

23rd District Court Judge McLean Drowns

Written by Steve Frank
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District Court Judge Mitchell McLean of Wilkesboro was pronounced dead from drowning Wednesday afternoon at Sunset Beach, according to The Wilkes Journal Patriot.

According to the paper, McLean entered the ocean to try to help other people having trouble in the water due to a strong rip tide when he was overcome by the strong tide. McLean was taken to a nearby hospital. The Wilkes Sheriff Chris Shew said he was told that McLean was at the beach with his family.

A Brunswick Sheriff's Department spokesman said late Wednesday afternoon that two people drowned in the ocean at Sunset Beach that day. McLean served as district court judge for the 23rd Judicial District, which includes Wilkes, Ashe, Alleghany and Yadkin counties. He was unopposed when he ran for re-election to another four-year term in 2010.