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## No 'Speedy And Fruitful' Answer

# Dosher Has The License, Planning To Keep It

State officials turned a cold shoulder to a two-hospital plan Thursday, but Brunswick County commissioners were faced with the possibility that if there is only one hospital it could be Dosher.

Smithville Township Commissioner James W. (Bubba) Smith strongly urged state representatives Larry Burwell and Jim Wilkerson to re-evaluate local hospital needs, citing Brunswick as the fastest-developing county in the state. "Everyone in this room except the two people from Raleigh have the best interest of Brunswick County at heart," Smith said.

What is best for the county, however, was a matter of opinion.

William A. Kopp, Jr., chairman of the board of commissioners, had called on Burwell (Health Planning Division, Dept. of Human Resources, and Jim Wilkerson (Dept. of Facility Services) to clear-up "misunderstandings about the hospital situation in Brunswick County."

Southport Mayor Eugene B. Tomlinson presented the two-hospital plan, then reminded those present that Dosher Memorial has the

license for hospital services in the county and intends to keep it.

Mason Anderson, chairman of the board of trustees for the proposed Brunswick Memorial Hospital, spoke at great length about inflation, the sanctity of state planning and the general merit of a hospital at Supply.

Kopp said the meeting should "bring the matter of hospital care in Brunswick County to a speedy and fruitful conclusion." He noted there had been conflicting newspaper reports about what medical services could be anticipated.

### 'UNNECESSARY AND COSTLY'

Burwell spoke first. He said the original Brunswick Memorial application for a 60-bed facility was rejected because a second hospital would be "unnecessary, duplicative and costly" and would "over-bed" the county. Dosher already had 51 beds; the county was allotted 60 beds under a formula that Wilkerson later noted, "becomes the Bible so to speak."

Second thoughts by his department, Burwell said, leaned towards consolidation in a new facility that "expressed the interest" of the

people in the \$2.5 million hospital bond issue in June, 1973. He said the status of Dosher was unclear; it was not determined whether the hospital would be phased out or the services modified.

Burwell said Thursday he still supports "at this point in time" the one-hospital plan. Where it is located, he added, "my office has no preference." He said the matter of location was of "a local nature" and he had hoped the issue could be resolved locally. He noted the decision apparently was not that simple.

Wilkerson said he is concerned with two matters: (1) the grant that Brunswick County "presumably" would be eligible for once the hospital issue is settled, and (2) the licensure for Medicaid and Medicare.

### FUNDS ARE EARMARKED

He said Dosher is "not up to modern-day standards" and has been issued only a temporary license to operate. Wilkerson said he "assumed" the new hospital would replace Dosher but if not, the older facility would have to be modernized.

The representative said federal Hill-Burton funds for medical facilities have expired but that \$1 million has been earmarked for Brunswick County. He noted that the formula that designates 60 beds for Brunswick County "can be debated from now 'til doomsday."

Anderson said the \$1 million — available if the county sticks to "the state plan" — may not be enough to complete construction of the proposed new hospital. The Duke Endowment, he added, "won't give price tags" but reportedly is interested in giving money. The state plan would be required by Duke, Anderson said, "and we have attempted to meet the state plan."

Wilkerson said he doesn't "have the authority nor does anyone else in the bureaucracy have the authority" to grant Hill-Burton funds; the decision is up to the Medical Care Commission. \$1 million reportedly is the maximum.

Wilkerson warned that the dollars may be slipping away. "If we see that Brunswick County can't use the funds," he added, "we'll have to

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## Racing Cited After Wreck

The Highway Patrol has charged a Southport youth with racing after investigating the death of a wreck victim last week.

Patrolman Jamie Adams of Leland charged James Daniel Cochran, Jr., 18, of Southport with racing following the investigation into the death of Patricia Faircloth Thomas on October 29. He will be tried in District Court December 3. Mrs. Thomas, who lived at Dutch Village, died after her car crashed at a high rate of speed on Highway 211.

