

Former district attorney disbarred

Joel Brewer surrenders law license in Wake County court proceedings

By TIM CHANDLER
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The North Carolina State Bar announced Friday that Joel H. Brewer, the former district attorney for District 9A, which includes Person and Caswell counties, surrendered his law license and was disbarred. The announcement was made

via a news release dated Jan. 28. The proceedings were held in Wake County Superior Court on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Last July, Brewer, who served as district attorney in District 9A from February of 1994 to March 1 of last year, pleaded guilty to nine misdemeanor charges and was sentenced.

The charges against Brewer stemmed from an investigation

by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and the state's attorney general's office.

Brewer was charged with seven counts of assault on a female and one count each of impersonating a law enforcement officer and willfully failing to discharge duties.

The nine charges involved nine different females and the assault on a female charges

stemmed from inappropriate touching incidents, some of which involved employees in the district attorney's office.

In an affidavit of surrender of law license signed by Brewer last week he acknowledged "that I committed the conduct alleged in the warrants charging these offenses while I was serving as the elected district attorney. ... I am submitting my resignation be-

cause I know that if disciplinary charges were predicated upon the misconduct under investigation, I could not successfully defend against them."

Brewer was represented last week by Raleigh attorney Alan M. Schneider.

Among "conclusions of law" found last week in court, it was

See FORMER page A10



Joel H. Brewer

Durham man accused of firing shot at local deputy

By TIM CHANDLER
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A Durham man was jailed Sunday on multiple charges, including attempted first degree murder, after he allegedly fired a gunshot at a Person County Sheriff's Office deputy.

Jesse Curtis Sharpe II, 36, of Durham also faces five misdemeanor charges. They include carrying a concealed weapon, careless and reckless driving, driving while license revoked, hit and run property damage and displaying fictitious tags on the vehicle.

"We received three different calls of a silver SUV driving erratically and one caller stated that the driver was in possession of a weapon," Person County Sheriff Dewey Jones said.

Sharpe was reportedly operating a 2005 Hyundai Santa Fe.

Jones went on to say that Reserve Deputy Robert E. Young, who was not on duty at the time, observed the vehicle and "was gathering license plate information when the vehicle stopped in the road and the driver fired a shot."

Jones said deputies were able to trace the license number to a residence and then later gathered information from the vehicle's owner as to Sharpe's whereabouts.

"We actually found him on Tom Oakley Road in a driveway," Jones said. "He was about to enter the road."

"We were able to take him into custody there and he did still have the weapon in his vehicle," Jones added.

Person's jobless rate rises to 9.9% in December

By TIM CHANDLER
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Unemployment rates decreased in over half of North Carolina's 100 counties in December; however, Person County was not one of the counties realizing a decrease.

According to numbers released Tuesday by the Employment Security Commission (ESC) of North Carolina, the jobless rate in Person County rose 0.5 percent in December. The county had an adjusted unemployment rate of 9.4 percent in November. The unemployment rate for December, according to Tuesday's numbers, stood at 9.9 percent.

See PERSON'S page A10

INSIDE Wednesday

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| Agenda..... | A2 | Boatwright..... | A5 |
| Classified..... | B8-9 | Commentary..... | A5 |
| Do You Know..... | A3 | Editorial..... | A3 |
| Entertainment..... | B2 | Extension Notes..... | B3 |
| Inside NASCAR..... | A8 | Legal Notices..... | B9 |
| Lifestyle..... | B4-5 | Looking Back..... | A3 |
| Mini-Page..... | B7 | Movies..... | A3 |
| Obituaries..... | A11 | Sports..... | A6-7 |
| TV Listings..... | B6 | | |

STILL LOOKING AT MAYO



Grey Pentecost / C-T

Members of the Person County Rescue Squad, along with various other state and local agencies searched Mayo Lake Monday and Tuesday for Chad Napier, who has not been seen since early Monday.

Rescue workers seeking missing canoeist will resume efforts today

Search to find Chad Napier has been ongoing since Monday

By TIM CHANDLER
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Rescue crews from multiple state and local agencies continued their search of Mayo Lake Tuesday afternoon for a canoeist who has been missing since Monday.

