

# Black Leaders Accept Apology

BY RAHN ADAMS

Four days after asking commissioners to fire him, local black leaders met with Brunswick County Manager John T. Smith and accepted his apology for telling an ethnic joke to a local homebuilders group.

According to the Rev. Winston Brown, who is president of the Southport NAACP Chapter, 11 black leaders talked with Smith for about an hour Friday in the county manager's office in Bolivia.

Brown said that in addition to himself, Cedar Grove NAACP President Jessie A. Bryant and the Rev.

M.C. Herring, president of the Brunswick County Citizens Association, were present at the private meeting.

They discussed the county manager's authority and the anecdote about a black minister that Smith told to members of the South Brunswick Islands Homebuilders Association at the organization's Sept. 22 meeting in Calabash.

"All of us admitted that it (the joke) shouldn't have been said, but we know these things happen... He promised to watch himself from now on," Brown said Tuesday.

Smith said Tuesday he agreed "100

percent" that he shouldn't have told the anecdote to the homebuilders.

Brown said now that black leaders have accepted Smith's apology, forgiveness is the next step.

"He's very knowledgeable, but of course you don't get a bad taste out of your mouth at one time," Brown said. "We're going to work with him and see what the outcome will be... We expect to have a harmonious working relationship."

Smith described the Friday meeting as "informational" and said he was glad to have the opportunity to "get to know each other."

"I hope that we can get on with

working together for the good of the county," Smith said.

Smith's joke came to the attention of county commissioners during an executive session on Sept. 23.

Following media accounts of the incident, black leaders appeared before commissioners Oct. 5 in Bolivia, asking that Smith be fired despite public apologies from Smith and board of commissioners Chairman Grace Beasley.

Commissioners took no action against Smith and asked that the county manager be given "a second chance."

# RDC Opposes Rail Abandonment

BY RAHN ADAMS

The Brunswick County Resources Development Commission (RDC) this week voiced its opposition to CSX Transportation's plan to abandon a 2 1/2-mile section of railroad in northern Brunswick County.

According to Michael deSherbinin, the Commission's executive director, county officials were notified Friday that CSX was planning to study the use of 2.55 miles of track near Malmo, nine miles west of Wilmington.

CSX asked the county to comment on the importance of the rail section, he said.

DeSherbinin said the Malmo spur has no direct impact on the nearby Leland Industrial Park. However, he

said at least two companies have expressed interest in locating on property that would be served by that section of rail. These companies include a manufacturing plant and a bulk storage facility.

RDC members Monday night adopted a resolution asking CSX to "cease to consider further rail abandonment plans at the Malmo, N.C., location."

The commission also initiated a letter-writing campaign to CSX from property owners adjacent to the spur and from the two prospective industries.

Also at Monday's meeting, deSherbinin gave the commission an update on progress toward bringing a new sewing plant to Brunswick County.

Officials with a Latta, S.C., apparel manufacturing firm were pleased with the results of a labor survey conducted Oct. 2 in Bolivia, deSherbinin said.

During the survey, 80 applications were received for the 52 available jobs at the proposed plant.

DeSherbinin said company officials are expected to make a final decision by Friday on whether or not to locate here.

A company engineer inspected a building in Bolivia last week, to see if it could be converted into a sewing plant at a feasible cost, he said.

In another matter, deSherbinin said KBK Enterprises finalized purchase of a 14 1/2-acre tract in Leland Industrial Park on Friday, buying

the property from the Brunswick Economic Development Corp.

KBK plans to locate a coal ash transfer facility on five acres, transporting the ash from the Cogentrix steam co-generation plant in Southport.

DeSherbinin said KBK on Friday also entered into an agreement with the economic development corporation to stabilize a 6,000-foot main road through the industrial park.

On Monday, KBK began hauling fly ash from Carolina Power and Light Co.'s Sutton Plant in New Hanover County to the industrial park, to blend into the sub-base of the roadway, he said.

The road project should be completed by the first of November.

# Drug Dog Nabs First Suspects

BY RAHN ADAMS

Brunswick County's new narcotics dog helped "sniff out" two drug suspects in Calabash this week—the first time "Buddy" has been used in making actual arrests.

Arrested Monday night were Willard Richard Woods, 37, of Calabash, and his brother, Clifton Woods, 18, of Seaside, according to Brunswick County Det. Sgt. David Crocker.

Crocker said Richard Woods was charged with felonious possession of cocaine, possession with intent to sell and deliver, and sale and delivery of cocaine. He was placed in the Brunswick County Jail under a \$200,000 bond.

Clifton Woods was charged with felonious possession of cocaine, and was jailed under a \$100,000 bond, Crocker said.

Both suspects were scheduled to make first court appearances on

Tuesday.

Crocker said the arrests were made Monday around 8 p.m. on N.C. 179 in Calabash, after the narcotics dog uncovered 16 grams of cocaine during a search of the Woods' vehicle.

"The cocaine was hidden under the front seat, and Buddy alerted on it," Crocker said.

The dog, which was paid for by private donations, was purchased by the sheriff's department in August.

Also seized Tuesday night was marked money that an undercover agent had used to make a drug buy from Richard Woods immediately prior to the vehicle search. The undercover buy was made on the road in the Calabash area, Crocker said.

In addition to the counts filed this week, Richard Woods is awaiting trial on a conspiracy to possess co-

caine charge involving more than 400 grams of the controlled substance. He was indicted on that charge by a Brunswick County Grand Jury in July.

According to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office, he also faces previous charges in district court including felonious possession of cocaine, manufacturing cocaine, possession with intent to sell and

deliver cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia and misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

Crocker said Clifton Woods does not face charges other than the one filed this week.

The Brunswick County Narcotics Squad, New Hanover County Narcotics Squad and SBI were involved in the undercover operation Monday night.

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They must also consider which sport is right for them, according to their physical condition and lifestyle. And they should consider which equipment—footwear, clothing, etc.—will maximize their performance while minimizing the stress and chance of injury.

In the same way, someone resuming sports after an absence or taking it up for the first time, should consider switching to soft contact

lenses. Eyeglasses can slip down, fog up, or fail to provide peripheral vision. Unlike hard contact lenses, soft lenses are so pliable that they're usually comfortable right from the start. And there's no worry over lenses popping out—even during the most rugged activities.

Whether you're taking up a new game or picking up an old one, you should decide which are the right lenses for you.

In the interest of better vision from the office of Brunswick Vision Care Chris Moshoures, O.D. Pine St., Shallotte, 754-4020 Salt Marsh Sq., Calabash, 579-4020

## Union School Plans Book Fair

Parents and children alike get to browse—and buy—during Union Primary School's Book Fair Oct. 15-21 in the school library.

Hours will be from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily at the Shallotte area school.

Books offered will include fiction and non-fiction for all reading levels

and ages, including books of interest to parents and teachers.

"Children who read and enjoy books at home become better readers," according to a news release from the school. "Good readers learn more easily and have more success both in school and in later life."



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