

Calabash Commissioner Home After Heart Attack

Calabash Commissioner Robert Noe returned home Tuesday afternoon after spending five days at a Myrtle Beach, S.C., hospital following "a slight heart attack" last Thursday morning.

In a telephone interview Tuesday, Noe said he was "up and around and feeling better" following several days of tests and observation.

After spending the morning working in the yard, Noe said he had just come inside at about 11 a.m. for a glass of juice when he sat down and began feeling chest pains.

He was transported by ambulance to Myrtle Beach General Hospital, where doctors determined that a blockage had developed in a small vein leading to his heart, he said.

Noe has experienced recurring heart problems and underwent an angioplasty operation several years ago.

Although he said he is "feeling fine," doctors have advised Noe not to drive a car for a couple weeks. Consequently, he said he wasn't sure if he would attend the next town board meeting.



NOE

Holden Hires New Inspector

Douglas W. Gillette of Windy Point will begin working at Holden Beach's building inspector Sept. 12, Town Manager Gus Ulrich said Tuesday.

Gillette, building inspector at Southport since July 1990, is the fourth new inspector at Holden Beach in the last 16 months. He will replace Claude Spellman, who resigned June 14 after only four months on the job.

Prior to going to work for the City of Southport, Gillette worked for the Brunswick County Inspections Department for approximately 3 1/2 years. He also has worked as an engineering technician for the county.

Ulrich said Gillette is certified in building, mechanical, plumbing and electrical inspections.

"He's a local person. He knows the area, and he's got excellent qualifications," Ulrich said. "I'm very pleased that he agreed to come work for us."

Police Uncertain If Injured Man Assaulted Or Run Down

BY ERIC CARLSON

A Shell Point man remained in critical condition in a Wilmington hospital neuro-intensive care unit with severe head injuries Tuesday in what police say may have been either an assault or a hit-and-run that occurred on Gray Bridge Road early Sunday morning.

The victim, Donald "Tex" Williamson, 31, was taken to New Hanover Regional Medical after a truck driver spotted him lying face-down in the road at about 5:30 a.m. and rushed home to call 911, according to an incident report at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

First to arrive was Dep. Johnny Earp, who was dispatched to investigate what was thought to be a person hit by an automobile. But Earp reported that Williamson "appeared to have been struck with a blunt instrument."

After being transported by a mobile intensive-care ambulance, doctors at New Hanover RMC said Williamson had other wounds to his body and appeared to have been hit by a vehicle. But after visiting the hospital to investigate a possible hit-and-run, Trooper T.W. Caulder of the N.C. Highway Patrol filed a report that the victim "was not involved in a car accident" and said his injuries suggest that he was "hit with a blunt instrument."

Several hours before Williamson was found, Deputy Cathy Hamilton was called to the Brunswick Hospital emergency room to investigate a stabbing. She found Williamson being treated for a knife wound to his hand, but reported that he was "very intoxicated and belligerent" and refused to cooperate.

Deputy Hamilton reported that she was advised by her supervisor to contact Williamson for a report on the incident "when he was sober the next day."

Brunswick Detective Nancy Simpson said her investigation so far indicates that Williamson and some other men had been at a trailer drinking since noon Saturday. Some time after midnight there was an altercation between the men in which Williamson suffered "a small cut on the hand," she said.

It appears that the men drove Williamson to the hospital and left him there. After being treated for his injuries and "cussing out two officers" who tried to interview him, Williamson left the hospital on foot. Another witness claims to have seen him hitch-hiking on Gray Bridge Road later that morning.

Simpson said Williamson has not regained consciousness. The sheriff's department is continuing to investigate the incident without ruling out either an assault or a hit-and-run as the cause of injury, she said.

Driver Charged With DWI Following Head-On Crash

Two drivers remained in Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Tuesday following a head-on collision Saturday night on U.S. 17 two miles north of Calabash.

Pertia Frink, 23, of Ash, was in fair condition, a hospital spokesman said, while Sheila Campbell, 37, of Sunset Beach, was in good condition.

Frink was driving east on U.S. 17 when her 1983 Pontiac collided head-on with Campbell's westbound 1989 Buick, which was traveling the wrong way in the eastbound lane.

Trooper C.E. Ward of the N.C. Highway Patrol reported that Campbell had been drinking prior to the 10:20 p.m. accident. He charged her with driving left of center and

driving while impaired.

Both women were transported to Grand Strand with serious, incapacitating injuries.

Damage to Frink's car was estimated at \$1,800, and to Campbell's car, \$3,100.

VFW Sets Fish Fry

Holden Beach VFW Post No. 8866 will hold a fish fry Saturday, Sept. 3, starting at 11 a.m. on the Holden Beach causeway to the left of the bridge.