Rescue workers responded to Buck Street Road near Bowmantown Road shortly after noon Monday to search for Chad Lee Napier, 32, of 275 Crystal Springs Rd. in Timberlake.

According to a sheriff's office incident report, Alan Brent Foushee, 40, of 163 Anderbrock Dr. told authorities Napier yelled for help early Monday morning from the cold waters of Mayo Lake. The two had spent Sunday night in a camper at the Buck Street Road site.

Person County Sheriff Dewey Jones said the water temperature at Mayo Lake Monday afternoon was 39 degrees. Foushee told investigators he swam

out to the victim "and [the two] tried to right the canoe," according to the report. Foushee also said he and Napier got into the canoe and tried to kick their way back to shore, but the canoe kept flipping over.

Foushee went on to say he told Napier that they were going to have to swim to the bank because that was the only chance they had.

Foushee told investigators he started getting in trouble because his legs were stopping working. He advised that when he crawled up on the bank at the shoreline, he looked back and didn't see Napier or the canoe.

The canoe was located Monday afternoon, according to Jones, and was capsized when it was located. The canoe was located south of the search area and had likely drifted due to a steady wind Monday, the sheriff said.

Foushee said he continued to crawl another 50 to 75 feet after reaching the shore before he reportedly passed out

from the cold.

When Foushee regained consciousness he told investigators he yelled for the victim and then drove to another location to summon assistance since he did not have a phone at the location.

The incident report filed by Sgt. Todd Dunn indicated there were "marks where the canoe was slid into the lake."

Dunn also indicated there were "drag marks in the sand where [Foushee] crawled up on shore and to the bank."

The search for Napier was called off due to darkness late Monday afternoon. It resumed just after 9 a.m. Tuesday and continued throughout the day.

Jones said that "at this time" foul play is not suspected in the incident.

Jones told *The Courier-Times* late Tuesday afternoon that the search had been called off for the day, but would resume this morning.

"We're working on getting manpower lined up to start again [today]," Jones said.

Man released from jail Tuesday morning dies of alleged self-inflicted gunshot wound

By TIM CHANDLER
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A Timberlake man arrested Monday on a felony child pornography charge died Tuesday afternoon of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Klark Bernard Williamson, 44, of 60 Lanewood Dr. died mid-afternoon Tuesday at his home, just hours after he had posted a \$20,000 cash bond and been released from the Person County Law Enforcement Center.

Deputies with the Person County Sheriff's Office arrested Williamson Monday evening on a felony charge of second-degree sexual exploitation of a minor. He was jailed at that time under a \$150,000 secured bond.

Williamson was a dispatcher with Durham Communications.

Person County Sheriff Dewey Jones said local authorities had been contacted by an out-of-state law enforcement agency pertaining to possible illegal Internet activity by Williamson.

"It had been an ongoing investiga-

tion," Jones said. "Over a period of time, they were able to seize an IP address and found that the IP address was located in Person County and then they contacted us."

Jones said the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation also assisted in the investigation and search warrants were obtained.

"They executed the search warrant and had enough evidence to make an arrest," Jones said. "He was brought in for questioning that night and arrested that night."

Funding fate of nonprofits in county appears bleak

Commissioners receive snapshot of difficult budget year at retreat

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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Nonprofit agencies that did not receive funding from Person County government last year likely won't get anything this year, according to the consensus reached by county commissioners at Monday's annual board retreat.

There will be no formal nonprofit application process this year, the commissioners decided Monday. Those agencies that were funded last year may be rolled under corresponding county departments in the upcoming fiscal year, if the county determines that money is available.

The county is facing a budget deficit of \$4.8 million and all departments will likely face cuts next year.

Some entities, such as volunteer fire departments, the public schools, Piedmont Community College and Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health are treated as county departments and will receive county funding but will face budget cuts as well.

The Person County Council on Aging will receive a set amount of funding according to a contract with the county.

See FUNDING page A10

Teaching a new way at PHS, PCLA

By GREY PENTECOST
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Person High School and Person County Learning Academy began teaching technology skills in a new way this month when they joined schools across the state in piloting the Microsoft IT Academy Program.

The internet-based program is replacing the computer applications I class in Person County Schools' high school curriculum. Students will learn how to use computer programs such as

See PHS page A10



Klark B. Williamson



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