

Brunswick Tech Teacher Gets Suspended Sentence For Fraud

BY RAHN ADAMS

Within hours of being indicted for fraud Monday, a former Brunswick Technical College quilting teacher pleaded guilty to a lesser charge and received a suspended sentence in a plea bargaining arrangement.

Monday afternoon in Brunswick County Superior Court, Bertie Faye King of Freeland entered a guilty plea to a misdemeanor charge of "obtaining advances under promise to work and pay for same," according to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office.

District Attorney Mike Easley, who handled the case in court Monday, described the charge as "misdeemeanor fraud."

Easley said the charge stemmed from a continuing education class in which Ms. King reported two students as being registered when they in fact were not, in order to meet a required minimum of 15 students.

"She only had 13 (students), and she put down two students who were not members of the class," Easley explained Tuesday.

According to the clerk of court's office, Judge Samuel T. Currin gave Ms. King a 30-day suspended sentence, with one year of unsupervised probation.

Also, Currin ordered her to pay \$255.29 in restitution to the state, a \$25 fine and court costs.

Ms. King was represented by Shallotte attorney Wayne Long.

Earlier Monday, a Brunswick County grand jury had indicted Ms. King on a charge of obtaining money with intent to cheat and defraud by failing to perform work.

According to the indictment, the offense in question occurred between June 30, 1986, and Nov. 30, 1986.

Jesse Clemmons, dean of continuing education at Brunswick Technical College in Supply, earlier said Ms. King's classes were held in a workshop area behind her home.

The indictment stemmed from an SBI investigation into irregularities involving continuing education classes at Brunswick Tech.

A Brunswick County grand jury returned six "presentments" against Ms. King on Sept. 8, after the grand jury heard a summary of the SBI's probe from the investigating agent.

Easley defined a "presentment" as a written statement from the grand jury requesting an indictment and/or investigation from the district attorney's office.

Easley said Tuesday that his office's investigation is closed, and that it "is now being handled by the Department of Community College's administration division."

A state audit of Brunswick Tech that was released last month cited "serious problem areas that need to be addressed by management."

The audit said the college "maintained and reported the enrollment of students in continuing education courses in an improper manner."

WITHOUT REFERENDUM

Calabash Will Go Ahead With Water Assessments

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash Town Council took no action during a special meeting last Friday, but said it will proceed with town water system assessments regardless of any referendum.

According to Mayor Doug Simmons, "We've completely dropped the referendum. As it stands now, we're going ahead with the water lines and assessing people as we go."

The referendum, which was supposed to be decided during Tuesday's general municipal election, was left off the ballot because of an apparent mix-up between state and local governing bodies.

Although the referendum calling for upfront assessments was never expected to pass, town attorney Mike Ramos said he is working towards acquiring a copy of the bill to determine if a referendum is required.

Simmons said the town will develop a water system "piece by piece" as the funds become available, regardless of any referendum.

He said the town will bear the upfront costs of the water line installation and assess property owners receiving the services after the water lines are installed.

The town recently hired Lewis & Associates of Shallotte to develop a \$9,000 water engineering study for the waterfront area including Ivey High Road, Oak Street and River-

"We're going ahead with the water lines and assessing people as we go."
—Mayor Doug Simmons

view Drive. Calabash had budgeted about \$45,000 for water line installation during the 1987-88 fiscal year.

Simmons said, "We're going to put it in one way or the other."

He also explained that the town is not to blame for the omission of the referendum from the ballot.

Simmons argued that the state should have notified the county board of elections or at least instructed the town to do so. He said the town was never informed when the bill calling for the referendum had been passed by the N.C. General Assembly.

"We put the ball in their court," he said. "They should have handled it from that end or told us what steps had to be taken."

He added, "We got a little bit of education with this incident. Somebody's coming up a little bit short somewhere."

According to Calabash Town Clerk Janet Thomas, the cost to conduct a special election for the referendum would be about \$375.

She said the town had only budgeted for one election this year and council decided these funds could be better used for the water line installation.



STATE REP. DAVID REDWINE (left) displays the cake he bought for \$42 during a fundraising auction at a Brunswick County Democratic Party rally held Saturday afternoon in Bolivia. Commissioner Chris Chappell (right) was auctioneer, while Register of Deeds Robert Robinson (center) served as his assistant.

Democrats Look Toward '88 Campaign

BY RAHN ADAMS

More than 200 Brunswick County Democrats turned out Saturday for a fundraising rally that party officials hope will set the stage for a successful campaign year in 1988.

The rally was held at the Public Assembly Building in Bolivia. It featured the announcement of five candidates for county offices: three for the board of commissioners and two for clerk of court.

"This turned out to be a perfect rally," said Democratic Party Chairman W.A. (Bill) Stanley Jr. "I am very, very pleased with the turnout, and I'm pleased with the enthusiasm shown. This is the forerunner to a rally we're going to have in September or October of '88."

Stanley said the purpose of next year's rally will be to "heal the wounds" from any divisions the party suffers as a result of primary races.

As far as the focus of next year's campaign is concerned, he added, "We're going to just let it slide now until the primary and see how the primary turns out."

Incumbent Commissioners Chris Chappell of District One and Jim Poole of District Three announced Saturday that they will seek re-election next year.

Also, Frank Galloway of Bolivia told the gathering that he will run for the District Four seat currently held

by Republican Commissioner Frankie Rabon.

Diana Morgan, who was appointed clerk of court last month, announced she will seek election to the post. Ms. Morgan replaced Clerk of Court Greg Bellamy, who resigned after pleading guilty to felonious possession of cocaine in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Joe Stanley, who is employed as branch executive for United Carolina Bank in Bolivia, stated that he will also run for clerk of court.

