



BRUNSWICK COUNTY Sheriff's Deputy Brian Sanders directs traffic around an accident on U.S. 17 at Winnabow last Wednesday, March 18.

## Three Hurt In Winnabow Wreck

Three people were injured in an accident at the intersection of U.S. 17 and Governor's Road (S.R. 1521) at Winnabow last Wednesday, March 18.

Donald Eugene Weatherford, 37, of Winnabow, was charged with making an unsafe movement after he drove his 1967 Ford pickup into the path of an approaching car around 8:30 a.m., reported State Trooper B.L. Wilkes.

Weatherford was traveling south on four-laned U.S. 17 when he attempted to cross the northbound lanes to turn onto Governor's Road, Wilkes stated. His pickup was struck by a 1977 Pontiac driven by Edward Gordon Ward, 45, of Bolivia.

Ward's car spun around and came to rest in the northbound lanes of U.S. 17. Weatherford's truck traveled out of control and struck a 1978 White tractor-trailer driven by Eldon Lamar Brooks, 42, of Robbinsville, Wilkes stated.

The tractor-trailer was stopped at the stop sign on Governor's Road.

Weatherford received serious injuries while Ward and a passenger in his car, Edward C. Ward, 19, of Bolivia, each received class B injuries, which are serious but not incapacitating. All three were transported to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington by ambulance.

Damage was listed at \$1,000 to the Weatherford truck, \$500 to the Ward car and \$100 to the tractor trailer.

### Pedestrian Struck

A Supply man was seriously injured Saturday night after he walked into the path of a car on N.C. 130 east of Shallotte.

Jerry Wayne Hewett, 44, was walking from the parking area of Woody's store about 2.5 miles east of Shallotte when he was struck by a 1984 Mercury driven by Frances Agnes Barnes, 33, of Shallotte, State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt reported.

Hewett was taken to The Brunswick Hospital by ambulance following the 10:30 p.m. accident. He was attempting to walk to a private driveway across N.C. 130, said Barnhardt.

No charges were filed.

Damage was estimated at \$500 to the hood, windshield and roof of the car, Barnhardt stated.

### Bypass Accident

Minor injuries were reported Friday afternoon in an accident on the U.S. 17 bypass about .3 miles north of Shallotte, State Trooper D.B. Harvell reported.

The accident happened around

3:15 p.m. when a 1985 Chevrolet driven by Heath Patrick Hankins, 18, of Supply slowed for traffic, Harvell stated. His car was struck in the rear by a 1990 Plymouth driven by Jesse Eric Herndon, 17, of Supply.

Herndon was charged with failure

to reduce speed, Harvell stated.

Hankins received minor injuries and was taken to The Brunswick Hospital.

Damages was estimated at \$800 to the Hankins car and \$1,500 to the Herndon car.

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

### School Testing Dates Set

All Brunswick County students in the third, sixth and eighth grades will be involved in testing March 30 through April 3.

They will be taking the California Achievement Tests or CAT, which the state is presently using to evaluate student achievement in reading, language and mathematics.

Students will also take the state's science and social studies tests, which are given with the CAT, but are reported separately.

At Lincoln Primary School in Leland, third grade teachers plan to spend some time reviewing skills in preparation for the CAT and will use an instrument called "Scoring High" to help acquaint students with the testing format.

Like typical third graders county-wide, most third graders at Lincoln haven't taken any type of standardized test before.

"The staff at Lincoln tries hard to

encourage our students to do their best without overemphasizing the testing program," a news release indicated.

Among other support efforts, tapes on reducing test anxiety are available for parents to check out through the school counselor.

A guide for parents published by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction's Testing Division offers advice to parents to help their child during testing.

Some of the suggestions include:

- Offer encouragement to your child before the test;
- Avoid discussing scores of older brothers or sisters and making comparisons. Children have different abilities;
- Try to avoid family conflicts or other problems that might upset the child and affect test scores; and
- Make sure your child has normal rest before the test.

## Lakeside 4-H Gets Grant

Lakeside 4-H Club of Boiling Spring Lakes has received a \$500 grant from Deere and Co. for a special program that encourages young people to conserve the community's natural resources.

The funds are part of a National 4-H Conservation of Natural Resources Grants Program coordinated by the National 4-H Council, said Billy Privette, 4-H agent with the Brunswick County Center of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service. Lakeside is one of eight groups nationwide to receive a grant.

