

AT HOLDEN BEACH

Cablevision Service Complaints Are Heard

BY EDDIE SWEATT

Holden Beach commissioners Monday night heard why cablevision service has not been satisfactory and what is being done to correct the problem.

A representative of Vision Cable of Wilmington, which has the franchise for service at Holden, told commissioners the cable has been cut nine times by bridge construction crews, causing outages.

He said the cable has now been re-routed completely away from the bridge. A problem with double-imaging on channel 3 will be resolved by moving it to channel 10 as soon as new equipment, expected to be delivered Feb. 8, is received.

The cable company was called on the carpet by a letter from Mayor Kenner Amos in which he complained about the service.

Commissioner Hal Stanley, after voicing a number of complaints, told the cable TV representative, "We are unhappy with the situation as it is" and promised to "see you later" if it is not improved.

The regular monthly meeting Monday was the first one to begin earlier, at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners voted last month to meet at 6:30 from Nov. through March, and at 7:30 p.m. the other seven months of the year.

Commissioners decided Monday to

set two public hearings at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 4, prior to their regular meeting that night.

One will be on a request from Davis Heniford to rezone property at 117 and 119 Ocean Boulevard West from residential to commercial use. The other will be to hear public comment on an amendment of the zoning ordinance regulating relocation of buildings.

Following a public hearing held Monday night, commissioners confirmed the assessment roll and levied assessments for the paving of Greensboro Street at \$9.064 per front foot.

The session was so brief Monday that commissioners had to recess the regular meeting to wait until 7:30 for the public hearing, advertised for that time before the meeting time was changed.

The only public comment came from Bob Meek, a Greensboro St. resident, who enthusiastically favored the proposal.

Commissioners tentatively agreed to meet in special session Monday morning at 9 for a work session on acquisition of public accessways and plans for the strand patrol.

Commissioner Stanley said he wants the work session to be held in conjunction with a special meeting so action can be taken.

In other business, commissioners:

- Voted to amend police department regulations to require all officers to have and maintain telephone service as a condition of employment.

- Raised the pay of a policeman, George Adkins, by 5% effective Feb. 1, as provided for in the current budget.

- Approved a job description for the new position of administrative assistant to the police chief, to which Don Stovall was appointed last month.

- Approved the draft of a contract for garbage pickup which will be put out for bids.

- Authorized Commissioner Graham King to purchase a portable generator, hire temporary help and allow town personnel to make improvements to public accessways as long as costs do not exceed the town's 25% share of the project.

King told commissioners he was unable to get bids on project because it is a small job and there is no on-site electric power to operate tools. The project calls for construction of walkways and steps over the dunes at a number of public accessways.

- Voted to accept an offer from the Holden Beach Property Owners to provide and maintain no littering signs on public accessways, subject

to approval of the "aesthetic value of the signs" by the commission.

- Agreed to accept new chairs as a gift from the Holden Beach Property Owners Association. The ones used by the audience at commission meetings are said to be uncomfortable.

- Authorized use of town water system for construction of a bulkhead at the pavilion only, since the town is participating financially in the project, provided that a charge

is made for the water.

Reports Heard

Eight permits for new house construction valued at \$443,715 were issued in January, according to a written report from Dwight Carroll, building inspector, who was absent at Monday's meeting. The same month a year ago ten permits were issued.

Fifteen repair and bulkhead permits were issued for construction valued at \$78,554 during the month, when building permit fees were

\$1,081. There were nine application for CAMA permits.

At the end of the month 52 houses and three condo units were actively under construction.

Commissioner of public safety Gloria Barrett reported 41 service calls by policemen during January resulting in six investigations, one arrest, four citations and six warnings. Officers drove 6,195 miles burning 502 gallons of gasoline at a cost of \$533 and worked 744 man hours.

Four Injured In Wreck

Four people were seriously injured last Thursday afternoon in a three-car collision on N.C. 133 about 1.6 miles north of Yaupon Beach, the State Highway Patrol reported.

