Local Man Critically Injured In Weekend Wreck Near Holden

A Shallotte man was seriously injured in an alcohol-related traffic accident Sunday night in the Holden Beach area, N.C. Highway Patrol spokesperson Ruby Oakley said Tuesday.

The mishap occurred Sunday at 8:10 p.m., 1.3 miles north of Holden Beach at the intersection of Sabbath Home and Old Ferry roads. Ms. Oakley said the 1980 Chevrolet driven by Matthew Shawn Arnette, 16, of Sunset Beach, was traveling Old Ferry Road at an estimated 80 mph when it ran the stop sign at Sabbath Home Road and struck a 1985 Pontiac driven by Clyde Justice Olive, 37, of Supply.

The Olive car spun around in the road, crossed a ditch and struck a fence, throwing the driver 70 feet from the wreckage, she continued. Arnette's car crossed a concrete traffic island, hit a stop sign and fence, then overturned twice.

Olive suffered incapacitating injuries and was taken to New Hanover Memorial Hospital, Wilmington, where he remained in critical condition Tuesday, Ms. Oakley said. Arnette suffered non-incapacitating injuries and was treated and released from The Brunswick Hospital, Supply.

Trooper C.E. Ward charged Arnette with a stop sign violation and with drinking by a provisional licensee. Damages were estimated at $7,000 to the Olive car, $2,500 to the Arnette vehicle and $600 to the fence post and stop sign.

In another weekend accident, a local woman and five out-of-county motorists were injured in a three-car collision Sunday afternoon near Varnamtown.

The wreck happened Sunday at 4 p.m. on Stone Chimney Road at its intersection with Stanley Road. The drivers were identified as Virginia Ryan Lauzon, 61, of Shallotte, Gary Bruce Naylor, 38, of Lumberton, and Henry Louis Strickland, 57, of Dunn.

Ms. Oakley said Strickland, driving a 1984 Oldsmobile, ran the stop sign on Stanley Road and initially struck the side of Mrs. Lauzon's 1986 Toyota station wagon, which was westbound on Stone Chimney Road. The Olds then collided with the front fender of Naylor's 1988 Buick.

The three drivers, Naylor's passenger—Richard Quick, 41, of Lumberton—and Strickland's two passengers—Arlene Strickland, 49, of Dunn, and Opal Coville, 45, of Erwin—all suffered non-incapacitating injuries and were transported to The Brunswick Hospital, Supply.

Trooper D.B. Harvell estimated damages at $4,000 apiece to the Naylor and Lauzon vehicles, and $3,500 to the Strickland auto. Strickland was charged with a stop sign violation.

Elsewhere, a Supply man was injured last Wednesday afternoon when the tractor-trailer rig he was driving overturned on the U.S. 17 Shallotte bypass.

Kenneth Levern Gore, 41, of Supply, suffered non-incapacitating injuries in the one-vehicle accident, said Ms. Oakley.

The wreck occurred at 3:30 p.m. just north of the bypass intersection with Mulberry Street. Gore was driving a 1979 International tractor trailer and was dumping gravel into a gravel spreader at the time of the accident.

Ms. Oakley said the tractor-trailer was traveling about 2 mph when it tipped over onto its left side. Trooper R.L. Murray estimated damage to the vehicle at $4,500.

Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad and Shallotte Volunteer Fire Department responded to the scene. The "jaws of life" extrication tool was used to remove the driver from the vehicle. Firefighters stood by as fuel leaked from the vehicle, but there was no fire.

An investigation was continuing Tuesday to identify the driver in another single-vehicle wreck last week in the Ash area, Ms. Oakley said. The driver reportedly fled the accident scene. A man who said he was a passenger in the vehicle was injured.

According to Ms. Oakley, the accident occurred March 13 at 7:45 p.m., 13.8 miles northwest of Shallotte on Little Prong Road, and involved a 1982 Toyota pickup truck registered to Lucille Ward Godwin of Whiteville.

Trooper B.D. Barnhardt reported that the truck was traveling south on Little Prong Road at a high rate of speed when the vehicle cut off the northbound shoulder in a curve, ran across a field, then struck several small trees in a wooded area. The truck was a total loss.

Ms. Oakley said Cecil Anthony Godwin, 27, of the same Whiteville address as the truck's owner, identified himself as a passenger and would not name the driver. He said the driver "jumped out of the vehicle and ran" after the accident. In his report, Barnhardt noted that Godwin appeared intoxicated and was uncooperative.

Godwin suffered non-incapacitating injuries and was taken by ambulance to the Columbus County Hospital, Whiteville.

Two motorists suffered minor injuries in a two-vehicle collision over the weekend in the Ash area. Ms. Oakley said the wreck happened Sunday at 12:15 p.m., 13.5 miles northwest of Shallotte on Kingtown Road.

A 1980 Toyota truck driven by Martin Lyle Inman, 24, of Ash, backed down a private driveway as a 1984 Ford driven by Henry Lee Long, 60, of Whiteville, approached on Kingtown Road. The collision occurred after Inman stopped with the rear section of his truck in Long's travel lane.

After the initial impact, Long's car went out of control, ran off the road and hit a sign belonging to Freeland Full Gospel Church. Ms. Oakley said Long also left the accident scene. Neither man apparently required emergency medical treatment.

Trooper Barnhardt charged Inman with a safe movement violation. Long was charged with driving while impaired, hit and run, driving while his license was revoked and delaying an officer. Damages were estimated at $2,000 to the Long car, $700 to the Inman truck and $100 to the church sign.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PERSONNEL pull accident victim Kenneth Gore from the cab of a tractor trailer that overturned last Wednesday on the U.S. 17 Shallotte bypass.

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