

Rites Of Passage

Brunswick Community College graduates receive degrees, certificates, diplomas, awards and nursing pins. Pages 8-9B.

Buying, Selling, Trading

You'll find everything from homes to basketball tickets to green peanuts in this week's classified ads, Section C.

Back On The Grid

If school starts, can football be far behind? Check out the rosters for West, South and North Brunswick High Schools, Section D.

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Shallotte, North Carolina, Thursday, August 25, 1994 50¢ Per Copy 42 Pages, 4 Sections, Plus Inserts

Five Get Probation In 'Gang' Slaying Of Bolivia Man

BY ERIC CARLSON

"You have found out the hard way about what can happen when you just go along for the ride," Judge Gregory Weeks told young defendants accused of taking part in what prosecutors have called a "gang" murder.

"Each of you is now a convicted felon. Each of you will remain a convicted felon for the rest of your life," the judge said. "If you ever had aspirations of joining the military, that's gone. Every time you fill out a job application, your likelihood of getting that job has been decreased."

"You will pay for this for as long as you are alive."

Five youths described as having "various

levels of involve-

ment" in the killing of Charles Wayne "Butch" Davis, 37, outside his Bolivia home last November pleaded "no contest" in Brunswick County Superior Court Monday to charges of conspiracy to commit assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury.

Entering pleas Monday were Kevin Kenyatta Mitchell, 18 of Old Ocean Highway, Bolivia; Victor Conway Randolph, 22,



MITCHELL

RANDOLPH

SMITH

STANCIL

WILLIAMS

of Tobes Road, Bolivia; Anthony Alex Smith, 19, of Neck Road, Bolivia; Jessica Lucille Stancil, 17, of Clark Street, Ocean Isle Beach; and Archie Lee Williams Jr., 17,

of Rutland Road, Bolivia.

The five defendants were each sentenced to a year in prison, suspended on the condition that they testify truthfully against co-defendants in the case. Each was placed on three years supervised probation and ordered to perform 50 hours of community service. Judge Weeks specifically directed that, as part of their community service obligation,

the five are to speak to youth groups "as to the meaning of a felony conviction on your lives and the impact of violence on the community."

Four men have been charged with murder in the slaying. The first to stand trial Sept. 19 will be Frank Lenail Ford, 22, of Oakley Trail, Bolivia. Investigators have said they believe he is the one who fired a .380-caliber bullet into Davis's back after they dragged him from his car outside Davis's mobile home on Albright Road.

Three other murder suspects are accused of kicking and beating Davis as he struggled on the ground, fatally shot. One of the men (See FIVE PLEAD, Page 2-A)

Supply School Opens On Time Using Safety Precautions

BY SUSAN USHER

With all safety precautions imposed by the Brunswick County Health Department met last Friday, Supply Elementary School opened along with the rest of Brunswick County's public schools Tuesday, with pump-and-haul contracts in place for short-term sewage disposal.

The health department has given the school system until Nov. 12 to repair a school sewage treatment field that failed last spring. If the work isn't done by the deadline, the health board has said it may close the school.

Architect Charles Boney Jr. of Boney Architects in Wilmington said Friday that agreement has been reached with the N.C. Division of Environmental Health on what kind of repair is needed of the school's septic system drainfield, and where the repair field will be installed, but that more a few more pieces of information are needed before the design can be finished.

"We're on an 'as-soon-as-possible' schedule here. We're still trying to gather all the information we need to support that repair and not have this thing thrown back at us for more information," said Boney. "Before we could determine how to repair it, we had to figure out why it failed, and there were a half a dozen contributing factors."

Once work on the site begins, Boney has received estimates that it should take from two to four weeks to install the drainfield, "depending upon dry weather," he said. "The November 12 date looks feasible."

The new drain field will be located at the site originally selected for the drainfield of the low-pressure pipe system, where the soccer field now lies adjacent to Benton Road. The field location was moved before at the state's recommendation because of the potential for leaching outside the boundaries of the school's property.

That shouldn't be a concern this time around, Boney said, because subsurface drainage will be in place to catch surface water and lead it away from the site.

Before the health department would allow the school to reopen Tuesday, said Superintendent Ralph Johnston, the school school had to install an 8-foot high fence around the disposal tanks to keep children out of the area; fill a large pit dug last spring to inspect the drainage field and left open; install an over-

(See PRECAUTIONS, Page 2-A)



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Go Big Green!

West Brunswick High School's football team will play its first game of the regular season Friday night at South Brunswick. Kwabena Green (50) will be one of the team's leaders this year, starting at middle linebacker and offensive tackle. He is pictured with defensive coordinator Mike Alderson during last Friday's scrimmage in Wilmington. Check out the sports section for details on the Trojans and the upcoming season.

Local Beach Towns Want Menhaden Boats Offshore

BY DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick County beach town officials said last week they're willing to cooperate with the menhaden fishing industry, but they still want the state to consider restricting how close to shore the boats can work.

At its meeting Friday, the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission will discuss resolutions submitted by six local towns seeking for Brunswick County the same regulations approved last year for parts of Dare County.