In addition to local and area dignitaries present at Saturday's rally, state Sen. Tony Rand of Cumberland County was on hand to speak to local Democrats. Rand is seeking nomination as the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor.

"The primary thrust of my campaign will be in the field of education," Rand said. "I think if we can do more in education to prepare our children for the challenges they're going to face, hopefully the other problems will fall in line behind them."

Rand added that his campaign would also address "things important to southeastern North Carolina," such as economic development and highways.

Saturday's rally also included food, entertainment and an auction to raise money for the upcoming campaign.

Lee Indicted On Drug Counts

A Dunn man was indicted on additional drug charges Monday by a Brunswick County grand jury.

Ronald Lewis Lee, 38, was one of more than 30 people indicted here in June on cocaine trafficking charges by a special investigative grand jury.

According to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office, Lee was indicted Monday on five counts of conspiracy to traffic in cocaine, involving quantities ranging from more than 28 grams to more than 400 grams of the controlled substance.

He also was indicted on three counts of possession of cocaine, involving more than 28 grams and more than 200 grams.

According to the indictments, the alleged offenses occurred between July 20, 1986, and June 1, 1987.

In June, Lee was indicted by the special investigative grand jury on two counts each of conspiracy and trafficking in cocaine.

Following his initial indictments, he was captured by authorities in Lee County, Fla., and was extradited to

Brunswick County in September.

Other indictments handed down Monday by the grand jury included:

•Oren Herbert Davis, 59, Route 1, Shallotte, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury;

•Kenneth E. Hewett, 34, Supply, indecent liberties, two counts of crime against nature;

•Phillip Hill, 31, Mulberry Street, Shallotte, assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury;

•Andrew Hooper, 26, Route 1, Leland, second-degree burglary;

•Dean Hooper, 22, Route 1, Leland, second-degree burglary and armed robbery;

•Glenn H. Parker, 52, North Myrtle Beach, S.C., failing to stop at the scene of an accident involving personal injury;

•Terry L. Pigotte, 29, Shallotte, larceny;

•Haywood Daniel Sullivan, 48, Wilmington, three counts of first-degree sexual offense and three counts of taking indecent liberties.

Clemmons Gets Life Term

Ronnie Lee Clemmons this week was sentenced to life in prison, after he entered a guilty plea to second-degree murder in the February shooting death of a Shallotte man.

According to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office, Clemmons pleaded guilty as part of a plea bargaining arrangement Tuesday morning during a special criminal session of Brunswick County Superior Court.

After hearing sentencing testimony from SBI Agent Rick Gainey, Judge Samuel T. Currin handed down the life sentence.

Clemmons, 30, of Leland, was represented by Shallotte attorney Roy D. Trest and Southport attorney William F. Fairley.

District Attorney Mike Easley, who handled the case in court Tuesday, said he felt the life sentence was "appropriate."

"The defendant (Clemmons) has a history of criminal activity and cer-

tainly needed a life sentence," Easley said Tuesday. "He served time before, and it apparently didn't do any good."

Easley said his office did not prosecute Clemmons for first-degree murder because there were "no aggravating factors as required by our current capital statute" in the case.

Clemmons was indicted for first-degree murder by a Brunswick County grand jury in June, in connection with the Feb. 6 shooting death of Joseph Sherwin Reeves, 31, of Shallotte.

Reeves was shot in the back at his Bellamy Drive home.

Following an extended manhunt, Clemmons turned himself in to SBI agents from the Wilmington office, according to Shallotte Police Chief Don Stovall.

On Tuesday evening, Jailer Linwood Gray said Clemmons was still in the custody of the Brunswick County Jail.

Hearing Set—

(Continued From Page 1-A) maintenance for the district.

In recent years, private property owners have handled maintenance of portions of the canals.

Chappell said last week he feels the board of commissioners will help coordinate re-establishment of the drainage district but that the board is not in favor of funding the project.

"I think it's got to be done by the property owners," Chappell said.

But Brunswick County Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman James Bellamy last week said, "If there's anything done, it's got to be by the commissioners."

Bellamy added that he felt the most viable option would be for the county to maintain the drainage district through the county's water management department.

He cited a February 8, 1977, letter from then County Attorney John R.

Hughes to the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, which stated "it is the intention of record of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners to continuously and perpetually inspect and maintain the structural measures of the improvements of the Cawcaw drainage project..."

However, Chappell said last week that he didn't think the parties involved should "rehash the past," and that he "hopes we're all in unison, working for a better situation."

Both Chappell and Bellamy agreed that they felt Friday night's turnout will be good and that a majority of citizens will be in favor of reactivating the drainage district.

"I think you'll hear a 'pro' sound out of it (the hearing)," Chappell said last week.

"There will be a mix, but there will be 90 percent to support it," Bellamy said.

Comfortable Weather's Ahead

Comfortable weather is in the area forecast for the next few days, with temperatures expected to range above normal, with near-normal precipitation.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said temperatures should range from the mid 50s at night into the mid 70s during the daytime, with about a half-inch of rainfall.

For the period Oct. 27 through Nov. 2, he recorded a maximum high of 79 degrees on Nov. 2nd and a minimum low reading of 33 degrees on Oct. 29th.

The daily average high was 72, the daily average low 47, for a daily average temperature of 59 degrees, which Canady said is about two degrees below normal.

All of the rain for the month of October fell on day, with a .92 inch total.

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