would be needed.

"I knew I had something before I

got there," Suggs said Tuesday. "It's always better to call too much than too little. You don't play catch-up with a fire. Turns out it was pretty much gone already."

Firefighters with two hoses kept water trained on the fire as strong, shifting winds sent billowing clouds of smoke spewing first from one side of the house and then another. The two groups took turns attacking and retreating from different angles as the flames and smoke advanced and receded.

The fire was largely under control within about 30 minutes, but by then there was little left but a few charred walls, some blackened timbers and a tall brick chimney. A nearby shed and a large oak tree were charred by the heat but did not catch fire.

No one was home at the time of the blaze and no firefighters were in-

jured, Suggs said. However a Coastline Rescue ambulance stood by throughout.

Suggs said the fire was probably caused by an electrical malfunction. There were no gas lines on at the time of the blaze, he said.

"Evidently, it had been burning a while before the call came in," he

said. "The back wall was already gone when I got there."

Suggs said the house was being rented by Craig Brown from his grandmother. Brown was in Southport at the time of the fire. He was not insured and lost everything in the home. Damage was estimated at about \$30,000.

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# Three Arrested In Supply Armed Robbery

Three Cedar Grove men were arrested Wednesday (March 31) after they allegedly used a handgun to steal \$3.25 from the 61-year-old owner of a country store in Supply.

Loretta Hewett has operated Hewett's Store on Mt. Pisgah Road for the past 40 years, said Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Charlie Miller.

She told officers she was there at about 2:38 p.m. when two men came in and started wandering around the back of the store. When Hewett asked if she could help, the men said they were looking for snacks, Miller said.

As they walked toward the front of the store, one of the men produced a small-caliber revolver, handed Hewett a bag and demanded that she fill it with money, said Miller.

Hewett handed them two dollar bills and opened the cash register, which contained only a small amount of change.

"She told them that was all she had. So they took it and left," Miller said.

The two men were seen running across a nearby field toward Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, where they got into a white Chevrolet Camaro and drove off, the detective said.

A car matching that description was later found on Turkey Trap Road in the Cedar Grove community. Acting on information obtained through interviews in the area, sheriff's detectives arrested W. Niguel Lovett, 21, Frantz Tramel Mercer, 26 and Terrance Antwan Williams, 16.

The three men have been charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon. Lovett and Mercer are being held in lieu of \$25,000 bond each. Williams has been released on bond.

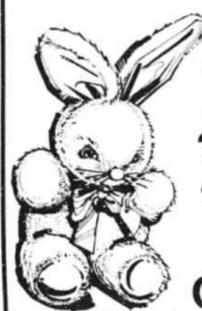
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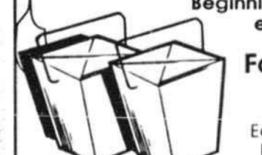
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