Lakeside 4-H Club began this project by adopting a farm in the Supply area. The club began a limited stream analysis program with assistance of the N.C. Stream Watch coordinator and the Soil and Water Conservation Service.

Utilizing a lake on the property, the club initiated a fish stocking and tagging program with South Brunswick High School's aquaculture program. The club has also built

and placed wood duck boxes on the farm and installed beaver dam water control structures.

"We're excited about the kinds of things that we have already been able to accomplish," said Faye Layman, 4-H Club leader. "With the grant money from Deere and Co., we will be able to greatly improve our stream analysis program."

Other future projects, with the assistance of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, include the planting of wildlife seed plots and hardwoods in the buffer zone between the pasture and lake. The group also plans to erect an osprey nesting platform and install bluebird boxes.

4-H is the youth education program of the Cooperative Extension System of the state land-grant universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. National 4-H Council is a not-for-profit organization which uses private resources to enhance the development and education of youth.

## Fired Center Director Sues

A former director of the Carolina Power and Light Co. Visitors Center in Southport has filed suit against the company, claiming he was wrongfully fired from his job last year.

Thomas S. Corbitt Jr., 47, of Southport, an 11-year veteran of CP&L, was fired Oct. 31 as senior energy information specialist at the visitor's center of the Brunswick Nuclear Plant.

According to the lawsuit filed in Brunswick County Superior Court, Corbitt wants a judge to rule that CP&L discriminated against him on account of his handicapped condition and that the company violated the Handicapped Persons Protection Act.

It asks that Corbitt be restored to his job, be allowed to collect back pay from Oct. 31, receive compensatory damages in excess of \$10,000 and punitive damages in excess of \$10,000 and receive a trial by jury.

Corbitt was diagnosed with hypertension in August 1989, the complaint states, and placed on a medication called Propranolol until September 1991, after he had been notified that he was fired. Hypertension is a high blood pressure condition treatable with medication.

Physicians indicated the drug "caused depression" as a side effect and a "substantial impairment in his mental condition," the complaint states. Corbitt's disorder and mental impairment paralleled the alleged deficiencies in his job performance over the same period of time, it states.

Individuals suffering from the disorder are forgetful, disorganized, show poor concentration, demonstrate problems in completing assigned tasks on schedule and do not handle new conditions with increased work demands well, it states.

Corbitt was given a reduction in pay and additional duties under a re-organization of employees by CP&L in August 1989, it states.

In June 1989, his son, Thomas E. Corbitt III, was diagnosed with atypical anorexia and was hospitalized for his illness for two months after his weight dropped from 200 to 140 pounds. Anorexia is a psychological and eating disorder characterized by a pathological fear of weight gain, found primarily among teens, and leading to faulty eating patterns and malnutrition.

Corbitt had received ratings of commendable or satisfactory on job evaluations prior to the one dated August 21, 1991. That appraisal was given to him after he was notified that he would be fired, the complaint states.

It rated his performance as commendable in two categories, satisfactory in two areas and unsatisfactory in two others.

Corbitt was "given no opportunity to correct any of the deficiencies in which he was allegedly unsatisfactory," it states.

At the time, Corbitt was earning \$42,000 per year plus benefits. He was replaced by a female employee from outside of the company with no experience in areas covered by the job, it claims.

It also alleges that David Kelly, CP&L's external relations director, offered the job to the new employee "months previous to the plaintiff's termination of employment," in violation of the company's policy to develop and hire from within.

It states the person who took Corbitt's job was a "personal friend"

of Kelly's.

Corbitt was given a grievance hearing on Dec. 6, 1991, held before three CP&L employees, including the chief personnel officer from Raleigh. Corbitt says he was denied legal counsel and that the hearing "was nothing more than a sham."

The plaintiff was awarded unemployment pay, but on Dec. 2, 1991, CP&L filed an appeal of the unemployment officer's decision "in retaliation," it states, alleging that Corbitt had been fired for "misconduct or substantial fault connected with his performance."

A hearing on the CP&L's appeal was scheduled for Dec. 31, but on Dec. 27 the company withdrew the appeal without contacting Corbitt, it claims.

The lawsuit, filed by Wilmington attorney William Shell, claims Corbitt is a qualified handicapped person and that CP&L was advised of Corbitt's condition when he was fired from his job. It claims CP&L discriminated against him because of his handicapped condition and on account of his sex.

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