



THE TWISTED WRECKAGE of a small - engine plane lies in the trees where it came to rest after engine trouble forced the plane down in Columbus County near Nakina Sunday afternoon. Two Shallotte residents, Glen Williamson and Gordon Gore, were killed in the crash. A third passenger, Steve Gore, is hospitalized, reportedly in critical condition. (Photo by Danny Sears).

Two Die From Plane Tragedy

By CLARA CARTRETTE
Special To Pilot

Two Shallotte men are dead and a third is reported in critical condition as a result of a small-engine plane crash near Nakina Sunday afternoon.

The three men, who attended the American 500 car races in Rockingham Sunday, were flying back to Ocean Isle Beach when the engine of the Viking Bellanca Model 17-30A apparently malfunctioned. The four-passenger plane crashed into a wooded area approximately 15 feet from a cut cornfield just off RPR 1925, two and a half miles southeast of N.C. 905.

Gordon Gore, 36-year-old Shallotte man, was pronounced dead on arrival at Columbus County Hospital.
Glen Norwood Williamson,

47-year-old pilot and owner of the plane, was transferred from the local hospital to New Hanover Memorial, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

Steve Gore, 34-year-old brother of Gordon Gore, was listed in critical condition Monday at Columbus County Hospital.

Coroner Buell Lanier stated this morning that results of an autopsy performed on Gordon Gore in Lumberton showed that he died of multiple injuries, primarily lacerations of the liver.

Lanier is not handling results of Williamson's injuries since he was pronounced dead in New Hanover County.

Gordon Gore was employed as a serviceman for Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation in Shallotte. He was an outstanding baseball

pitcher during his high school days at Shallotte, later played at Catawba College and signed a professional baseball contract.

His brother Steve was also an outstanding athlete in high school. He is associated with Shallotte Ice and Fuel Co. in Shallotte.

Williamson was a younger brother of Odell Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach. It has been reported that he is a real estate agent.

A fourth companion, Alton Milligan of Shallotte, flew to Rockingham Sunday morning in Williamson's plane, but rode home with someone else after the crash.

The plane crash is now under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration. Members of the County Police, State

(Continued on page 4)

Voters Go To Polls For Major Election

Brunswick County voters will go to the polls on Tuesday to cast ballots for candidates seeking offices from the courthouse to the White House.

The 20 precincts will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. to allow voters to cast their votes for Democrats, Republicans or other party candidates seeking public office.

Voters will mark their ballots for candidates running for president of the United States and governor of North Carolina, as well as other state, district and county offices.

The highlight of the election in Brunswick County is expected to be the battle between the Democratic and Republican parties for control of the Board of Commissioners.

Voting tabulators, introduced to the voters in the August primary, will continue to be used. Voters will mark their selections on paper ballots, which will be placed in the tabulator in their precinct for counting purposes.

Each voter will be given four ballots, for presidential, county and district, state and judicial races. A total of 34 individual races will be at stake on the four ballots.

Executive Secretary Linda Babson said the vote total for each of the candidates should be known within two hours after the polls close, or around 9:30 p.m.

"Four, rather than one, adding machines will be used to give us the totals much

quicker," she explained.

Mrs. Babson said she was hoping more than 60 percent of the 16,368 registered voters in the county cast ballots in the election. She said she was basing her hope on the fact that more than 50 percent of the voters cast ballots in the August primary.

She said a record number of absentee ballots will be cast in the election because the presidency is being contested. More than 150 absentee ballots had been cast a week before the deadline. Normally, only 50 to 75 absentee ballots are cast.

All five seats on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners will be at stake for the last time since staggered terms will go into

effect this election year.

The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the General Election will win four-year terms. The next three highest will win two-year terms.

Incumbent Willie Sloan, the only member of the present board to win re-nomination, will face Republican William Kopp, Jr., for the Town Creek seat. Kopp is a two-term chairman of the board who lost to Sloan in 1974.

Yaupon Beach Mayor Marvin Watson, the Democrat, and Southport Alderman J. Harold Davis, the Republican, are running for the Smithville seat. Incumbent Ira Butler, Jr., did not seek re-nomination. Democrat Cletis Clemmons

and Republican Jack Hewett, who are both seeking election to public office for the first time, are running from Lockwood Folly. Clemmons pulled a major upset when he defeated incumbent Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., in the second primary in September. Hewett had no opposition for his party nomination.

In Shallotte Township, William A. Stanley, Jr., who finished fifth in the Democrat primary, faces Republican Larry Andrews. Andrews was nominated without opposition. Incumbent W.T. Russ, Jr. did not seek re-nomination.

Democrat Pearly Vereen, who topped the ticket in the August party primary, and

Republican Vardell Hughes, a former four-year board member who lost his seat in 1974, will battle to represent Waccamaw Township. Waccamaw has not had representation on the board for the past two years.

Two county offices — Register of Deeds and Coroner — also will be at stake in the General Election.

Incumbent Arthur Knox, the only Republican office holder in the county, will face Democrat William Gaither for Register of Deeds. Knox has served four years as Register of Deeds while Gaither is employed in the county Tax Supervisor's office.

Coroner Thomas E.

(Continued on page 2)

Hamlett Has Support; Town Silent On Firing

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

After numerous emotional appeals, no official action was taken concerning the recent firing of Police Chief James Hamlett during the regular monthly meeting of

the Long Beach of Commissioners last Wednesday night.

Five citizens, who had their names placed on the agenda of the meeting, requested that they be told why Hamlett was fired by Town Manager John Berry. Their statements

in support of Hamlett were greeted by loud applause by the overflow crowd gathered at the meeting.

