



BIRDIE AND BARRY FRINK (at left), parents of slain Shallotte teenager Amy Frink, appear with Lt. Bill Knowles of the Horry County, S.C., Police Department at a Tuesday news conference in Bolivia.



THE BLOODSTAINED CAR driven by Frink before her murder remains under lock-and-key at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department impound yard. It was found in the brush off Shingletree Road Thursday afternoon. Anyone who recalls seeing the silver 1988 Subaru in the early morning hours of July 23 is urged to contact BCSO detectives or the Horry County, S.C., Police.

**INFORMATION HOTLINE SET UP**

# Parents, Detectives Ask Public Help In Locating Local Teen's Murderer

BY ERIC CARLSON

The parents of Amy Frink have joined investigators in two states to ask for help in finding out who murdered the Shallotte teenager and left her body lying beside a remote South Carolina hunting club road last week.

"As a mother, I am making a plea to anyone who knows anything about this case to come forward," Birdie Frink said at a press conference in Bolivia Tuesday afternoon.

Horry County Police Lt. Bill Knowles, the lead investigator on the case, said he arranged for Barry and Birdie Frink to appear before newspaper and television reporters, "because I want this girl to have a face and not just a name. I want whoever did this to remember that face."

Investigators are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who might have seen Amy Frink's silver two-door Subaru XT coupe after 2:30 a.m. Thursday morning. The car has black trim and bears the N.C. license tag number ESD-2173.

Frink was last seen at that hour leaving her home in the River Heights subdivision near Shallotte on her way to Cherry Grove, S.C.,

*"... I want this girl to have a face and not just a name. I want whoever did this to remember that face."*

—Lt. Bill Knowles  
Horry County Police

where she planned to meet her sister Jill. She left a message on a telephone answering machine there at 2:49 and was not heard from again.

Police believe the call may have been made from a pay telephone. They urge anyone who saw a blonde woman making a call at that hour to notify authorities immediately.

"We're convinced that there is a murderer on the loose, quite possibly in Brunswick County," said Sheriff John Carr Davis. "We are seeking as-

sistance in a case that straddles state lines. It is urgent that we do whatever we can as soon as we can.

Investigators are trying to piece together Frink's travels after she left Shallotte Thursday morning. While many of her friends and acquaintances already have been interviewed, Knowles urged anyone familiar with Frink's "habits or hangouts" to pass that information to police.

A special number with a 24-hour answering machine has been set up at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department to accept information about the case. That number is (910) 253-4797. Or you may call the regular sheriff's department numbers at (910) 253-4321 or (800) 672-6379.

In South Carolina, information should be directed to the Horry County Police Department at (803) 248-1250.

CrimeStoppers programs in both states will also take anonymous tips about the case, with rewards offered for information leading to an arrest or indictment. In North Carolina call (800) 531-9845 or in South Carolina call (800) 248-5000. All calls to CrimeStoppers lines are kept confidential.

# Beaches Don't Budge On Fireworks Ban

(Continued From Page 1-A)

to bring North Carolina into line with practices in other states.

People were already using fireworks across the state, including local beaches, but were bringing them in from neighboring states such as South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, which all allow the sale of certain pyrotechnics.

"I can stand on the beach at Ocean Isle on July 4th and see a pretty good fireworks display," said Redwine, a former resident of the town who now lives just west of Ocean Isle.

Along with creating danger for users of the more powerful fireworks, the practice was depriving Tar Heel merchants of a valuable source of sales income, and the state and local governments another source of sales tax revenue, he said.

North Carolina's new law is similar to Virginia's, which allows ground-based and hand-held sparkling devices, while South Carolina and Tennessee allow the sale and use of explosive and aerial fireworks.

Fireworks considered "safe and sane" under House Bill 1089 include ground-based sparklers (fountains), sparklers on a stick, snakes, toy smoke devices and trick noise-makers such as caps, snappers, party poppers, string poppers.

Still illegal to sell or use anywhere in North Carolina except in

## Fireworks For The 4th?

If your family or group of friends plans to celebrate Independence Day with backyard fireworks, be careful.

Follow state and local laws and observe safety guidelines recommended by the United States Fireworks Safety Council:

- always read and follow label directions;
- have an adult present;
- buy from reputable retail outlets;
- always ignite fireworks outdoors, well away from flammable materials such as grass or straw;
- have water handy;
- never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks;
- light one at a time;
- never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks;
- never give to small children;
- store in a cool, dry place;
- dispose of properly;
- never throw fireworks at another person.

It is now legal in most North Carolina communities for consumers to purchase and use sparklers, stationary fountains, snakes, smoke devices and trick noise-makers such as snappers, drop pops and party poppers.

All other pyrotechnic (fireworks) devices are illegal in this state, including firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles, aerials and spinners. Purchasing, possessing or using illegal fireworks is punishable by up to a \$500 fine and six months in jail under state law.

Some municipalities enforce more restrictive laws, such as Holden Beach and Sunset Beach. These two towns ban use of all fireworks because of the fire hazard they pose. (See related story.)

Anyone seeing someone using or purchasing illegal fireworks should contact their local police or fire department.

special public exhibitions are most other "Class C" pyrotechnics, a long list of explosive or aerial fireworks such as firecrackers, chasers, bottle rockets, parachutes, Roman candles and spinners.