Dinners will be sold for \$3.75 each, with take-out service and on-site dining available.

Proceeds will go to support the post's building fund and local patriotic events, said spokesman John Nash.

First 159 Spent Fuel Rods Due In September Aboard Two Ships

BY SUSAN USHER

Spent nuclear fuel rods from foreign research reactors will begin arriving at Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal near Southport "sometime in September," with the first shipment aboard two different ships, a U.S. Department of Energy spokesman said Tuesday.

News reports Tuesday that the first shipment would be in South Carolina sometime this week are "inaccurate," said Jim Giusti of the department's Savannah River Site near Aiken, S.C.

In a slight change of plans, the first 159 elements will be transported in four shielded casks on two commercial ships, rather than one. The two will arrive at Sunny Point from Europe on the same date. Giusti said each ship will carry two casks, the maximum allowed under International Maritime Organization standards for the amount of radiological material being shipped.

After arrival the fuel rods will not be at Sunny Point for more than 24 hours, he said.

The spent fuel rods are being shipped back to the United States as part of a government effort to keep nuclear waste from being sold abroad and made into nuclear weapons.

At the Sunny Point piers, the rods will be transferred to railcars for train transport to the Savannah River Site near Aiken, S.C., for storage. The casks will be the only cargo for the special train.

The 333-mile trip expected to take about 24 hours, moving at a top speed of 35 mph, the maximum allowed when transporting nuclear material. As the train approaches populated areas the speed will be even slower, said Giusti.

The casks will travel with a two-



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

EMERGENCY WORKERS use a Geiger counter to check for radiation during a recent "mock accident" drill simulating a nuclear accident at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point.

person armed guard and with a monitoring/security team nearby at all times, as required by U.S. Department of Energy security regulations. The N.C. Highway Patrol,

which is charged with safe transport across the state, plans an additional 12-person security detail and helicopter surveillance. Giusti said the U.S. Department

of Energy, North Carolina and South Carolina are working together to ensure the safe passage of the spent fuel rods. DOE is insuring the shipment meets national and international standards for security. The agency has also provided training for emergency responders in North Carolina and South Carolina, including a training session at Sunny Point two weeks ago, and has provided additional radiological monitoring equipment for use in North Carolina.

"North Carolina believes additional security is necessary, so it is their responsibility to pay for that," said Giusti. "At least that's the way it stands right now. We're having another conference call this week and it could change."

Tom Hegele, spokesman for the State Highway Patrol, said the state believes extra security measures are needed because of the likelihood of protests along the rail route, and had asked that the company contracted to ship the spent fuel underwrite the expense. The company objected to the cost as unreasonable, but the state doesn't see it that way.

"When we've shipped hazardous waste in the past there have been protests along the route, so we have good reason to believe there will be this time," said Hegele. "We believe the extra security measures are necessary."

The 159 rods represent the first of two to three shipments totaling 341 rods coming in to Sunny Point from research reactors in Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden.

Additional rods may be shipped to the United States from these and other countries in future years, depending upon the results of an environmental impact study DOE is conducting.

Ocean Isle Commissioners Will Hear From Public In Labor Day Evening Workshop

BY SUSAN USHER

Ocean Isle Beach residents and property owners: Have a question, a complaint or a compliment to share with town commissioners?

If you've been unable to attend the commissioners' regular Tuesday morning sessions, a 7 p.m. "workshop" Monday, Sept. 5—Labor Day—is your chance to speak up.

The meeting is the first in a series of evening sessions that will be held the first Monday night of each quarter, hosted in rotation by a different commissioner. The meetings are the board's response to a proposal from Commissioner Ken Proctor to make meetings more accessible to the working public.

Commissioner Bill Benton will

serve as host for Monday's meeting and has no agenda planned.

"It's more up to the citizens what issues we discuss," he said. "It will all be spontaneous. Since it's the end of the summer season we might take the opportunity to recognize some people, like the police department."

Benton said he's "looking forward" to the meeting, but wishes it were some other day than Labor Day. "I don't think we realized at the time we set the meeting that it was a holiday," he said.

A workshop is an official board meeting. While commissioners can discuss issues, they cannot legally take formal action on any business during a workshop.

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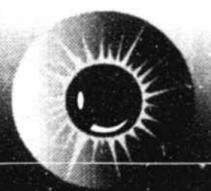
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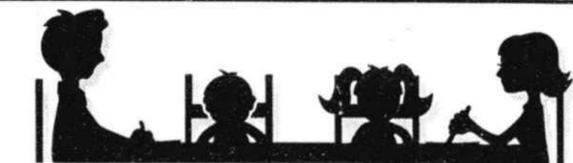
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