According to State Trooper D.A. Lewis' report, John Frederick Watkins, 29, of Southport, was charged with driving left of center and exceeding a safe speed after his 1971 Ford pickup drifted into another lane of traffic, striking two cars.

Lewis said Watkins was traveling south on N.C. 133 when his truck crossed the center line and struck a 1978 Chevrolet driven by Thomas Savage Corbett Jr., 41, of Southport. Watkins' truck, out of control, then traveled back into the northbound

lane, but swerved back into the southbound lane and struck a 1979 Chevrolet driven by John David Matthews, 16, of Yaupon Beach, Lewis stated.

Both Corbett and Matthews attempted to drive onto the right shoulder to avoid the collisions, Lewis said.

All three drivers, plus a passenger in the Matthews car, Amy R. Matthews, 14, were seriously injured and taken to Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport. Corbett was treated and released as the others were transported to New Hanover Memorial in Wilmington.

Lewis estimated damages at \$200 to Watkins' pickup, \$3,000 to Corbett's car and \$4,500 to Matthews car in the 5:25 p.m. accident.

In another accident early Thursday morning, no one was injured when a car driven by Jane R. Aldridge, 42, of Southport skidded out of control and struck a school bus one mile north of Southport on N.C. 87.

According to State Trooper B.C. Jones' report, Susan O. Jordan, 19, of Bolivia, driver of the school bus, was slowing down to make a stop when Ms. Aldridge's car skidded sideways and struck the bus in the left side.

Jones said Ms. Aldridge applied brakes but lost control of her vehicle. She was charged with driving left of center in the 7:30 a.m. accident.

Jones estimated damages at \$1,000 to the bus and \$1,500 to Ms. Aldridge's 1979 Datsun.

School Policy To Eliminate Early Releases For Seniors

BY TERRY POPE

Early releases for high school seniors who work after school will be abolished over the next couple of years by a new policy the Brunswick County Board of Education adopted Monday night.

According to the new policy, starting next fall seniors will be allowed to leave school for the last period of the day only if there is no conflict in the student's schedule. No regular courses the student pre-registered for may be dropped to rearrange for an early release, Assistant Superintendent Ed Lemon said.

Such early releases from school do not apply to vocational educational students who work during the last period of school as part of their training, Lemon said. Under the new plan, all early releases for seniors, except for vocational education students, will be dropped by the 1986-87 school year, unless students are given special permission from the principal.

Such a move is another effort to keep the "closed campus concept" in Brunswick County, Lemon said,

whereas students are not allowed to leave campus for lunch.

Next year's seniors will need 18 units of credit to graduate while 20 units of credit will be required for the 1986-87 graduating class as approved in the Basic Education Program guidelines adopted by the N.C. State Board of Education in October. Also, each school day must include at least 5½ hours of instructional time for students by the 1986-87 schedule, cutting out the number of free periods students will be able to take, Lemon said.

"To go out and buy an automobile and make car payments is getting in the way of education," Lemon said. "Students who work have a lower achievement level than those who stay in school. The early release is probably presenting problems."

Of the three county high schools, Lemon said, two schools, West and North Brunswick, have been moving away from allowing seniors to leave school early to work. He added the new policy should not increase the student drop-out rate since seniors are so close to graduation that they do not want to quit.

"When I first became a high school principal, one of the first things I did was to cut out early leaves," Superintendent Gene Yarbrough said. "The vocational program is dying on the vine. We need to build up participation in those programs."

All three high school principals agreed with the policy before it was presented to the board Monday night, Lemon said.

SAT Classes

Students preparing for the Scholastic Aptitude Test may receive help next year through the help of an after-school course funded by Brunswick Technical College.

The half-unit credit course titled "SAT Preparation" will be offered at each of the county high schools for students after regular school hours by the Public Schools Cooperative Program, a joint effort by the Brunswick County Community Schools program and the college.

Board member James Clemmons objected to implementing the program after school, saying it should already be taught in the seniors' language arts classes.

