

HEILIG UNDER EVALUATION

Seaside Attorney Handling Return Of Client Files

BY ERIC CARLSON

A federal judge has ordered a psychiatric examination of Harry L. Heilig Jr. and a state judge has appointed a Seaside lawyer to oversee the practice of the Sunset Beach attorney who recently pleaded guilty to wire fraud charges.

U.S. District Court Judge Charles E. Simon has committed Heilig to the Federal Correction Institution in Butner for a psychiatric examination at the request of Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Harris. The examination could take up to 90 days to complete.

"There are some questions that need to be answered regarding his ability to enter into a plea agreement," Harris said.

Meanwhile a representative of the N.C. State Bar appeared in Brunswick County Superior Court last week to ask that a local attorney be appointed trustee of Heilig's practice.

After hearing testimony from several of Heilig's clients who had been unable to obtain their files from his office, Judge Giles Clark declared Heilig "disabled" and appointed Edmund A. Liles "to protect and conserve the practice until all known clients have secured other legal counsel or have chosen to pick up their files."

Fern E. Gunn, deputy counsel for the state bar, said the action was taken under the organization's discipline and disbarment procedures. She said she could not comment on whether or not any effort was underway to disbar Heilig.

Many of Heilig's clients had contacted the bar association to say they needed their files to proceed with cases. Others needed files to avoid exceeding the statute of limitations in their cases, Gunn said.

Heilig gave power of attorney over his affairs to a friend, George Matthews, Gunn said. In court last week Matthews said Heilig had asked him to change the lock on his office door and to refuse access to the files.

"I started getting calls at home and disturbing messages on my answering machine," Matthews told the court.

Matthews said Heilig had tried to get a Shallotte attorney to take over the practice, but the request was refused. Liles was chosen as trustee because his office is located across the highway from Heilig's office on N.C. 904 in Seaside Plaza. Liles was not previously associated with Heilig.

Since he was appointed trustee over the almost 300 files, Liles said about 10 to 15 of Heilig's clients have come to his office daily to retrieve their files. About half the clients told Liles they already had paid Heilig for legal services. Liles is advising them that in order to proceed with their cases they will need to hire another lawyer.

"In some cases these people will have to start all over," Liles said.

These clients will have to take legal action to get repaid, said Liles, who finds himself in a similar situation. Because he is technically handling Heilig's practice in

his absence, Liles would have to go to Heilig first to get paid for his services, which he admitted would be "highly unlikely."

Liles said that while it was part of his "duty as an attorney" to accept the trustee appointment, he will be partially reimbursed for his services by the bar association. Liles is also responsible for returning funds from Heilig's trust account to their rightful owners.

Heilig's former clients can come for their files Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Heilig, 62, and his wife, Beverly, pleaded guilty in a Columbia, S.C., federal court to conspiracy to commit wire fraud. In February the two were charged in a seven-count indictment with conspiring to defraud a convicted murderer by promising to buy him out of prison for \$80,000.

In entering her plea, Mrs. Heilig told the court her husband had threatened her on two occasions and she requested that his \$50,000 bond be revoked. There was also testimony that Heilig had threatened another witness in the case, Harris said.

As a result, the judge revoked the bond and Heilig was taken into custody. Shortly thereafter, Heilig began to complain of chest pains and was taken to the hospital.

"He had what appeared to be a heart attack," Harris said.

After a brief stay in the hospital, Heilig pleaded

guilty to the wire fraud charge May 27. Harris said he expects the Heiligs to be sentenced within two months. They could be sent to prison for as long as five years. Under federal sentencing, the Heiligs would not be eligible for parole until they have served their full term.

Harris said the fact that Heilig is a lawyer makes it more likely that he will receive a stiff sentence. Federal judges use a points system for sentencing that recommends harsher treatment of those who have "abused a position of authority in the commission of a crime," Harris said.

"Mr. Heilig certainly violated the trust of Hansel Butler," he said.

