

Supply Man Recovering After Shooting Himself With Pistol

A 20-year-old Supply man was reported in serious but stable condition last week after shooting himself in the chest with a pistol, according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's office Monday.

The young man's mother told Deputy Jimmy Davis that she was lying on the bed at about 8:30 Thursday morning when she heard a loud noise, the report said. The victim came out of his bedroom and said that he had been shot in the chest.

She told Davis that her son did not say why he had shot himself. However, she said that he had "had some girlfriend problems in the past few days."

The victim was taken to The Brunswick Hospital and later transferred to New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Detective Larry Joyner interviewed the victim and was told that he had shot himself with a .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun.

The bullet passed through the right side of the man's chest and exited his back, Joyner said in his report. He said the doctor had advised that the man was in serious but stable condition and "would be all right."

Investigators have ruled the incident a self-inflicted shooting.

In other crime reports:

■The daughter of a Supply man is believed to have stolen his car and nearly \$4,000 worth of electronics and other items last week. He told Deputy Cathy Hamilton that his daughter had been staying at his home on Empire Street while he was gone to Virginia for a few days. He returned home Saturday to find his

CRIME REPORT

1983 Pontiac Grand Prix missing along with a 12-gauge shotgun, two .22-caliber rifles, a stereo system, a color television, a videocassette recorder, a scanner and a jar containing \$500 in quarters.

■A saddle trimmed in sterling silver and valued at about \$2,000 was among the \$3,910 worth of items stolen from a shed beside a home on U.S. 17 near Supply last week. Also missing were seven fishing rods and reels and another saddle. The theft was discovered Wednesday evening, according to Deputy Malcolm Long's report.

■A chain saw valued at about \$400 was stolen from a maintenance building at Brunswick Plantation golf course Thursday night. An employee told Deputy Keithan Horne that he found the building's office broken into and the chain saw missing at about 7 a.m. Friday. The officer reported finding that the chain on an outside gate had been cut and a garage door left ajar, but "nothing else in the building appeared to be messed with."

■Someone apparently threw a cinder block through a window of the Longwood Baptist Church Friday night, Horne reported. A member of the church came to do some work Saturday afternoon and discovered the damage, which was estimated to be about \$150. A candle and several burnt matches were also found inside the building.

■Home also investigated the theft of an air compressor and a circular saw from a shed behind a home on Etheridge Road, off Longwood Road, that occurred sometime last week. The owner said the shed was not locked. The value of stolen property was estimated to be \$300.

■An 80-watt amplifier was stolen from a car parked at a mobile home on Jerry's Trail in Supply Sunday afternoon. The owner told Davis that the 1979 Chevrolet Caprice was unlocked and that the amplifier cost about \$150.

■A retiree from Oak Ridge reported the theft of four rods and reels from his vacation trailer at a campground in Holden Beach sometime in the past three weeks. Davis estimated the value of stolen property at \$300 and the damage to a front porch screen and door at \$50.

■Detective Phil Perry took a report of a stolen bicycle from the front yard of a home on Mulberry Street outside Shallotte that was said to have occurred on the night of Jan. 12. The three-speed girl's bike was later located at a Shallotte pawn shop.

■Five windows and a door were smashed in an apparent break-in at a home on Green Loop Road, Leland, Thursday night. The intruders got inside by kicking in the front door, then "ransacked the entire residence and tool shed," Deputy Brian Sanders said. The report also noted that the words "The T" were spray painted on the outside wall and glass on the house. Nothing was reported missing, but damage was estimated to be about \$1,575.

■There was about \$100 damage, but nothing reported stolen in a mobile home break-in that occurred on Gum Street in the Forrest Hills subdivision off Kirby Road sometime last month. The Lexington man who owns the trailer told Hamilton that he arrived there Friday night to find a window broken out of a bedroom window and pry marks on a living room window. The intruders also threw the storm windows into the back yard, the report said.

■Someone shot out the window of a bus parked at Leland Middle School on Old Fayetteville Road Monday night, causing an estimated \$38.16 damage, deputy Mark Snowden reported. He determined that a pellet gun was used in the shooting.

■Snowden also investigated a case of vandalism at a convenience store near the intersection of Village Road and Mt. Misery Road where someone apparently through a rock through the drive-through window. Damage was estimated at about \$50.

■Detectives are investigating an apparent case of larceny by an employee at a Southport department store recently. One man has been arrested and has told police that a man who works at the store is his accomplice in the theft. The employee allegedly put two pairs of work boots, valued at \$85, outside the store where they were later picked up by the other suspect.

■A woman who lives in the Lakeside Mobile Home Park on Village Road, Leland, told Snowden Friday that someone stole three checks from her mailbox and forged her signature on them. The amounts of the checks totalled more than \$1,000.

Phillips Is New Manager At Employment Security Office

BY DOUG RUTTER

The N.C. Employment Security Commission office in Shallotte has a new manager as part of a move to upgrade the facility from branch status to a full-fledged local office.

Katrina Phillips officially started work Tuesday as local office manager, said Manfred Emmrich, director of the commission's employment service division in Raleigh.

Mazie Frink, who for years has served as Brunswick County's branch office supervisor, will continue working as an "Interviewer II" at the office at East Gate Square.

The county's Employment Security Commission office was upgraded to local office status effective Jan. 1. Prior to this year, it was a

branch of the Wilmington office.

