



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER
STATE TROOPER W.H. Thompson examines a motorcycle involved in an accident on U.S. 17 south of Shallotte Monday afternoon. A motorcyclist was injured when the bike and pickup truck collided. The trooper's report wasn't available Tuesday.

Car Overtakes Near Leland

An Ohio resident was charged with careless and reckless driving after he apparently fell asleep at the wheel of a car, causing it to run off the highway and overturn last Thursday, May 14.

Douglas A. Monger, 20, of Canton, Ohio, was traveling north on U.S. 17 about 2.9 miles south of Leland when his 1987 Dodge ran onto the median, struck a ditch culvert and overturned, State Trooper D.A. Lewis reported.

The car uprighted itself after

overturning once, Lewis noted.

Monger and a passenger in his car, Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Nutter, 22, of Camp Lejeune, both received class B injuries, which are labeled serious but not incapacitating, Lewis reported.

They were taken to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington by ambulance following the 2:30 a.m. accident.

Damage was estimated at \$4,500 to the car and \$20 to a road marker owned by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Leland Man Refiles Lawsuit Against Sheriff's Deputies

A Leland man who claims Brunswick County sheriff's deputies broke his arm and refused him medical treatment during an arrest has refiled a lawsuit against the officers in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Edward Noble Jr., 62, filed suit May 12. He is seeking in excess of \$10,000 in damages and asks that a jury decide the case.

An original lawsuit that made the same allegations was voluntarily dismissed in court last year because of a technicality, said Noble's attorney, David Ford of Long Beach.

Named in the latest lawsuit are Deputies Gene Browning, Detective Kenneth Messer, Deputy Timothy J. McGinn and Sheriff John Carr Davis.

Noble claims that on July 16, 1989, Browning and Messer, who was a deputy at the time, grabbed Noble from behind and twisted his arms until he heard the bones breaking.

The plaintiff alleges that he was on private property, "engaged in a heated discussion with a neighbor," when officers arrived. Messer is accused of coming onto the property, without a warrant and not in uniform, and directing Noble to go home.

Noble drove to his home and was walking toward his house when Deputy McGinn arrived in his patrol car, the complaint states, and advised that he was placing Noble under arrest.

The lawsuit says Noble told the deputy that he had broken no law and proceeded toward his house but was grabbed from behind by Browning and Messer. The men then twisted Noble's arm until

Noble heard bones breaking, it states.

Noble was handcuffed and transported to the Brunswick County Jail in Deputy McGinn's vehicle and kept in jail for two hours before he was released for medical treatment, it states.

After seeking treatment it was learned that Noble had suffered multiple breaks in his left arm, it claims. He was required to wear a cast for six months, suffered permanent damage in the arm and has been unable to work, the complaint alleges.

When Noble asked the deputies to stop twisting the arm, they continued to do so, it contends.

At Noble's trial, the officers under oath "admitted that they heard the bones breaking in the plaintiff's arm and continued to twist his arm and when asked why they had done so stated they didn't know," it states.

Noble was charged with resisting and obstructing a public officer and found guilty in Brunswick County District Court. His attorney, David Stanley, appealed the decision to Brunswick Superior Court where on Oct. 11, 1989, a jury found Noble not guilty, according to documents on file at the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office.

The lawsuit also claims that the officers treated Noble in a rough manner by pushing, shoving and striking him unnecessarily resulting in the injuries. The actions while taking Noble into custody resulted in excessive force and deprived him of constitutional rights under the 14th amendment, it continues.

The suit is seeking in excess of \$10,000 for damages, attorney fees, a jury trial and that the defendants pay court costs.

North Student Pleads Guilty To Having Knife On Campus

A 17-year-old ninth grader at North Brunswick High School was found guilty May 14 in Brunswick County District Court of taking a weapon to school.

Nakin Genoa Baldwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Baldwin of Leland, pleaded guilty to charges brought on March 18 by North Brunswick High School Assistant Principal Michael Brown that he had brought to school a pistol-shaped knife, a violation of school policy.

According to court records, Baldwin's teacher, Mike Hooks, was informed by another student that the youth had a gun on his person. Hooks advised Principal Robert Harris and they isolated Baldwin in the school parking lot and asked for it. The student surrendered the knife to Harris and Brown took the matter to the magistrate.

Following his appearance in court Thursday and a plea of guilty to charges of weapon possession in school, Baldwin received from District Judge Jerry Jolly a prayer for judgment continued upon his payment of court costs.

"The student was very cooperative," he said. "Another student had told Mr. Hooks the boy had a gun, and when his class was doing an activity outside, we just called him over and asked about it. He gave it

to us right away, a knife shaped like a gun. We didn't want to be punitive about it, so he just had to pay court costs, about \$55, and it won't be on his record."

Harris said this was the first incident of a weapon discovered on a student so far this year. State law has always considered weapon possession in schools a misdemeanor, but only last fall did the Brunswick County Board of Education adopt a policy reinforcing this law, requiring principals to turn students in violation over to law enforcement officers instead of leaving it an optional procedure.

A first offense in possessing a weapon in school is to result in having it confiscated, the student being suspended for 10 days and parent and student attending a conference with the principal before returning to school.

On the second offense, the student would have a long-term suspension and third offense would result in expulsion.

William Turner, assistant superintendent of auxiliary services, said he believes the new policy has had an impact on the county high schools.

"It makes an impression to be taken to the Sheriff's Department," he said, "and it's an inconvenience for parents to have to come and get them."

