

Holden Beach Manager To Retire

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach Town Manager Gus Ulrich said Monday he plans to retire at the end of town commissioners about five months to find his replacement.

Ulrich, 62, announced his retirement plans at the close of Monday night's town board meeting. He is serving his second stint as town manager and also was interim manager twice.

Ulrich vowed when he leaves town hall this time it will be "absolutely for good."

"I hope by planning and looking that far down the road there should be plenty of time to find a good candidate to replace me," he said.

However, Ulrich indicated he would be willing to stay past the end of the year if the town board is unable to hire a new manager by then.

"It's really kind of an ideal situation," Mayor Gay Atkins said Tuesday. "He'll stay until we find some-



ULRICH

body. I know there's a limit to how long he'll stay."

Atkins said Ulrich will help find his replacement by advertising the position vacancy and reviewing applications and conducting interviews with town commissioners.

"We're in a position where we can really look and not just get somebody," Atkins said. "This puts us in a good position that we don't have to rush. We've always been in the position of not having a town manager."

Ulrich was Holden Beach's first manager, serving from January 1989 through August 1990 before resigning for "personal" reasons. He served two stints as interim town manager before being hired for his second term as town manager last October.

Before moving to Holden Beach five years ago, Ulrich had worked for 17 years as the town manager in Garner.

"I don't know what I'll be doing," Ulrich said of his retirement.

Ulrich was involved in real estate appraisal business before returning to town hall last year and said he may get back into that line of work.

Swimming Hole Causing Problems

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Mason said.

Also seriously injured was Ricky Clemmons, 30, of Shallotte, who suffered a broken leg from being struck with a baseball bat and had to undergo surgery, said Mason. Gary Wayne Clemmons, 32, of N.C. 130, Supply, was also clubbed in the fight and had to be treated for cuts, bruises and a concussion.

All three victims were accused of engaging in an affray, along with seven other suspects arrested last week as a result of Mason's investigation.

In all, six men were charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, Mason said. They include Smith, Lee Maxwell Hewett Jr., also known as "Junior" Hewett, 38, of Holden Beach Road, Shallotte; Anthony Alex Smith, 19, of Route 2, Bolivia; Mitchell Wayne Griffith, 41, of Randolphville Road, Bolivia; and Charles Evans, 22, of Anthony Road, Route 2, Bolivia.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of another Bolivia man on charges of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, Mason said.

Others charged with affray include William Randall Clemmons, 28, of Lula Trail, Supply; George Ernie Clemmons, 26, of Shallotte and Chuckie Ale Thompson, age 25, of Bolivia, Mason said.

Junior Hewett was again charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury in a July 16 incident at the pond that sent a Kannapolis construction worker to the hospital with two slashes across his abdomen, Mason said. One of the cuts was about 18 inches long and the other about 12 inches in length.

The victim, James Eugene Carpenter, 29, was dating a girl from the Holden Beach area who suggested that they go to the pond that evening, Mason said. Like other people who were already there, Carpenter was drinking alcohol when he accidentally stumbled into a parked pickup truck, damaging its "bug screen," said Mason.

Carpenter asked others at the pond who the truck belonged to. Finding Hewett to be the owner, he offered to pay him for the damage at a later date.

"Supposedly Hewett told him to 'either pay now or we're going to get it on,'" Mason said. "Next thing he knew, Hewett was beating the heck out of him."

As Carpenter tried to get away, Hewett allegedly grabbed him around the neck from behind, stabbed him in the side, then slashed him twice across the chest and lower abdomen, Mason said.

In the most recent incidence of violence at the pond, Mason said a Laurinburg man reported having his

head slashed with a knife after an evening of drinking ended with another assault. The man refused to prosecute a man that Mason described as "a known assailant from the Holden Beach area."

There are no signs, fences or gates controlling access to the privately owned swimming area at the end of a dirt road off Frontage Road, which parallels U.S. 17 Bypass and ends at the northern traffic light leading to downtown Shallotte. The largest of two ponds is L-shaped and surrounded by shallow cliffs rimmed by a pine forest.