In September 1990, Butler had just begun serving a life sentence in Conway, S.C., when the Heiligs told him they could buy his way out of prison by paying bribes to public officials, the federal indictment said. They offered to do the job for \$30,000 in legal fees and \$50,000 to be paid to "commutation officer" in the governor's office, to the sheriff of Horry County, S.C., and to a probation officer in Brunswick County.

In carrying out their scheme, the Heiligs contacted Butler about 47 times by telephone, a violation of federal law. They later learned that one of their co-conspirators was an FBI agent.

Harris said the investigation has found no evidence to suggest that any public officials took part in the conspiracy.

CALABASH ACRES, CLARIDAY WOODS EYED

Zoning Hearings Draw Big Crowd In Calabash

BY ERIC CARLSON

About 50 Calabash residents turned out for two public hearings on proposed zoning changes last week, voicing concerns about one request to expand a commercial area of Clariday Woods and another plan to prohibit mobile homes in parts of Calabash Acres.

Most of those attending the hearings before the town board of commissioners Thursday were owners of mobile homes in Calabash Acres who supported a proposal to allow such housing in the subdivision north of N.C. 179.

However not everyone agreed with the idea. In a letter to the commissioners, William T. Walsh, who could not attend the meeting, said mobile homes should not be allowed in the area. Mobile homes were prohibited by restrictive covenants when the lots were first sold in 1966, Walsh said.

But several mobile home owners said they were unaware of the deed restrictions when they bought lots in Calabash Acres. They expressed concern that a zoning change would prohibit them from replacing their homes in the event of a fire.

"I bought my lot with a mobile home already on it," said R.C. Graham. "I wouldn't have been interested in it otherwise. I can't afford to build a house on it. You're saying that if I get burned out I couldn't replace it? I think that's unfair to me and to everyone else in there."

Other mobile home owners in Calabash Acres expressed similar concerns.

In the end, Commissioner Ray Card asked for a show of hands, asking whether the dividing line between areas allowing stick-built homes and mobile homes should be along N.C. 179 or further south

along Mears Avenue. By a wide margin, those at the hearing chose N.C. 179.

At the beginning of the hearing on Clariday Woods, Commissioner George Anderson told the audience that a second hearing would have to be scheduled because of an error in the map published with the notice announcing the public hearing. The map mistakenly included 10 lots in the area shown to be considered for rezoning.

Tom Tucker, who owns part of the land proposed for commercial zoning in Clariday woods, spoke in favor of the change. He said the area should be rezoned because the adjacent property is commercial and expanding the zone would allow a more appropriate use of the land.

The land has been for sale, Tucker said, but he has been unable to find a buyer because the property

is bordered by commercial land. He said the zone change would make it more attractive to a prospective buyer.

"I would think you'd rather have it commercial than to have mobile homes lining the entrance," Tucker said. "I want the property to look as good as y'all do."

Herb Metcalf, a resident of Clariday Woods, spoke in opposition to the zoning change. He said it would open the door to too much commercial development.

"If we let them get away with this now, what's going to stop them from buying lots in the middle (of the subdivision) and turning it into a shopping center," Metcalf said.

The commissioners said they would set a new public hearing on Clariday Woods at a later meeting. No action was taken on the proposed Calabash Acres change.

Hours Changed At Trash Sites

Brunswick County has extended the hours at its two convenience stations to give residents more flexibility in when they dump their garbage. Hourly for convenience stations located on Oxpen Road near Holden Beach and N.C. 904 at Seaside have been extended on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The stations are now open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Friday and Saturday and 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

County officials plan to build two more convenience stations next fiscal year at Winnabow and on N.C. 211 near Midway Road.

Hours have not changed at the county transfer stations located near Ocean Isle Beach, Leland and Southport. They are open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The three temporary recycling drop-off sites at Northwest Township Park, Town Creek Township Park and Waccamaw Township Park are open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekends.

Completes Basic Training

Private Anthony J. Cotton has completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. School, La.