"What we're actually doing is we're admitting that we haven't been doing what we should have done," Clemmons said. "And those students who ride the bus can't get to it."

Lemon added that students are not willing to take a course during regular school hours for only a half-unit of credit. When the time comes to prepare for the SAT test, students want a four-week crash course, he added.

"The cooperative program offers a lot of other things," Yarbrough said. "We want to move into it slowly to make sure it works."

"I think that SAT is too important to be playing with," Clemmons said. "It's nothing to be put in the corner."

In other business Monday, the board approved class trips for West Brunswick Spanish students to Mexico on April 5-14 and Leland Middle School gifted class to Washington, D.C., April 26-28.

Boy Shot Twice In Leg Near Longwood

A 14-year-old boy was shot twice in the leg while allegedly attempting to break into a Longwood residence Saturday night, the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department reported.

Forrest Williams, 46, of Longwood was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury after he shot the youth in the right leg with a .22 caliber rifle. Chief of Detectives Phil Perry reported.

A juvenile petition will be issued against the boy for first-degree burglary after he is released from the hospital, Perry said. He will face the charge in Brunswick County Juvenile Court.

Although he was taken to the Brunswick Hospital following the shooting, the boy was later released. He returned to the hospital Monday morning to have the two bullets removed, Chief Deputy John Marlow said.

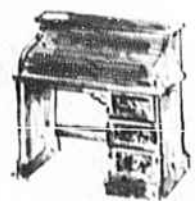
At the time of the alleged break-in attempt, Williams was asleep inside the building, Perry said. The building had once been a store, but is now being used as a residence.

Williams was released from the Brunswick County Jail late Saturday. The shooting occurred around 9:15 p.m.

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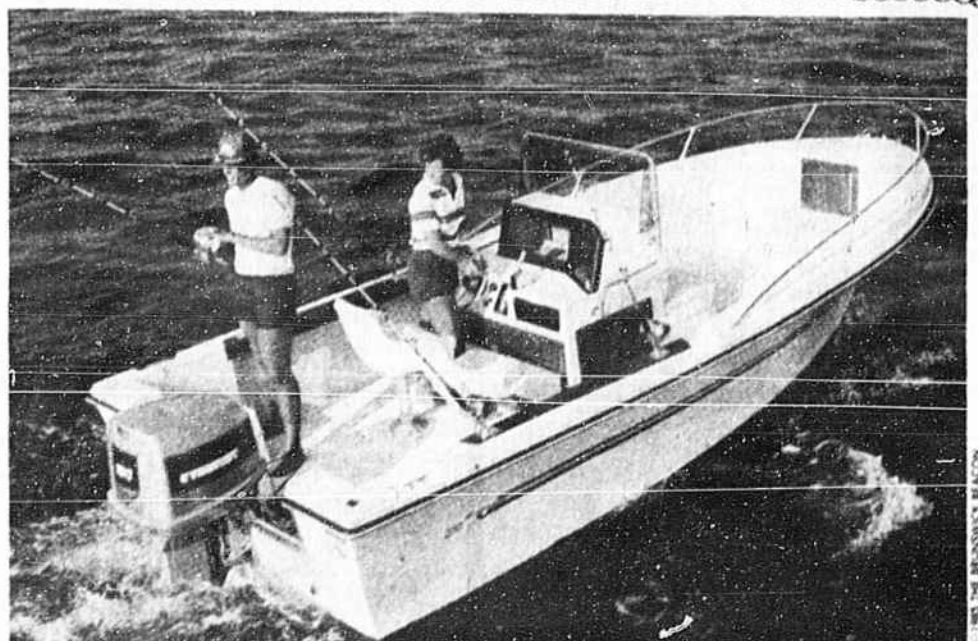
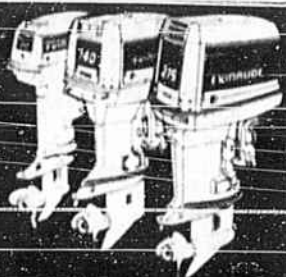
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