Emmrich said each branch office, including the one that previously served Brunswick County, is headed up by what's known as an "Interviewer II" who has the working title of branch office supervisor.

When the Shallotte facility became a local office, Emmrich said a new position of local office manager was created.

"When we take this step and upgrade an office it doesn't do away with anybody's job. It adds a manager," Emmrich said Tuesday. "It doesn't replace anybody. It's a new position."

Frink could not be reached for comment Tuesday, but at least one local business owner is upset by the

state agency's decision to hire a new office manager.

Betty Varnam, owner of Betty's Seafood Restaurant at Holden Beach, stated her objections in a Jan. 28 letter to Employment Security Commission Chairman Ann Duncan.

"Due to her (Frink's) ability to work with local employers and to serve the people who go into that office for service, it would be disastrous to bring in a new person," Varnam wrote.

"Also it is a total injustice to her (Frink) personally. I feel that you should reconsider your decision," Varnam stated.

Emmrich said Frink will continue serving in the same capacity as always. "This does not replace her. It's

a new job that is at a higher level," he said.

Emmrich said the state agency followed its own policy when the new job became available. "When we have an opening, we announce it and any employee who is interested may apply," he said.

"We really value the people who work for us, and we give them the opportunity to apply for the positions they are interested in," Emmrich said, noting that eight people applied for the local office manager job.

Phillips, a former assistant manager in Laurinburg, was selected.

"We make every effort to review the qualifications of all the candidates and try to make the best judgment we can to hire the person who can best handle the position," Emmrich said.

He added that the addition of a local office manager position does not affect the existing job of Interviewer II, although that person is no longer serving as manager.

"They remain exactly where they are. They get no cut in pay," he said. "That person would remain in that classification."

Emmrich said the decision to upgrade the Shallotte office was based on the growth and projected growth of the area. The size of the civilian labor force and the number of unemployed are the two major factors considered.

There are more than 20,000 men and women in the work force in Brunswick County, Emmrich said. According to 1992 estimates, the county had about 2,800 unemployed.

Emmrich said 3,440 people used Brunswick County's Employment Security Commission office between July 1992 and June 1993. All were either unemployed people looking for work or employed people seeking better jobs.

N.C. Ports Authority Answer On Leland School Site Was Expected Wednesday

BY SUSAN USHER

The N.C. State Ports Authority was expected to decide Wednesday whether a tract it owns on N.C. 133 near Leland will be made available as the site of a new elementary school.

"We were not asking for anything free," said Superintendent Ralph Johnston. "What we're interested in is getting the property."

Brunswick County Schools asked the SPA in December to consider allowing its acquisition of the tract. School officials have been working with Rep. E. David Redwine and Authority board member Joe Stevenson of Supply in the negotiations.

James Scott, executive director of the State Ports Authority (SPA), said Monday that instead of their regular monthly meeting at Morehead City, authority members planned to hold a teleconference meeting at 10 a.m. Wednesday, with the site request on the agenda.

"I expect they're going to finalize their decision on it Wednesday," he said.

At its December meeting, the authority didn't rule out the possibility of selling or giving the property to the school system. Members said they wanted to first be sure the authority had no use for the land itself for mitigation, or creating wetlands to compensate for wetlands destroyed in port projects.

If the board approves the site acquisition Wednesday, the transaction won't be final. While the SPA can own property in its own name, any sale or transfer must be approved by the Council of State.

"If it's properly done, it doesn't get turned down very often," said Scott.

Then the proposed acquisition will go to the Brunswick County Commissioners for approval and funding. If the per-acre value is too high, the school board may have to

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—Ralph Johnston

renew its search for an appropriate site.

Results of soil sampling conducted on the site in December for the school system indicate it is suitable and that there will be no problem complying with environmental requirements for the area, said Johnston. "It looked very, very positive."

He said school board members are optimistic about acquiring the tract because of its excellent location in an area experiencing "consid-

erable" residential growth and the potential cost savings in utilities construction.

The site is expected to provide a safe and easy access for parents and buses as students are unloaded and loaded, and allow the creation of a nature trail for teaching students about the environment and biology.

The school would be on county water, with sewer service provided through the town of Belville. The school system anticipates a savings of approximately \$200,000, or what it has paid to construct water and

sewer treatment facilities at other schools.

The new 650-student, 70,000-square foot school is expected to relieve overcrowding at both Lincoln Primary and Leland Middle schools.

Located on the west side of N.C. 133, across from the Brunswick River, the proposed school site was apparently once a county prison farm. All that remains is the warden's brick house, said Superintendent Johnston.

The ports authority bought the property in 1956, but has not used it.

Teen-Age Driver Injured

A Supply teen-ager was seriously injured when the car he was driving overturned in a one-vehicle accident early Saturday about 4.8 miles north of Shallotte.

Eric Carlo Andreis, 17, was treated at the scene for serious, non-incapacitating injuries, reported the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington.

Andreis was traveling east on S.R. 1130 driving a 1988 Pontiac at

about 1 a.m. Saturday when the accident occurred. According to the report filed by Trooper W.H. Thompson, he rounded a curve and the car ran off the roadway on the right, struck a ditchbank and overturned. It landed on the eastbound shoulder of the roadway.

No charges were filed. Damages to Andreis' auto were estimated at \$3,500.

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