Sunset Beach, Ocean Isle Beach, Holden Beach, Long Beach, Yaupon Beach and Caswell Beach want the commission to keep menhaden boats at least 1 1/2 miles offshore May 1 through Sept. 30 and at least one half mile offshore Oct. 1 through Dec. 31.

Town officials say limiting how close the boats come

to shore would reduce the chance of dead menhaden washing up on their beaches—something they see as a threat to the summer tourist industry.

"We're a small town and our economy depends on tourism. The people are here for one week and they don't want to deal with smelly fish," Ocean Isle Beach Mayor Betty Williamson said at a meeting last Wednesday.

Officials from all six beach towns and three menhaden fishing companies that work off the Brunswick County coast attended the meeting at Brunswick Community College.

State Rep. David Redwine organized the session to see if the two groups could work out a solution without government regulations.

"Politically I guess I should not be here. I'm in a lose-

(See SOLUTION, Page 2-A)



WILLIAMSON



REDWINE

Former County Jailer Admits Sex With Inmate

BY ERIC CARLSON

The former Brunswick County jailer accused of rape by a female inmate was put on three years probation this week after pleading guilty to a charge of sexual activity by a custodian.

In Brunswick County Superior Court Monday, Thomas Carver Gore, 51, admitted having sex with Samantha Stevens while he was on duty in the jail early on the morning of May 4.

But a State Bureau of Investigation agent testified that the woman fabricated her rape accusations against Gore and a jail trusty in hopes of building a case to file a lawsuit against the county.

Gore resigned from the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department five days after the incident. Following the SBI investigation, the district attorney's office determined that no rape charge would be filed. Although there was evidence of

sexual intercourse between Gore and Stevens, the investigation found "insufficient evidence to prove that there was a lack of consent." The other inmate was not charged.

Dave Marshall, the SBI agent who conducted the investigation into Stevens allegations, testified that she apparently offered to have sex with an inmate if he could arrange for them to be alone.

The inmate allegedly told Marshall that Gore refused to cooperate three times, then agreed to allow the meeting if Stevens would also have sex with him. Marshall testified that Gore eventually admitted having sex in the jail, but said it was with her consent.

Judge Gregory A. Weeks of Fayetteville sentenced Gore to four years and six months in prison, suspended three years on the condition that he perform 100 hours of community service. Gore will remain on supervised probation for three years.

County, Shallotte Discuss Merger Of ABC Systems

BY DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick County and Shallotte officials are considering merging their Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) systems in hopes of creating a more efficient operation that could produce more money for both groups.

County and town officials discussed the issue briefly during Shallotte's board of aldermen meeting last week. The groups agreed to hold another meeting soon to talk about details of the proposed consolidation.

"I'm not saying we're willing to do it, but we're willing to talk," Mayor Sarah Tripp said last Tuesday.

"We've always been totally open to this," said John Ramsey, chairman of the Brunswick County ABC Board.

There are 11 ABC systems in Brunswick County, including ones in Calabash, Sunset Beach and Ocean Isle Beach. Ramsey said the county ABC board is only interested in merging with Shallotte.

Brunswick County's ABC system includes liquor stores on Holden Beach Road and another on U.S. 74-76 near the Columbus County line. Shallotte has one store on Main Street.

Ramsey said last week that merging the two systems would allow for a more efficient operation. For instance, inventory could be moved from one store to another if a store ran out of a particular brand of liquor.

Although details of the proposed merger have not been discussed, Ramsey said the Town of Shallotte would continue to receive all of the profits from its store.

"The merger deal would be set up so Shallotte would not lose," said Ramsey, who was joined at last week's meeting by county ABC

board member Paul Ganey and system manager Dot Kelly.

Shallotte's liquor store has been around since the 1950s, but Brunswick County's ABC system wasn't established until 1989, when it was approved by voters.

Shallotte officials last week asked why the county ABC system has not generated any revenue for the county.

Ramsey said the county never put any money into the system. Funds were borrowed to purchase the liquor that was needed to get the system on its feet.

Ramsey said the system should be debt-free within the next two or three years. At that point, Brunswick County will start receiving money from the ABC system.

Meanwhile, the county ABC board is considering opening a third store in the Ash community.

"It's still under consideration. Nothing's set in stone," Ramsey said last week.

A state law sponsored a few years ago by State Rep. David Redwine prohibits Brunswick County from opening an ABC store within seven miles of a town that already has a liquor store.

"That's why we're looking at Ash. There's no other place to put one in the county," Ramsey said. "Ash is the last area, other than the Green Swamp."

Shallotte officials have opposed the county board's plans to open a store in Ash. Aldermen passed a resolution in June opposing any new county liquor stores in the Shallotte area.

Town officials have said a county ABC store in Ash might force them to close the town's store because it would take away business.

Since the county opened its first ABC store on Holden Beach Road (See SHALLOTTE, Page 2-A)



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Only A Test...

Emergency personnel don protective clothing to investigate a mock train derailment involving radioactive waste. More than 60 local, state and federal personnel participated in a drill at the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point last week in preparation for the planned shipment of spent fuel rods from European research reactors to a storage site in South Carolina. Story on Page 2-A.