



Disabled Lady Gets A Tow

A vessel from the U.S. Coast Guard station at Oak Island came to the aid of a disabled small boat off Southport last Thursday evening, towing the "North Lady" and its occupants safely to the Southport Marina, according to Coast

Guard Seaman Thomas Carter, one of the crew. The sailboat in the background had run aground and was waiting for the incoming tide.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Former Physician's Fraud Trial Begins In U.S. District Court

A former Charlotte area physician is on trial this week in federal district court in Wilmington on multiple charges of insurance and mail fraud.

Last October 15, Karen Nicholson Paine of Route 3, Shallotte, was arrested by U.S. Marshals after a federal grand jury in Fayetteville returned an 89-count indictment against her in the first case in the federal eastern district that combines Medicaid, Medicare and mail fraud in a single indictment to be prosecuted under the auspices of federal authorities.

The indictment is based on information regarding 23 patients seen by Paine between December 1982 and Jan. 17, 1987. It includes 39 counts of Medicare fraud, 19 counts of Medicaid fraud and 31 counts of mail fraud.

Her indictment followed a two-year

joint investigation by the Medicaid Investigations Unit of the N.C. Department of Justice and the Office of Investigations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Greensboro.

Prosecuting the case is J. Michael Carpenter, director of the Medicaid Investigations Unit, who has been cross-designated so that he can prosecute in federal court.

The indictments charge that Paine sought insurance reimbursements for services not rendered and charge that forms seeking such illegal reimbursement were submitted by Paine through the U.S. mails, which is also illegal.

In an unrelated matter, Paine's attorney surrendered her license to practice medicine in North Carolina to the N.C. Board of Medical Examiners on Jan. 17, the same day she lasted saw patients.

Paine's office, which was located on Forest Drive in Shallotte, was gutted in an early morning Sept. 14 fire now under investigation as possible arson.

Her trial was originally expected to begin March 21 and was expected to require three weeks to be heard in full. Jury selection was begun then, along with selection of juries for two other trials pending at the time.

As of Tuesday, staff members of the Brunswick County Social Services Department, which handles the local Medicaid and Medicare programs, had not been called as witnesses for the prosecution.

Director Jamie Orrock said several staff members were on "stand-by summons," ready to be called both Monday and Tuesday. They were expected to be among the first witnesses called for the government.

Shallotte Expects To Save \$160,000 By Refunding Bonds

Meeting for just a few minutes Tuesday night, Shallotte aldermen completed some of the formalities required before it can buy back \$200,000 in outstanding water bonds from the FmHA at a substantial savings.

By taking advantage of the discounted buy-back offer from the Farmers Home Administration, the town expects to reduce its debt load and save "in the neighborhood of" \$160,000 in principal and interest. FmHA is offering the buybacks as part of an effort to trim the federal deficit.

The exact savings realized by the town will depend upon how much FmHA charges the town for the bonds—a figure expected to run approximately \$137,000, indicated

Mayor Jerry Jones.

After a public hearing during which no public comment was received, Mayor Jones and Aldermen Sarah Tripp, Jody Simmons and David Gause adopted on second reading a bond order and a resolution to reissue the bonds and sell them privately to a bank.

The town plans to sell the bonds to Security Savings & Loan Association on June 14 at a 10 percent interest rate payable for 10 years. All refunding transactions must be closed before FmHA's July 11 deadline.

Absent from Tuesday's meeting were Mayor Pro tem Paul Wayne Reeves and Wilton Harrelson.

The board's next regular meeting is June 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Local Hospital Authority Meets

The Brunswick County Hospital Authority was to meet Wednesday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the board room of The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Several new members are to sworn in, along with other items of business.

Winnabow VFD To Serve BBQ

Winnabow Volunteer Fire Department will serve pork barbecue dinners Saturday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Each \$3 plate will include chopped pork barbecue, potato salad, cole slaw and hushpuppies, said spokesman Ralph Frazier.

The station is located on Governor's Road off U.S. 17 in Winnabow.

Tornado Watch Issued Locally

Brunswick County was among the areas included in a tornado watch issued by the National Weather Service through midnight Tuesday.

The county was also under a severe thunderstorm warning until 9:40 p.m. Tuesday.

According to National Weather Service spokesman Russ Ketterman, there were several reports of tornadoes to the north in Jones and Craven County.

Clarification

The Teresa D. Simmons whose name appeared in the Brunswick County District Court docket published in the May 19 edition of The Brunswick Beacon is not Teresa Hewett Simmons of Supply. She is from Ash.

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