Cotton is the son of Agnes Allen of Shallotte and L.E. Cotton of Marrero, Louisiana. He is a 1990 graduate of Abbeville Senior High

During the training he received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy and justice, first aid and Army history and traditions.

Red Cross Honors Brunswick Volunteers Today

Approximately 20 volunteers from Brunswick County will be among those recognized today at the annual meeting and recognition program of the Cape Fear Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Also, new officers and members of the chapter's board of directors will be installed.

The meeting at the Scottish Rite Temple in Wilmington is open to all persons who have contributed to the Cape Fear Chapter during the year.

Brunswick County volunteers who will be recognized include Grace Angermayer, Mary Bellows, Gerta Campen, Arlyne Fetterer, Sidney

Grove, Helen Hudson, Agnes Jamieson, Ernestine Jonard, Shirley Lewis, Mrs. Shirley Moley, Millie Murrow, Avolene Nubel, Mollie Richards, Ed Robinson, Jean Robinson, Jackie Slockett, Nettie Welch, Mary Young and Mrs. Eddie Wilson.

Also, Debra G. Adams, Mike Alderson, Jeffery Arndt, Patricia W. Bressler, Jack D. Brown Jr., Tammy Brown, Betty K. Cheers, Carter J.H. Childs, Patrick J. Connoughton, James C. Criscoe, Ellen S. Dorsett, Thomas H. Florkiewicz, William H. Ford, Jesse Gidley, Richard A. Graham, Shirley Hewett, Kathleen Jacobs, Jeremy Jones, Lillie King,

Douglas A. Ledgett, David E. Lloyd, Joe H. Lowry Jr., Dana D. Mauldin;

And, Richard J. Mazzarelli, Francis H. McGee, Tina W. Miller, Donna J. Moore, Susan M. Morgan, Deborah Newman, Helen Potter, Keith O. Sawyer, Robin A. Schuster, William N. Sherrod, Grady Sillings, Diana C. Smith, Pearl W. Stanley, Mike D. West and James E. Wheeler Jr.

Also, Cecil Logan, manager of Brunswick County's Office of Emergency Management, represents Brunswick County on the Cape Fear Chapter American Red Cross Board

of Directors. The local chapter serves residents of Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties.

Coastline Has New Business Number

Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad has changed its telephone number to 842-7770.

This number should be called for any non-emergency needs, including transports from Coastline's service area to doctors and hospitals.

All emergency calls should be made by calling 911.

Month Of May Was Cool And Rainy

When people crack open the National Weather Service record book 100 years from now, last month will show up as one of the coolest, wettest Mays in recent history.

The month tied for the fifth coolest May, and was the sixth wettest May since the weather service started keeping records in 1871, according to the monthly report from the Wilmington office.

Southeastern North Carolina received nearly twice as much rainfall last month than it normally does. The 7.55 inches measured at New Hanover County Airport was a whopping 3.33 inches above average.

The weather service recorded 2.96 inches of rain May 29, which set a new record for that date. Officials also measured 3.71 inches on May 29 and 30, the greatest amount of rainfall in a 24-hour period during the month.

According to the report, the weather service recorded at least a trace of rain on 22 of the 31 days in May. The area received at least one-half inch of rain on seven days.

Coupled with earlier totals, this has been the fourth wettest spring on record, according to the weather service.

The average temperature last month was 66.9 degrees, which is

3.8 degrees below normal. The highest temperature was 93 degrees May 24, and the lowest reading was 48 degrees May 6.

Average wind speed for the month was 7.9 mph. The strongest wind gust was recorded May 7 when a thunderstorm produced a gust of 39 mph.

The weather service reported there were 12 clear days, 10 cloudy days and nine partly cloudy days during May, allowing the area to receive 62 percent of the possible sunshine.

The highest sea-level pressure reading for the month was 30.31 inches May 21, and the lowest reading was 29.73 inches on the third.

L. Bookworm

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books, inspirational and lots of cookbooks as well as seashore reading on shells, fish and wildlife.

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