

# Nine People Injured In Three County Accidents Saturday

Nine persons were injured in three accidents that occurred Saturday on Brunswick County roadways, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington.

Larry Keith Bowen, 18, of Supply, was charged in an accident that occurred Saturday at 11:35 p.m. on N.C. 179 just north of Ocean Isle Beach.

Jerry Roy Vernon Jr., 28, of Shallotte, was driving west on N.C. 179 in a 1983 Buick when Bowen, driving east in a 1985 Ford at "a high rate of speed," crossed the center line and sideswiped Vernon's vehicle.

According to Trooper J.H. Kerr's report, Vernon's car traveled off the right side of the road, while Bowen's vehicle overturned on its top in the eastbound lane of N.C. 179.

Bowen was charged with driving left of center and driving while impaired.

He received serious, non-incapacitating injuries. Two other occupants of the vehicle fled the scene.

Vernon and a passenger in his car, Wendy Vernon, 24, also of Shallotte, also received serious, non-incapacitating injuries. Three other passengers in his vehicle were not injured.

All three of the injured were transported to The Brunswick Hospital.

Andre James McMillan, 53, of Wilmington, was charged with a yield violation in an accident that occurred Saturday at 11:15 p.m. on U.S. 17 approximately eight miles north of Bolivia.

McMillan was southbound on U.S. 17 and Deborah Hewett, 33, of Supply was northbound on U.S. 17.

McMillan attempted to turn left onto Sloan Road (S.R. 1552), failing to yield the right of way to Hewett, causing the impact, according to the report filed by Trooper T.W. Calder.

McMillan and Hewett complained of injuries, as did one passenger in Hewett's car, Cora Morgan, 54, of Supply. Another of her passengers, Delilah Greene, 83, of Supply, was seriously injured.

Damage to McMillan's 1988 Chevrolet was estimated at \$4,000, and to Hewett's 1990 Oldsmobile, \$5,000.

No charges were filed in a two-car accident that happened at 11:10 a.m. on N.C. 133 in Belville.

According to the report filed by Trooper B.C. Jones, the drivers involved were Hugh Williams Runyan, 70, of Hampstead, who was driving a 1993 Pontiac, and Zada Harvell, 53, of Winnabow, driving a 1987 Cadillac.

Runyan was southbound on N.C. 133, approaching the intersection of Blackwell Road (S.R. 1551). Harvell was traveling east on and stopped at the intersection. Then she started to cross N.C. 133, failing to yield the right of way to Runyan.

Runyan's Pontiac struck Harvell's vehicle, which spun around and stopped facing the direction in which it came. Runyan's vehicle stopped on the right side of the road, facing south.

Runyan was not injured, but passenger in his car, Vernell Thompson, 68, of Hampstead, complained of injuries. Harvell had complaints as well. Both were transported to New Hanover Regional Medical Center for treatment.

Damage was estimated at \$4,000

to the Pontiac and \$2,000 to the Cadillac.

Last Wednesday, both drivers were charged in a rear-end collision that occurred two-tenths of a mile north of Shallotte on North Main Street (U.S. 17 Business).

Cheryl Bordeaux, 42, of Shallotte, stopped her northbound 1989 Buick for a vehicle that was turning. Sandra Long Hall, 33, also of Shallotte, was also traveling north and failed to reduce speed, according to the report filed by Trooper J.H. Kerr. Her 1987 Ford struck Bordeaux's vehicle in the rear.

Damage was an estimated \$2,000 to Bordeaux's 1989 Buick and \$3,500 to Hall's 1987 Ford.

Hall was transported to the hospital by private vehicle with complaints of injury.

Kerr charged Hall with failure to reduce speed and having no seat belt and Bordeaux with having an expired driver's license.



OFFICER Keith Croom of the Shallotte Police Department directs traffic around the scene of a rear-end collision on North Main Street last Wednesday. Both drivers were charged with violations by the N.C. Highway Patrol.

## Rep. Redwine Sponsors Health Care Reform Bill

State Rep. E. David Redwine (D-Brunswick) says a health care reform bill he introduced April 7 would improve upon North Carolina's current health care system rather than scrapping it.

House Bill 821, he said, is designed to provide health coverage for uninsured individuals and to enhance the affordability of health care for all state residents by providing for managed competition.

The measure has won the support of a coalition of more than 600 businesses and associations which is advocating steps to address health care issues of the uninsured and of cost.

As proposed, residents who are uninsured, underinsured or employees of small businesses could purchase health care through regional Health Plan Purchasing Cooperatives (called HPPCs), which would be administered by a 10-member statewide commission. The plan would provide comprehensive benefits to all eligible individuals regardless of health status without underwriting or waiting periods, he said.

Under a portability requirement for all health insurance health maintenance organization (HMO) plans, new "pre-existing condition" periods would be eliminated when an insured individual changes jobs.

Provisions of the 1992 Small Employer Group Health Coverage Reform Act would be extended to

employers having three to 49 employees. Previously it covered employees of three to 25 persons.

According to a bill summary, the proposed plan will be made affordable by encouraging competition among private health plans on the basis of price and quality, by reducing administrative costs, by providing incentives for providers to participate in managed care systems and by ensuring appropriate growth in medical technology and putting into place other cost control measures to be studied by the state commission.

The state commission would include representation of consumers, employers, insurers and providers. It would also be charged with addressing specific issues relating to medical costs control and increased health service delivery. Among these is development of a cost-effective program for prevention and early detection of illness to be made universally available and provided by county health departments with state financial support.

The commission would also be charged with making recommendations to the legislature regarding options for providing financial assistance to persons whose incomes are less than 200 percent of the poverty level to enable them to afford the cost of purchasing health care through the plan.

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