



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Weapon Against Drunk Drivers

Shallotte Police Officer Keith Croom holds a portable "breathalyzer" that was recently donated to the department by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD). The device allows officers to test motorists for sobriety in the field. Croom, a certified emergency medical technician and three-year veteran of the police department, has been promoted to Officer II.

Sailboats Spend A Rough Halloween

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter and two rescue boats were called to remove the crew of a 41-foot sailboat that went aground in 10-foot seas on a shoal in the Cape Fear River late Saturday night.

At about 11:50 p.m., the Oak Island Coast Guard Station received a call from the sailing vessel *Magnolia*, reporting itself aground on Jaybird Shoals, Station Chief BMCS J.D. Arndt said Monday.

The station's 41-foot patrol boat was launched to investigate and a Marine Assistance Radio Broadcast was issued to allow commercial salvors an opportunity to handle the case. The Coast Guard does not tow vessels if a private company or another boat is willing to do the job, but it will remove the crew if they desire, Arndt said.

When the Coast Guard boat arrived, it was unable to get close enough to remove the two persons on board. The station's 21-foot fast-response rigid-hulled inflatable boat arrived a short time later, but was also unable to reach the sailboat due to shallow water and seas averaging about 10 feet, Arndt said.

At about 3 a.m., a rescue helicopter from the Coast Guard Air Station at Savannah arrived and deployed a rescue swimmer who helped the sailboat's two crew members into a rescue basket, which was hoisted onto the hovering chopper. The two were taken the Oak Island station and found to be in satisfactory condition.

The *Magnolia* was anchored by the crew before departing, but it apparently broke loose and washed on to the beach near Bald Head Island. A commercial salvor re-floated the sailboat the next day.

Sunday at about 4:30 p.m., the station was called by the 38-foot sailboat *Nancy Jean*, reporting herself powerless but under sail en route to the Cape Fear River. The 41-footer was launched to investigate and a MARB was broadcast, with no response.

Due to the weather conditions, the sailboat would have had a difficult time mooring safely, so the Coast Guard boat took her in tow and moored her safely at Southport Marina, Arndt said.

Man Charged With Rape Gets Eight Years In Prison On Reduced Charge

A 30-year-old Rockingham man accused of raping a Supply teenager last April was sentenced to eight years in prison after agreeing to plead guilty to lesser charges in Brunswick County Superior Court last week.

The defendant, Ricky Wayne Scott, was arrested and indicted on one charge each of second-degree rape and second-degree sexual offense in an incident April 23.

A 16-year-old Supply resident told investigators she agreed to go out with Scott and accompanied him to several businesses and homes in Shallotte and Seaside, where they eventually stopped to visit one of her friends.

At about 2 a.m., she and Scott left to take another woman home, according to the incident report. After dropping the woman off, Scott took the 16-year-old to the end of Seashell Lane, off Seaside Drive, near the Intracoastal Waterway. There he allegedly forced her to have sexual intercourse on the front seat of a car.

Last Monday (Oct. 25), Scott agreed to plead guilty to one count of committing a crime against nature in exchange for the dismissal of the other two charges.

In addition to his prison sentence, Scott was ordered to pay court costs and \$450 for his court appointed lawyer.

In other action during four days of Superior Court last week:

■Anthony Craig Smith, 29, of Shallotte was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty to two counts each of habitual driving while impaired by alcohol and driving while his license was revoked.

He was ordered to pay \$350 in attorney fees and was recommended for the Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Training (DART) program while in prison.

■Ervin Simpson, 20, of Riegelwood was sentenced to 120 days in prison after pleading guilty to a charge of carrying a concealed weapon. If he qualifies for parole or work release, Simpson is required to pay court costs and \$500 attorney fees.

■Jerome Smith, 23, of Route 2, Bolivia was sentenced to 90 days in Brunswick County Jail after pleading guilty to one count of cocaine possession. A two-year prison sentence was suspended on the condition that he pay \$1,200 in attorney fees, court costs and a community service fee. He was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service within nine months of his release from jail. Smith was put on five years supervised probation.

■A prayer for judgment continued was allowed for Anthony Terrell Belser, 25, of Wilmington after he pleaded no contest to a charge of preparing obscene motion pictures. He had been accused of two counts of sexually exploiting a minor and one charge of taking indecent liberties.

■Marcus James Scott, 24, of Bonaparte Road, Calabash, pleaded no contest to a charge of taking indecent liberties. He was sentenced to three years, suspended on the condition that he pay court costs and perform 100 hours of community service within the next 12 months. He was put on supervised probation for four years.

■Davin Kristian Best, 19, of Yaught Drive, Long Beach, pleaded guilty to two counts each of misdemeanor breaking entering and larceny and was given a two-year suspended prison sentence. He was ordered to pay restitution to his victims, to perform 60 hours of community service and to pay court costs and \$300 in attorney fees.

■Nathan McMillian Jr. of Sellers Road, Supply, agreed to comply with a district court judgment imposed after his conviction there on four counts of assault by pointing a gun.

■A jury found Moses O. Bowen, 30, of Woodburn mobile home park, Leland, not guilty on charges of indecent exposure, willful interference with a firefighter and two counts of resisting arrest.

■Mary Jane Ballard, 38, of Lane Trail, Leland pleaded guilty to one count each of possessing alcohol for sale, possession of lottery tickets, selling lottery tickets and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was given a two-year suspended sentence and ordered to perform 90 hours of community service. She was put on unsupervised probation for three years and ordered to pay court costs and a \$100 community service fee.

■Doc Earl Causey, 49, of Route 1, Ash, pleaded no contest to a charge of driving while impaired

and was ordered to comply with the terms of a district court judgment.

■Steve Jackson, age unavailable, of Southport, was found in violation of his probation and was sent to prison for six years.

■Howard L. Delts, age unavailable, of Bolivia, had his sentence activated for an out-of-county probation violation.

■Godfrey Lanier Hankins, 29, of Route 2, Supply, pleaded no contest to one charge each of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and selling the drug. Prayer for judgment was continued until recommended by the state.

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