"It looks like a nice place to swim," Mason said. "It's about 15 feet deep in the middle. There aren't any snakes or alligators. But there can be a rough crowd out there sometimes. If you go there or swim there, you do so at your own peril. I would encourage people to stay away."

Mason said the ponds have been the scene of other fights and at least one shooting. He has asked patrol deputies to make regular checks of the area and said the district attorney's office is aware of the problems there.

He said the property is owned by "at least two" people whom he has so far been unable to contact.

"They need to understand that they could be civilly liable for things that could happen out there," Mason said.



STAFF PHOTOS BY ERIC CARLSON

PETITIONS signed by more than 900 Ash residents opposed to a liquor store in their community are handed to Brunswick County ABC system manager Dot Kelly by Benny King of Ash at a public meeting last week. Local businessman James L. Smith (below) was one of the few who spoke in favor of the proposal as a skeptical Lucas Marie Simmons looks on.



Ash ABC Store Proposal Blasted

(Continued From Page 1-A)

proposed site and also supported the idea of building an ABC store there. He accused liquor store opponents of "putting down something you don't really understand." He said the 900 petitions do not represent the majority of opinion among the "2,400 people" living in the area.

"A lot of you people are tobacco farmers," Smith said. "How many of you here deny that tobacco kills more people than anything else we put in our bodies?"

Several people spoke out to refute Smith's charge, saying alcoholism and drunk driving are more serious health problems than smoking.

"You can put a cigarette in someone's hands and you won't see them change," said Tony Inman. "Smoking doesn't lead to all the shooting and cutting and fighting that goes on with alcohol."

Marion Warren, an assistant district attorney, said he had seen "many a young man" plead guilty to charges related to drinking and later regret that they ever came in contact with alcohol. He asserted that the plan to

build an ABC store in Ash had nothing to do with serving the community, but was merely a way of stealing liquor business from municipal ABC systems.

"You're not going to sell a drop of liquor to any one of these people," Warren said, waving an outstretched hand toward the crowd. "You are trying to snag people going to the beach. You're not going to do anything to benefit Ash. All you're going to do is take someone else's market share away."

"If you want to take business from the beaches, build your store down by the fire tower, because we don't need it," Warren said. "Please don't bring it to us. Please don't do it."

Ramsay told the group that the ABC board never makes an important decision without all three of its members in attendance. Member Paul Gainey Jr. was absent last week.

The board's next meeting is Aug. 24 at 5 p.m. in the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners meeting room in Bolivia.

Tax Hike Likely, Commissioners Say

(Continued From Page 1-A)

find out if it has any chance of succeeding," Jones said. "There's no point spending all that more money if we don't think we can win."

Warren agreed, saying he has "no regrets" about the commissioners' decision to go to court over the school budget.

"We had two professional people look at their budget and inform us that they thought we had provided adequate funds," Warren said. "We offered them a million dollars (to settle the case out of court). We negotiated in good faith. But every time we came up with a figure, they came up with a higher one."

"By far the vast majority of people in my area of the county were surprised at the decision and supportive of the board of commissioners," Warren said. "I have no regrets."

Commissioners say the board will wait to Thompson's ruling on the dismissal motion before discussing whether or not to appeal the case.

The Trial

In Superior Court last week, Judge Thompson advised jurors that the only issue for them to consider was the question of how much money is needed to maintain a reasonably adequate system of public schools in Brunswick County.

Board of Education attorney Glen Peterson called a series of school system employees who testified about problems with outdated equipment, aging facilities and Brunswick County's notoriously poor student performance levels, all of which were blamed on a lack of money from the county.

Beginning with School Superintendent Ralph Johnston, the witnesses described a first-time effort this year to draft a school budget "from the bottom up" by asking teachers and principals to come up with lists of genuine needs for each county school. The resulting budget request totalled \$14,063,041.

Peterson told the jury it would have to consider "two starkly different visions of two different futures" for Brunswick County school children. He said that for many years past, the county commissioners have failed to address the question of how much is required to "adequately" run the schools.