CRIME REPORT

Would-Be Larceny Victim Surprises Intruder

A Leland woman came home just in time to avoid becoming a larceny victim Saturday night when she apparently surprised a thief in the act of stealing her microwave oven.

According to a report filed by Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Brian L. Sanders, the woman said she had left her home on Green Loop Road Saturday morning. She returned with her brother-in-law at around 10:35 p.m. and noticed that the sliding glass door at the rear of the house was open.

Looking around outside they noticed someone standing behind a tree near the house. The brother-in-law yelled and the person ran off into the nearby woods, Sanders reported.

The two went into the house and found that the intruder had apparently entered through the sliding door, picked up the woman's television set and placed it near the door. While searching the area where the thief had been standing, they found the woman's microwave oven beneath the tree, the report said.

A five-speed girl's bicycle that had been leaning against the house also was reported missing. The value of the bicycle was not noted.

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

Thieves broke into two buildings on DuPont Co. property in Leland Thursday night, Deputy Richard DuVall reported.

Friday morning, workers discovered a broken hasp and lock on a storage building and found that a soft drink machine had been forced open and an unspecified amount of change removed. Damage to the machine was estimated at \$500.

They also found that the rear window on a Service America building at the site had been broken and a change machine forced open. About \$300 was removed, the report said. Damage was estimated at \$1,000.

Deputy J.M. Adams reported that a 1974 model 25 hp Johnson outboard motor was taken from the side of a home on N.C. 179 in Sunset Beach Saturday night. The owner indicated that the thief had also tried to remove a second outboard from his boat, causing \$75 damage. The stolen motor was valued at \$800.

Someone in the past month a 19-inch portable television and five dollars in cash were removed from a mobile home in Fiddlers Cove on Oxpen Road, Deputy Cathy Hamilton reported. The owner returned to the residence Friday to find the front door pried open and the dead-

bolt lock broken. The television set was valued at \$389. There was an estimated \$270 damage to the door and lock.

A television was also stolen from a mobile home during a break-in sometime in the past month at Fisherman's Village, Ms. Hamilton reported. A neighbor called the homeowner and left a message that the front door had been kicked in. The value of the TV was estimated at \$350. Also taken was a lounge chair valued at \$15.

Someone tried to break into the Carolina Freight warehouse at Lincoln Industrial Park in Leland Sunday. According to Deputy Pete Moore's report, an employee found that a rear bay door had been pried open about 18 inches, but nothing appeared to have been stolen. No estimate of the damage was given.

A mobile home owner in Sunset Beach reported to Deputy Adams Sunday evening that a water pump had been stolen from outside the residence over the weekend. No cost estimate was listed.

A pint of whiskey and a jar of coins were stolen during a break-in at a mobile home in Supply reported to Deputy Becky McDonald Friday. Returning to the residence after more than a week's absence, the owner found that someone had unscrewed a rear window, reached inside and pried the hasp off the door. An estimated \$75 in coins and five dollars worth of liquor were taken. Damage to the door was estimated at \$50.

A brass shower head valued at \$75 was reported stolen Thursday evening from a home under construction on Wild Azalea Way in St. James Plantation, Ms. Hamilton reported that the owner went to the house at around 10:30 p.m. and found the item missing from the master bathroom. There was no forced entry as the unfinished house could not be locked.

The owner of a mobile home on Brooks Avenue in Seaside returned

Reward Offered In Murder

A \$5,000 reward has been offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction of the person who killed a Wilmington school teacher, whose badly-decomposed body was found in Brunswick County April 28.

Charlene Page Thigpen, 24, had been missing since Feb. 27 when her body was discovered lying beneath a discarded sofa off of Saw Mill Road (S.R. 1425) near the small town of Sandy Creek in northern Brunswick County.

Brunswick County Sheriff John Carr Davis said Monday he had learned Gov. Jim Martin has offered the reward. Davis had requested the reward money the day the body was found by workers clearing debris beneath a power line.

Officers are treating the case as a homicide that occurred in Brunswick County. The Myrtle Grove Middle School teacher was last seen at a convenience store in February where her vehicle was left parked.

An autopsy performed in April has revealed no clues as to how the victim died, said Davis.

Persons with any information in the case should call the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, 253-4321 or 1-800-672-6379.

after several months absence to find that lights and a window on the residence had apparently been shot out with a pellet gun, deputy Adams reported. The vandals also pulled siding and insulation from the side of the home. There was no damage estimate reported.

A "suspicious" mattress fire

caused nearly \$4,000 in smoke damage to a house on Cumbee Road in Supply Saturday, Ms. Hamilton reported. The sister of the homeowner came to the house at around 5:15 p.m. and found that the door was unlocked and that someone had set fire to the bed. The cause of the fire was not determined.

Officers Seize 50 Marijuana Plants

Brunswick County sheriff's deputies seized 50 marijuana plants valued at \$105,000 during April, according to the department's monthly activity report.

Officers answered 1,014 calls, including 93 domestic calls, and recovered \$21,906 in property, the report said. There were 291 investigations made, 40 arrests made as prosecuting witness and 212 witnesses summoned. Deputies served 397 civil papers, 231 local warrants, 55

foreign warrants, three juvenile petitions and eight mental and inebriate papers.

One fire was discovered during the month and seven doors and windows were found open. Officers spent 43 hours in court on duty and two hours off duty. A total of 84,897 miles were logged including 17 trips out of the county. The transport van logged 1,218 miles. Vehicles used 5,930 gallons of fuel.

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