



# Fire

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attic area.

Firemen concentrated their efforts in containing the fire, keeping it from spreading to its twin structure.

“The only occupants (of the first building) got home from Washington, D.C. at 11 o'clock last night,” said Pamlico Sheriff's Investigator Bobby Baker, “and he said he cut his auxiliary heat on.”

Although the building's only occupied unit was on the opposite end from where it is believed the fire started, fire marshal David Spruill and Baker will be looking at the heating system as a possible reason for the fire as well as any other electrical problems.

But the actual cause of the fire may go down as “indeterminant.”

“The biggest problem was the water supply,” said Beauchamp. “There's no hydrants out here.”

Fire trucks were forced to fill up with water at the fire hydrant of the adjoining Buccaneer Bay subdivision, about a mile down the road. Trucks shuffled back and forth to the hydrant, forming lines waiting to unload.



FRIEDA HUDSON / Pamlico News Staff

**Soaring flames cast an orange light over the scene of an early morning fire Monday at the Teach's Cove Condominiums. Fire fighters were able to protect a second structure which suffered little, if any, damage. Thousands of gallons of water were sprayed on the blaze that was battled by volunteer firefighters from throughout the county.**

Beauchamp said no one was injured in the fire.

“There was one resident in there, and thank God, their smoke detector went off. They felt the heat and smelled the smoke and got out,” he said.

Flames shot up in the early morning hours as the fire pro-

gressed across the condo building. As it ravaged the wood, sections of the two-story building crashed down into the foundation.

By daylight, most of the building's roof was gone and only portions of the exterior walls were standing.

By noon, as a small crew of firemen remained to “sit” the fire, the rest of the roof was gone, along with all the structure's walls. Those were reduced to burning rubble in the brick-lined crawl space.

“It was a good, combined effort,” Beauchamp said of the county's fire fighters.

Providing food and drink for the weary firemen were the Salvation Army and Mike and Kathy's Bakery in Oriental.

Pamlico County's Rescue Squad and SPVFD First Responders were also on hand should their assistance have been required.

# Voting charge dropped

Board of Elections rules that assistance didn't violate rules

JEFF AYDELETTE  
PAMLICO NEWS STAFF

The Board of Elections for Pamlico County dismissed a protest Monday which claimed that a violation of election rules occurred during a day of one-stop voting at the courthouse.

Bayboro resident and voter Audrey Rolison, who filed the complaint, said in her testimony that she thought a violation of regulations had occurred when she saw another voter, Harry Riche, assisting Carrie Sawyer, and her husband James, in casting their votes on Oct. 28.

The complaint was heard in a special proceeding and included evidence and sworn testimony from poll workers and voters.

The regulation in question has to do with possible intimidation of voters in a polling place.

The rule state that, “it shall be unlawful for any person to aid, or attempt to aid, any voter by means of any mechanical device, or any other means whatever, while within the voting enclosure, in marking his ballots.”

Poll worker Linda Cuthrell testified that voters “quite frequently” ask for assistance. She said that Mrs. Sawyer first asked, and that she (Cuthrell) gave permission, for Riche to assist.

“I did not understand the machine,” said Sawyer, “and I could not do it.”

The Sawyers both testified that Riche had used the stylus to mark their ballots based upon a previously marked paper ballot that Mrs. Sawyer had brought with her and from her verbal instructions.

She said that both she and her husband intended to cast identical votes.

“I was standing there watching every move he made,” said Mrs. Sawyer. “I didn't want to hold the booth too long.”

“I told him that my husband and I were voting the same way.”

In response to board member Marty Feinberg, Riche confirmed that he had assisted the Sawyers.

“She asked me to pick it (the stylus) up because she didn't understand them,” said Riche. “But I didn't do it on my own without her permission.”

After receiving testimony, Feinberg and his fellow board members, Earl Evens and Chairman Ed Credle, conducted open deliberations.

“It's not like a jury. We cannot do this privately,” said Feinberg, citing special election regulations that govern such protests.

During their deliberations, the three-member panel found that the Sawyers were entitled to ask Riche for assistance, that a poll worked had given permission for Riche to assist them, and that Riche had not tried to intimidate or coerce them into voting a certain way.

By unanimous vote, they ruled that no violation of voting rules had occurred.

Although county-level decisions may be appealed to the State Board of Elections, an appeal of this case is not considered likely.

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# Docksiders

Tony Tharp



TONY THARP / Pamlico News Staff

**Vanessa and Steve Carns, with their daughter, Sidonia, aboard their Westsail 32, Nereus, at the Oriental harbor. The family, along with Jeanie the cat, was enroute from Michigan to Florida.**

There was good money as a production worker in the Las Vegas entertainment industry, but land-locked Las Vegas couldn't hold the Carns family.

Besides, it was no place to raise children, Steve Carns said as the family prepared to cast off from the Oriental docks and continue a trip south in their recently launched Westsail 32.

The Carns had done some sailing on small boats and he bought a sailboat to use on a lake near his home, a move that only led him to want more of a life at sea.

Carns and his wife Vanessa shrugged aside misgivings, sold their Las Vegas home and ... but let Steve tell it.

“The cost of living in Las Vegas was beginning to skyrocket anyway, while my wages remained the same,” he writes on the family online journey of their adventure, www.nereus32.com.

“We have little to gain by staying, everything to gain by leaving. It is time to go.”

“So we prepare. Perhaps blindly. But, it seems right - the thing to do right here, right now. While the pres-

Docksiders is a regular feature of The Pamlico News highlighting traveling boaters and maritime activity in the newspaper's circulation region. Tony Tharp, 249-1555, or tony@pamliconews.com.

sure now is high, I feel, deep inside, that this will be one of the best things we have ever done ... or a complete and total disaster.

“Either way, it is worth the risk. How will we know if we don't try?”

The family bought the 1973 Westsail in August 1999. Before putting it in the water in Chicago in 2003, Steve rewired, rerigged and refurbished the boat, a project that was still ongoing in Oriental.

He also took time to update his web site, carrying his Apple iBook outside until he found a connection with the wireless Pinelink network.

Once they reach Florida he plans to haul **Nereus** and finish some of the work on the boat before deciding where they will cruise from there.



TONY THARP / Pamlico News Staff

**Vanessa Carns watches her husband, Steve, secure their dingy before pulling out of the Oriental harbor Friday to continue their trip south. With stormy weather in the forecast, Steve Carns said he didn't know whether the family would go offshore or stay with the ICW for their group's next extended stop, which is planned for Charleston, S.C.**

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**Christmas Parade**

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*For more information or to schedule an entry*

**Call 745-4240**