Patrolman Adams said that Mrs. Thomas, driving at "an excessive rate of speed," attempted to pass Cochran. He said she sideswiped the Cochran vehicle and lost control of her car. It ran off the side of the road, hit a ditch and overturned four times.

Cochran, who was also going at an "excessive rate of speed," skidded after being sideswiped but managed to bring the vehicle under control, Adams said.

Patrolman Adams estimated that both cars were traveling at speeds up to 120 mph at the time of the accident.



WORK IS PROGRESSING rapidly on the Brunswick County water system, with pipe now being laid in the vicinity of the NC 211 and Beach Road intersection. The system, which will originate in the Beaverdam section along 211, will serve Pfizer, Inc., Southport and the Oak Island beach communities.

## Club Will Head UNICEF Effort

The Junior Woman's Club of Southport is sponsoring the UNICEF drive for this area, and all children are being asked to participate.

Headquarters is the Primary School cafeteria. Participate should meet as soon as school is dismissed on Thursday, Oct. 31, Halloween Day. Residents are requested to watch for children with the UNICEF collection boxes.

Mrs. Susie King, chairman of the club's International Affairs department, has asked everyone to give to this worthy cause.

# Bolivia School Checked; Board Receives Report

By BILL ALLEN  
Members of the Brunswick County Board of Education heard a report about conditions at Bolivia school during a special meeting Monday night.

Supt. Ralph King presented board members with a three-page report about an investigation the central office conducted into conditions at the school. The report covered general information, sanitary conditions, instructional program, food

service, transportation and recent maintenance work completed.

A large number of school patrons, calling themselves the "concerned Parents of Bolivia School," came to the board meeting October 7 and told members about conditions that needed to be corrected at the school.

Supt. King reported the school has 804 students, 39 teachers, eight teacher aides and nine other staff members. The main building was

constructed in 1927, the vocational building and gym in 1939 and the cafeteria in 1957. The school has 17 permanent-type classrooms and 14 relocatable units.

He reported that the Health Department gave the school a sanitary rating of 91 in October. Custodial supplies are "adequately provided as requested," he said. He said the school has a contract with a pest control firm and monthly inspections are made.

"Some degree of cleanliness (daily cleaning schedules) is evident, but improvements could and should be made," Supt. King said in the written report.

"Fire hazards were noted in two locations. The school has an insufficient custodial staff and an additional allocation has been made. The custodial staff deployment and schedules should be revised." He reported that the school was in the process of hiring

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## Election Is Next Tuesday

# County Board, Sheriff Race Highlight Ballot

By BILL ALLEN  
Brunswick County voters will receive a total of seven ballots when they go to the polls Tuesday to elect county and state officials.

Chairman Lester C. Babson of the Brunswick County Board of Elections estimates that about 7,000 or more residents will cast ballots in the general election.

Others familiar with county elections estimate that the number of voters casting ballots will be much higher. They point out that a hotly-contested sheriff's race — something Brunswick County has this year — always draws large numbers of voters to the polls in non-presidential elections.

Brunswick County has a total of 13,781 registered voters, up 701 from the number on the books for the primary elections this spring.

Chairman Babson announced that the polls in the 20 precincts in Brunswick County will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday to allow voters to cast ballots.

All voting will be done at the same precincts used in the spring primary elections. Although a change was discussed, Chairman Babson said Belville will still vote at the lay-up basin office.

The Board of Elections will tally the vote at election headquarters at the Agricultural Building in Supply Tuesday night. Chairman Babson said the county ballot will be tallied first.

All voters entering the voting booths will receive county, U.S. Senate and member of Congress, state attorney general, two state judicial, constitutional amendments, and the non-partisan county Soil and Water Conservation district supervisors ballots.

Because of a new state law, Chairman Babson said that all seven ballots used in the election will be different colors.

Five seats on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, the sheriff, the clerk of Superior Court, the coroner, the state house, the state senate and district judge will be at stake in the county elections.

The big question is whether the Republicans will be able

to hold and expand their control of county government. Or, will the Democrats be able to make a comeback after being out of control for the past four years.