"Fireworks are easy targets," said Redwine, but he questions how much they contribute to fire hazard or to personal injury, especially the types that are now legal in North Carolina.

Some concerns about the potential for fires and for personal injury were raised during debate of the bill last year, but Redwine is satisfied the legalized fireworks are safe for family use.

"When we saw the statistics (from the United States Fireworks Safety Council), fireworks cause a minuscule amount of fires compared to matches and other items readily available," said Redwine.

Of all fires in the United States annually, only six-tenths of a percent are caused by all types of fireworks, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

Risk of personal injury also appeared minimal. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's reporting database, for every 100,000 children ages 5 through 14, only one injury annually is seen in emergency rooms each year as a result of "safe and sane" type fireworks. In contrast, 1,000 injuries resulting from bicycle accidents are treated in emergency rooms each year, 200 from roller skating and 60 from fishing.

"If it can be proven that sparklers are burning down beach houses, if they're causing fires, we can change the law," he said. "So far response to the bill has been very positive. As we get closer to the Fourth of July, though, I'm getting more calls about it."

# Investigators Release Little, But Say Evidence Abundant

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Soon the inquiry into Amy Frink's whereabouts was expanded into South Carolina, where authorities there joined in the search. Airplanes were called in Friday to check remote areas in both states. Preparations were made to continue searching after nightfall using infrared heat-sensing equipment.

The search ended when a body matching Frink's description was found Friday afternoon. Investigators from the four state and county agencies converged on the hunting club road and kept onlookers far from the scene.

"We've collected an abundant amount of information, but we cannot comment about the evidence for investigative reasons," Lt. Knowles said.

The silence surrounding the case has been so complete that police do not formally confirm that the body had been identified as Frink's until after her funeral Monday morning. Nor are they saying how she was clothed, how she was killed, what the murder weapon might have been or whether there was any evidence of a sexual assault.

"I can't comment about the cause of death except to say that there was an element of brutality involved," Knowles said.

The blood found on Frink's car was found to be that of a human, but it will take further analysis to determine whether it came from the victim. Asked about the significance of finding blood on the bumpers, Knowles said that "the vehicle played a part in the crime."

So far, investigators do not have any firm suspects in the case and have not determined a motive for the killing. Nor do they know whether or not Frink knew her killer, Knowles said. They believe she made the call to Jill from a pay telephone. The answering machine tape has been sent off for analysis, along with Frink's car.

It is believed that Frink was murdered at the spot where the body was found, but it is not known whether she went there on her own. An FBI agent visited the crime scene Friday and may join the investigation if it is determined that Frink was kidnapped and carried across state lines.

Anyone who has information about the case, including friends of Amy Frink who are familiar with her activities, is urged to contact Horry County Police at (803) 248-1250 or the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department at (910) 253-4321 or (800) 672-6379 or at a special number set up for the Frink investigation, (910) 253-4797.

# Typical Weather Is Expected For Independence Day

Temperatures and rainfall are expected to hover around normal as July arrives in the South Brunswick Islands.

Over the next week, temperatures are expected to average around 70 degrees at night up to around 90 degrees during the daytime, Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday.

A 28-degree difference separated the extreme high and low temperatures of the period June 21 through 27. Canady recorded a high of 99 degrees on June 22 and a low of 71 degrees on June 27.

A daily average high of 92 degrees combined with a nightly average low of 73 degrees for a daily average temperature of 82 degrees, about 3 degrees above average.

Canady recorded sixty-five hundredths inch of rainfall.

**THE BRUNSWICK BEACON**

Established Nov. 1, 1962  
Telephone 754-6890  
Published Every Thursday  
At 4709 Main Street  
Shallotte, N.C. 28459

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# Budget Approved After Two Cutting Sessions

(Continued From Page 1-A)

meat from the board, funding for the positions was included in the final budget.

In another personnel matter, Jones asked why the county shouldn't eliminate the \$25,000 position of solid waste director, which has remained vacant for more than a year. Commissioner Shaw agreed.

"If we're operating now without a director, why do we need one?" asked Shaw. "If it hasn't been advertised in a year, let's take it out."

Warren said the position was left in the budget because Operation Services Director Darry Somerset "has had some problems at the landfill and didn't know which way he wanted to go" in regards to staffing. Warren recommended that the board keep the position in the budget and "let him make the decision."

The budget approved Thursday also includes an increase of 10 cents per 1,000 gallons in local water bills, due largely to higher raw water rates charged to the county by the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority. Brunswick County resi-

dents will also see a 50-cent increase in local telephone bills, with the money to be spent on operations at the Emergency Communications (911) Center.

Other adjustments made to the proposed budget before adoption last week include:

- A reduction from \$250,000 to \$125,000 in the amount set aside to hire an outside contractor to perform the property revaluation required by the state at least every eight years. By cutting this allocation, the board has committed the county to perform the next revaluation in-house.

- A \$40,000 allocation to construct an additional room on the senior citizens center in Leland.

- An additional \$4,450 for the Economic Development Commission to bring a part-time employee up to full time and to purchase updated computer equipment. A request for a new car was denied.

- Six months worth of funding for the county cafeteria, which incurred a \$40,000 loss last year. McGinnis had recommended shutting the operation down, but cafe-

ria manager Robert Smith was given a half year to get it onto a better financial footing.

- More money for landscaping

property surrounding the county's two new libraries at Leland and Oak Island and the renovated branches in Shallotte and Southport.

little type

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