

Seaside Shooting Victim Sues For Damages

BY TERRY POPE

A Seaside man injured during a gunfight at his father's business in February is firing back, in the form of a lawsuit.

William Forrest Taylor Jr. was shot in the arm during a fight at the T&T Development Co. office at Seaside Plaza on Feb. 19. He was apparently an unarmed and innocent bystander in the incident.

When an argument between Taylor's father, William F. "Bookie" Taylor Sr., and a business partner, Julian Hershel Allen, of Calabash, turned into a gunfight there, Taylor rushed into the office and was allegedly shot by Allen.

In a lawsuit filed April 18 in Brunswick County Superior Court, Taylor Jr. is asking

for in excess of \$30,000 in damages from Allen and that a jury decide the case. The complaint was filed by Long Beach attorney David Ford.

Allen was indicted by a Brunswick County grand jury in March on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury.

According to Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Billy Hughes, Taylor Sr. and Allen entered the building around 8:10 p.m. to discuss a business deal, but ended up firing guns at one another after a heated argument broke out.

Both men drew weapons and began firing shots, Hughes said. "Bookie" Taylor allegedly fired a .38-caliber revolver at Allen,

hitting him twice, once in the upper chest and again in the elbow.

Allen is believed to have fired shots from two guns, a .38-caliber revolver and a .357-magnum handgun. When the shooting began, Taylor Jr. was at a nearby business and hurried to the office when he heard shots fired.

According to the lawsuit, Taylor Jr. was uncertain why guns were being fired and knew that his father was inside the office. He attempted to enter the building but found the door was locked.

After forcing his way into the office, Taylor Jr. claims he saw Allen standing in the hallway. When Allen turned to face Taylor Jr., the complaint states, Allen aimed a .357-magnum handgun at him and fired.

According to the lawsuit, Taylor Jr. jumped to avoid the gunfire and had he not done so the bullet "would have probably struck the plaintiff in his chest or abdomen."

Instead, the bullet struck Taylor Jr. in the right forearm, "causing extensive damage and requiring hospitalization and medical treatment and possibly resulting in a loss of some use of his arm."

As Taylor Jr. fled the building, Allen fired another shot that missed, the complaint alleges. It states that Allen then followed Taylor Jr. out of the office, aimed the pistol at him again, but did not fire.

When Allen re-entered the building, it states, "he was subdued by a third party."

Allen was taken to New Hanover

Regional Medical Center in Wilmington where he was initially listed in serious condition. He has since been released.

Taylor Jr. was taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply, where he was kept overnight, treated and released. In all, about 10 to 11 shots were fired, Hughes said.

The lawsuit claims that Allen's assault on Taylor Jr. was done without justification or excuse. It accuses Allen of "intentional and tortious assaults and battery" in a "cold-blooded and depraved" manner.

Taylor Jr. seeks in excess of \$10,000 each for bodily injury, medical expenses, pain and suffering and lost earnings; punitive damages; and for intentional infliction of mental distress.

Shalotte Area Man Says He Was Robbed

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County sheriff's detectives are investigating a robbery that occurred outside Shallotte Saturday evening.

A man reported that he was robbed by several men as he walked out of his home on Hale Swamp Road.

At least four suspects jumped the man from behind, choked him and beat him with brass knuckles, he told Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy George Stanley.

The beating knocked the man unconscious and damaged his left eye, Stanley reported, after interviewing the victim at the Shallotte Police Department.

The victim told Stanley that the men took \$67 from him.

The case is still under investigation.

In other reports on file at the sheriff's department:

■A woman reported she was physically attacked by two other females while at a party at Sunset Beach Friday night. Sheriff's Sgt. Ida Ballard reported the victim was transported to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply by the Calabash Volunteer Rescue Squad for treatment. The attack happened around 9 p.m.

■Several warrants have been filed following a fight at a party in Maco Saturday night. A 28-year-old Leland man was at the party when an argument broke out among several

CRIME REPORT

subjects, reported Deputy Becky McDonald.

The man was hit on the head, arms and legs with a stick and taken to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington by the Leland Volunteer Rescue Squad. Warrants were drawn Monday by both parties involved in the dispute. As of Monday, the warrants had not been served.

■Someone pried open the front door to Letino's Tavern in Calabash Sunday and took about \$130 from a game machine. Damage was estimated at \$90, Deputy Shelton Caison reported.

■A break-in at Jerry Munn's Mobile Home Park in Leland Friday caused an estimated \$1,015 in damage to one home, reported Deputy Richard DuVall. An estimated \$1,950 in items was reported missing.

■Two boat motors were taken from a Sunset Harbor home between April 14-26, reported Deputy Charles Crocker. The motors were valued at \$2,750.

■Someone pulled into the yard of a Shell Point resident between April 14-20 and removed the axle and tires to a boat trailer, reported Deputy William Hewett. The items

were valued at \$150.

■A vehicle parked at Town Creek Township District Park was broken into Saturday. A Bolivia woman said someone took her purse, which contained a \$179 check, \$45 in cash and charge cards, reported DuVall.

■Someone with a taste for Marlboro and Marlboro Light cigarettes broke into Hilburn's Place, Route 2, Ash, last Wednesday. Deputy Darryl Marlow reported the suspects took \$125 in cash and \$122 in cigarettes.

■A motorcycle valued at \$3,323 was reported stolen from an Old Ferry Road residence near Holden Beach Saturday. Hewett reported the 1990 Honda was reported stolen from a driveway around 9:30 a.m.

■Rods and reels valued at \$260 were taken from an Ocean Pines home between April 6 and 20, reported Caison. Damage was estimated at \$55 to a broken front window.

■An estimated \$240 in tools were reported stolen from a Route 3, Leland, residence. The theft occurred between March 27 and April 25, reported DuVall.

■Someone broke into a storage unit at Leland Mini-Storage Houses on Village Road and removed an undetermined amount of property, reported Deputy Brian Sanders.

Ocean Isle Beach Officials Delay Vote On Gazebo Repair

Ocean Isle Beach officials made no decision Tuesday on a property owner's appeal involving repairs he has made to a dock and pier overlooking one of the island's finger canals.

Michael Holt, who owns property at 23 Newport Street, appealed the building inspector's ruling that improvements made to an existing gazebo on the canal are not permitted under town code.

Building Inspector Druied Roberson said the owner didn't apply for a permit to repair the non-conforming structure, which was built before the town zoning ordinances took effect.

Roberson also said improvements under way will cost more than half of the value of the gazebo, meaning it must be reconstructed to meet the town zoning regulations.

Roberson said the Ocean Isle Beach Board of Adjustment didn't vote on the appeal after hearing his testimony and testimony from the property owner

Tuesday morning.

The board is expected to decide the issue following the regular town commissioners' meeting May 14. Roberson said some board members wanted to consult the town attorney before a vote is taken.

Neither board Chairperson Debbie Fox or Mayor Betty Williamson, who is secretary of the board of adjustment, could be reached for comment Tuesday.

Roberson said the property owner had a gazebo on his land that was about 16 feet by 24 feet, or 384 square feet. Most of it was taken down to make room for a larger gazebo.

Ocean Isle Beach's zoning code doesn't allow anything larger than 12 by 12, or 144 square feet. But Holt had been allowed to keep his old gazebo because it was built before the zoning rules took effect.

Structures that are improved more than 50 percent of their value must be brought into compliance with town code. Roberson said the new gazebo can't be any larger than 144 square feet.

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