Both the Republicans and the Democrats have been conducting fairly quiet public campaigns and some candidates remain relatively unknown despite the fact election day is less than a week away.

One of the major unknowns in the county election will be which way the hospital issue cuts. It has been the subject of much debate for more than one year.

Incumbent Republicans William A. Kopp, Jr., of Town Creek and Vardell Hughes of Waccamaw are seeking to hold their Board of Commissioners seats. Both men have served on the board for the past four years.

Republican James W. (Bubba) Smith of Smithville, who was appointed to the board this summer, is seeking election for the first time. He replaced John Bray, who resigned.

The other two Republicans running for seats on the board

are John J. Childs, Sr., of Northwest and William A. (Billy) Hickman of Shallotte. Childs, who is a supervisor with a building contractor, was nominated to run in the spring primary while Hickman, a farmer and former school teacher, was selected to replace incumbent Robert

Simmons when he withdrew. The Democratic challengers for the five board seats are Franky Thomas of Northwest, Willie E. Sloan of Town Creek, Ira D. Butler of Smithville, Steve Varnum of Lockwood Folly and W.T. Russ, Jr., of Shallotte. All

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## Judgement Continues

# Who Will Pay & How Much?

Payment of court costs involved in the Open Meetings injunction will not be paid until more investigation can be done on the matter.

Mrs. Carole Greene, clerk to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, told The Pilot Monday that she recommended delaying payment until the "meaning of the court order is fully understood."

Mrs. Greene said the

county will contact the Attorney General's office in Raleigh late this week to determine what Judge E. Maurice Braswell meant in the judgment order.

The judgment order says the court costs should be taxed against the defendants individually and as the Board of Commissioners.

"I don't feel personally the money should come out of the commissioners' pockets," Mrs. Greene said. "But if that is what the order means, that is what they (commissioners) will have to do."

Mrs. Greene also said she "assumed" the county will pay the full costs when the bill is paid.

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners was found guilty of violating the N.C. Open Meetings Law on June 7. Judge Braswell ordered the members and the board to pay the cost.

The board voted 3-to-1 on October 21 to use county funds to pay \$1,281.70 of the \$1,814.44 bill on the recommendation of County Attorney Thomas Horne.

Board Chairman William Kopp, Jr., cast the negative vote. He went to the Clerk of Court's office and paid \$362.90, which was one-fifth of the total cost.

Clerk Court Jack Brown submitted to the board a bill of cost totaling \$1,814.44. However, County Attorney Horne recommended that the board pay only \$1,644.60.

After the vote, the county had planned to pay the Clerk of Court's office \$1,281.70, last

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# Deputy Freed Of DUI Charge

A Brunswick County deputy sheriff was acquitted of a charge of drunk driving in District Court in Southport Friday afternoon.

However, Deputy J. Herman Osborne, 56, was found guilty of failing to decrease speed and was fined \$25 and court costs.

Deputy Osborne pleaded not guilty to both charges when the case was called shortly after 5 p.m.

Osborne, Mr. and Mrs. Steven Wayne Henry of Brick Landing, Patrolman W.L. Long, Deputy Sheriff Herman Phelps and Sheriff's Department Supply office dispatcher Lila Bennett all testified in the case, which took about 20 minutes to hear.

After hearing the evidence, Judge Giles Clark of Elizabethtown acquitted Osborne of drunk driving and

found him guilty of failing to decrease speed.

Assistant District Solicitor Wilton Hunt of Whiteville prosecuted the case for the state. Attorney A.H. Gainey, Jr., of Southport represented Osborne.

Deputy Clerk of Court Dianna Saunders told The Pilot it was "nothing unusual" for a person to be tried five days after he is charged with an offense. "It happens all the time," she declared.

Mrs. Saunders said that Deputy Osborne requested that the case be tried as soon as possible. "We had several persons who were arrested earlier in the week and were tried in District court Thursday and Friday," she said.

Although the Sheriff's (Continued On Page 22)