



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

A DONATION of \$1,000 from Nations Bank of Shallotte is presented by Vice President Dennis Crocker (left) to Joe and Moe Stanley, representing the Ambassadors Interested in Mankind, to help pay for an instructional video produced by AIM to educate minorities about the dangers of high blood pressure.

LOCAL FAMILY INVOLVED

AIM Produces Video Aimed At Combating High Blood Pressure

BY ERIC CARLSON

As members of the Percy family talked and reminisced at their annual reunion, folks started to notice that someone was missing.

Russell Percy always came to family reunions. Always played baseball with the children and told stories of his life as a professional athlete. His absence became the major topic of conversation among the other family members.

Then Russell's daughter Darlene, who is a nurse, arrived with news that no one would have believed if it had come from anyone else. She said her father had suffered a heart attack.

So begins the story of an instructional video produced by Ambassadors Interested in Mankind (AIM), a local group that works to increase awareness about health problems that black men are particularly susceptible to, such as high blood pressure.

"We've had trouble getting the message across to minority men about the dangers of hypertension," said one of AIM's founders, Maliston Stanley of Shallotte. "We thought this would be a good way to reach out to them."

Besides having a typical diet that is heavy in fatty foods, black men are also less prone to go to doctors

for a regular checkup, Stanley said. And there is some evidence that black men may have a genetic predisposition to high blood pressure.

In an effort to spread the word about hypertension, AIM got a donation of \$1,000 from NationsBank in Shallotte to produce the video about the Percy family. The presentation uses the heart attack of the absent member as a jumping off point for a detailed discussion of high blood pressure and ways to combat it.

With the help of local amateur actors and a script by Brunswick Beacon writer Marjorie Megivern, the video was filmed by a Southport preacher at his church, which served as the scene of the reunion.

"It's funny, but we've found that reunions are one of the best places for us to reach a lot of people and get this message out," Stanley said.

He said AIM plans to make

copies of the 30-minute video available for showing at family reunions and other civic gatherings.

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Holden Look For A Replacement For Resigning Building Inspector

Holden Beach officials are looking for a new building inspector to replace Jim McSwain, who plans to resign later this month so he can run his own building company.

"The town was good to work for, but I miss the excitement of running my own business and watching it grow," said McSwain, who has served as inspector for the past six months.

Interim Town Manager Gus Ulrich said the town is accepting applications through Oct. 22.

"As far as tiding us over, we're hoping we can get some help from

the county like we did earlier this year," Ulrich said.

The town is looking for someone with at least five years' experience as a builder or general contractor with the ability to be certified as a building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical and fire prevention inspector.

McSwain has not set a date for his resignation, but is expected to work until mid- or late-October.

"He cannot function as building inspector if he's actively building a building on the beach," Ulrich said. "He's agreed to help us as long as there is no conflict."

Before he was hired as inspector

in April, McSwain had worked 16 years in the residential and commercial construction business.

"That's what I've always been, a builder," he said last week. "I've done commercial work before. I'll be looking for residential mainly, but I'll be doing commercial too."

McSwain said he plans to continue living at Holden Beach and will work in Brunswick County.

He said there may be a transition period from the time a new inspector is hired and when he resigns. "I'm trying to help the town all I can to find a replacement and help him get adjusted."

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