He suggested that the commissioners' plan for school spending is



DON WARREN, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, testifies in superior court about the process used to arrive at the county education budget, which was successfully challenged by the school board in a civil suit last week.

nothing more than last year's budget with a percentage increase tacked on. He said the commissioners did not make a sincere effort to investigate the system's needs.

"They want to give the schools a sum of money and say, 'Make it do,'" Peterson said. "The board of education started at the bottom, assessed the needs and came up with a budget, not just to run it like it's been run before, but to run it adequately."

"The commissioners have no idea what's in it. No idea where to cut," Peterson said. "They didn't say, 'We need this. We don't need that. We can put this off.' They just passed it off to the county manager and said, 'We'll just apply a formula and add four percent.'"

Peterson warned that maintaining what he called the current "level of underfunding" would result in the "continuation of a tide of mediocrity" in future student performance.

"We have in this room two symbols of that future—this blackboard and that computer," Peterson said. "We can either respond to the needs for tomorrow or be relegated to the mediocrity of the past."

County Attorney Michael Ramos argued that the case before the jury was "not about wish lists and all sorts of programs we don't have the money for. It's about financial pru-

dence."

Ramos said the county's allocation to schools is only a small part of the total \$43 million the board of education gets from federal, state and local appropriations. He accused the school board of leaving \$4 million "lying around" instead of spending it on the needs alleged in its budget.

"You heard from an administrative assistant about smelly carpets and a leaky roof and a smokestack that doesn't work," Ramos said.

"Yet when they got \$1.8 million in surplus funding, what did they do with it? They gave people raises. They voted themselves a raise. They gave the central office a raise. Is that what you would want the board of commissioners to do?"

Ramos criticized the school board for not tying salary increases to job performance and accused it of adopting a "typical bureaucratic answer" to educational deficiencies.

"Throw money at the problem and it's going to go away," he said. "Where's it going to end? If we give them four and a half million dollars this year, what are we going to have to give them next year?"

"We can't give them all the money they want or we'd be broke. What you have is one governing body with a gold MasterCard and there's the man who gets the bill," Ramos said, pointing at Warren.

Typical Weather Expected

Typical August weather is ahead in the South Brunswick Islands.

Shalotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday he expects temperatures to range from the lower 70s at night to around 90 degrees during the daytime, with approximately one inch of rainfall over the next few days.

For the period of July 26 through Aug. 1, he recorded ninety-three-hundredths of an inch of rainfall.

The daily average high was a relatively cool 86 degrees, while the average nightly low was a warmer than usual 74 degrees. The two, combined for seasonally normal average daily temperature of 80 degrees.

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES	
IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY	
One Year	\$10.36
Six Months	\$5.55
ELSEWHERE IN NORTH CAROLINA	
One Year	\$14.86
Six Months	\$7.90
ELSEWHERE IN U.S.A.	
One Year	\$15.95
Six Months	\$8.35

Second class postage paid at Shalotte, N.C. 28459. USPS 777-780. Postmaster, send address changes to:
P.O. Box 2558,
Shalotte, N.C. 28459-2558

little type
BIG RESULTS
Use the Classifieds whether you're buying or selling.
THE BRUNSWICK BEACON
754-6890

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO
THE BRUNSWICK BEACON
POST OFFICE BOX 2558
SHALLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28459

NOTICE: Reliable or consistent delivery cannot be guaranteed since this newspaper must rely on the U.S. Postal Service for delivery. We can only guarantee that your newspaper will be submitted to the post office in Shalotte on Wednesday of the week of publication, in time for dispatch to out-of-town addresses that day.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL:		
		Sr. Citizen
In Brunswick County		
N.C. Sales Tax	06.30	05.30
Postage Charge	.38	.32
TOTAL	3.68	3.68
Elsewhere in North Carolina		
N.C. Sales Tax	06.30	05.30
Postage Charge	.38	.32
TOTAL	8.18	8.18
Outside North Carolina		
N.C. Sales Tax	06.30	05.30
Postage Charge	.38	.32
TOTAL	15.95	14.95

Complete And Return To Above Address

Name

Address

City, State

Zip