

Grand Jury Indicts Teenager For Death By Motor Vehicle

BY TERRY POPE

A traffic accident that left a Gause Landing man dead in September has resulted in indictments against the driver of the vehicle for involuntary manslaughter and death by motor vehicle.

Christopher Dale Bowers, 17, of Shallotte, was indicted by a Brunswick County Grand Jury Tuesday for causing the death of Damon Patrick Willard, 19, of Gause Landing in a Sept. 8 traffic accident on N.C. 179 near Ocean Isle Beach.

According to the indictments, Bowers was driving while impaired when he "feloniously did unintentionally cause the death" of the passenger in his 1985 Chevrolet pickup that overturned after running off the road at a high rate of speed.

According to State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt's accident report, Bowers was traveling an estimated 85 mph when the truck ran off the right shoulder of N.C. 179 about .2 mile west of Ocean Isle. The truck then crossed

the roadway, struck a ditch bank and overturned two or three times.

Willard, who was thrown 65 feet from the vehicle, died at the scene. Neither the driver nor the passengers were wearing seatbelts at the time of the accident. Bowers and Bryan Lawson, 18, another passenger, were taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Involuntary manslaughter carries a maximum of 10 years and minimum of three years in prison while death by motor vehicle carries a maximum of five and a minimum of two years in prison.

The grand jury also returned the following indictments Tuesday:

■Sean Mulholland of Fairway Drive, Brierwood Estates, Shallotte, with embezzlement by an insurance agent. According to the indictment, Mulholland is accused of allegedly embezzling a check for \$268.50 that was received by him as an insurance agent. The check was issued by the American Republic Insurance Company and intended for use on a health insurance

policy for a Calabash couple.

■Bobby Allen King, 32, of Longwood, with attempted second-degree rape in an incident that occurred Nov. 7. King is accused of trying to force a woman to have sex against her will.

■Curtis Williams, 42, of Route 1, Belvia, with possession with intent to sell and deliver three grams of cocaine. Williams allegedly sold cocaine to undercover officers on July 25, 1989.

■William Emory Powell, 24, of Route 3, Shallotte, with four counts of forgery and four counts of uttering forged documents for allegedly cashing checks belonging to Joseph W. Caison on four occasions. The indictments allege that Powell forged Caison's name on the checks and cashed them in his own name for the following amounts: on Aug. 9, \$153; on July 31, \$135.16; on July 24, \$121.18; and on Aug. 10, \$176.

■Demetrius N. "Meatball" Raye, 17, of Lord Street, Southport, with common law robbery for allegedly taking by force \$35 in groceries and \$30 in cash from a

Southport man on Oct. 13.

■Steven Lee "Spike" Steele of East Lord Street, Southport, with felonious breaking and entering, felonious larceny and felonious possession of stolen goods. Steele is accused of breaking into Dr. Gene Wallin's office on N. Howe Street in Southport on May 19 and taking 15 caplets of the drug Quazepam and a magnifying glass worth \$10.

■Andeane Doolin Hatch, 51, of Long Beach, with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury from a July 9 shooting in which Jonathan Dallas O'Reilly was injured. The indictment alleges that Hatch shot O'Reilly in the forearm with a .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle.

■Keith Lee Fields and James William Meacher Jr., no addresses available, with felonious breaking and entering a house on East 2nd Street, Ocean Isle Beach, on May 5 with intent to commit larceny. The indictments allege the two men broke into the home owned by James D. Ray between 10 p.m. May 5 and 5 a.m. May 6.

Shallotte Man Enters Plea To Misdemeanor Drug Charges

BY TERRY POPE

A Shallotte man charged with acting as an accomplice in an undercover drug operation at Ocean Isle Beach earlier this year pleaded no contest to two misdemeanor charges during a special criminal session of Brunswick County Superior Court Tuesday.

Timothy Eugene Frink, 20, entered a plea of no contest to misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and maintaining a vehicle to keep and store drugs. Judge Lynn Johnson, resident Superior Court judge in Cumberland County, gave Frink a two-year suspended sentence, placed him on five years' supervised probation and fined him \$200.

Frink was charged in a case that stemmed from an undercover officer's purchase of cocaine from Perry Wallace Neville of Ocean Isle. Undercover officers purchased a half ounce of cocaine from Neville on April 26 and another one and a half ounces of cocaine on June 1.

In Brunswick County Superior Court in October, Neville pleaded guilty to one count of selling cocaine and one count of trafficking in more than 28 grams but less than 200 grams of cocaine from a relative's home in Robeson County. He was sentenced to seven years in

prison. Undercover officers followed Neville to a relative's home in Robeson County where half a kilogram of cocaine was seized.

In court Tuesday, Frink's attorney, Rex Gore, said his client drove the vehicle to Robeson County but that he "was not a part of any type of conspiracy at all."

Gore said Frink was a "passive participant" in the drug sales and was "influenced by someone older and more mature than him." Gore said Frink's brother had been friends with Neville and that Neville only relied on Frink for transportation.

Assistant District Attorney Thomas Hicks said when undercover officers went to Ocean Isle to purchase the cocaine, both Neville and Frink went to Frink's car to get the cocaine. Frink later returned to the car to get some scales, Hicks said, and in Frink's presence the cocaine was weighed.

Frink was originally charged with conspiracy to sell cocaine, possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and with selling cocaine by Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective David Crocker.

The misdemeanor charges Frink pleaded no contest to Tuesday carried a maximum sentence of three years in prison, one year for main-

taining a vehicle and two years for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Judge Johnson also heard the following cases in Superior Court Tuesday:

■Adolph G. Holmes Sr., 49, and Leroy Holmes, 20, both of Shallotte, were given two-year suspended sentences and placed on five years' supervised probation after pleading guilty to felonious possession of cocaine. Adolph Holmes was fined \$350 and Leroy Holmes was fined \$250. Both were ordered to perform 200 hours community service. According to Hicks, the case stemmed from undercover officer's search of the Holmes' residence after receiving information that cocaine was being sold there on Nov. 16, 1989. Confiscated from the scene was a pipe used to ingest cocaine and 2.3 grams of "crack" cocaine from outside the residence, Hicks said. Charges of possession of drug paraphernalia were dismissed against both men.

■Tyrone O'Neil, 18, of Navassa received a prayer for judgment continued until March 11 after pleading guilty in Superior Court Tuesday to felonious selling of cocaine. O'Neil was charged March 7 this year at a Navassa ball park for selling "crack" cocaine to an SBI undercover officer. An analysis of the contents showed .6 ounces of co-

caine were packed inside aluminum foil purchased by an SBI agent. O'Neil faces a maximum of 10 years and minimum of three years in prison. In a plea arrangement with the District Attorney's office, charges of conspiracy to sell cocaine and possession with intent to sell cocaine were dismissed.

Recycling Trailer Reopens At Holden

The Holden Beach recycling center is back in business.

The collection trailer that was moved from its site along Holden Beach Road Nov. 30 and parked next to the Holden Beach Town Hall is once again open to the public.

Holden Beach Town Manager Blake Proctor said the trailer is open Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Area residents and visitors are invited to take recyclable items including paper, glass, plastic and aluminum to the center and place them in bins located inside the trailer.

The trailer can be used by island and mainland residents. Proctor said a proposed curbside recycling program on the island won't begin until January.

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