Town Attorney James Prevatte, Jr., told commissioners and citizens that personnel information, including the reasons Hamlett was discharged, could not be made public under law.

Hamlett, who was at the meeting, made a statement at the end of the discussion.

"I will be leaving the island next week if you fellows don't do something, and try to pursue a career in law enforcement," Hamlett stated. "I want you to know, deep down in my heart, that all I tried to give you was a good Police Department."

Attorney Carter Lambeth, representing Hamlett, said that under the Long Beach charter the town manager had the authority to fire Hamlett without board approval.

He said that the only appeal Hamlett had was to the town board since it has been ruled that courts can't hear such cases.

Lambeth requested that the board either take action to have Hamlett rehired or replace Berry with a town manager who will rehire the former police chief.

But the board took no action and did not discuss the matter during the meeting. In fact, Mayor Harold Crain was the only board member who

made a public statement on the subject during the meeting.

In his statement, Mayor Crain made an appeal that citizens stop fighting among themselves "and pull together to make our town a better place in which to live, a town to which people will want to make their permanent residence upon their retirement, a town in which all of us may take pride, and a town in which our investments will flourish and not wither away."

"I urge you," Mayor Crain continued, "not to go back to the old ways, but to continue to go forward in a manner that will be productive and not counter-productive, in a manner that will make us all feel a justifiable pride in our community."

Mayor Crain expressed concern in his statement about the emotions raised over the firing of Hamlett.

Most of the citizens left the meeting room after making the appeals to rehire Hamlett. The board was conducting other business when Mrs. John Dorsett, wife of the SBI agent assigned to Brunswick County, returned to the meeting with a sign reading "Re-Instate Our Police Chief."

When he saw it, Mayor Crain ordered the sign removed from the room. He

(Continued on page 2)

All Tax Bills Except Smithville Are Mailed

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

All tax bills — with the exception of Smithville Township — have finally been mailed to Brunswick County property owners.

County Tax Supervisor K.T. Bellamy said the tax bills for the last township, Shallotte, were placed in the mail on Tuesday. "We were ready to mail the Shallotte bills on Monday, but the post office was closed because of the federal (Veteran's Day) holiday," he added.

Bellamy said it has not been determined when the Smithville tax bills will be mailed. He said he was waiting on County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., to provide

the information.

Flowers said the hold-up with the Smithville tax notices involves the hospital referendum and the court case. He expressed the opinion that the bills would be mailed "soon."

"We are checking with the Institute of Government and various county officials to determine the exact status of billing the extra four cents (hospital tax)," Flowers stated.

Bellamy said he had hoped that the tax bills could have been sent out much earlier this year.

"They could have been sent out in August if they had been printed," he declared. "But I don't know why they were not printed on time. You will

have to ask someone else about that."

County Finance Officer Regina McKeithan, who is in charge of the Computer Department where the tax notices are printed, refused to take the blame.

"They were not ready in August, but I will not debate the point or blame anyone about whose fault it is," Mrs. McKeithan stated. "Anytime you point one finger, there are always three fingers on your hand pointing back at you."

Bellamy said it was true that the Lockwood Folly tax notices were printed twice. They had to be reprinted because the hospital tax was

(Continued on page 5)

Long Beach Water Plan Foiled By State Agency

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

The proposed new Long Beach water system faces a long delay because it has been turned down by a state reviewing agency.

Mayor Harold Crain, who made the announcement during the regular monthly meeting of the Long Beach town board Wednesday night, called the denial "a staggering blow."

"This disapproval is a staggering blow because it would take from 18 months to two years to have such a

sewerage plan ready with DNER, one of the reviewing agencies, issued the "denial of certification of compliance with water quality standards."

"The agency withholds certification of the proposed project until the Town of Long Beach has an approved 201 Plan for sewerage facilities and has arranged the financing of the local share of the sewerage facilities project cost," L.P. Benton, Jr., chief, Water Quality section, told Long Beach Town Manager John Berty in a letter. "Upon meeting these conditions, the

town may re-apply for certification for the proposed project."

Benton said in the letter that his section reviewed the water system project and determined that "the installation of additional water lines in Long Beach will encourage additional development in an area sensitive to inadequately constructed and located waste-water disposal systems."

"This increased development will result in violations of the water quality standards applicable to the

surface waters of North Carolina in the Long Beach area," he stated.

Benton said it would be impossible for his section to certify that the new water system will not violate water quality standards.

"On the contrary, this agency would have to certify that the proposed improvements would result in future violations of water quality standards unless adequate preventive measures were initiated by the town," he declared.

After reviewing the denial, the board instructed Mayor

Crain, Berry and Town Attorney James Prevatte, Jr., to make a trip to Raleigh to see what can be done.

Berry told the board he had already held discussions with County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., the county Planning Department and Pierson-Whitman, the engineering firm working on the project. He said there has been some talk of extending the western Brunswick area 201 Study to Long Beach.

Commissioner Ellis Dudley called the state agency rejection "a political football and we are the victims of it."

He pointed out that the Long Beach board approved a resolution at a meeting held in September, 1974 to be the lead agency on a 201 Study on Oak Island. Earlier this year, Dudley said the board approved another resolution to have Southport be the lead agency for a 201 Study in Smithville Township.

Mayor Crain said he found it strange that the need for a sewage program never came up when the board spent hours this summer reviewing the proposed water system with Pierson-Whitman and FHA officials. Berry said it appeared during the meeting that everything was on

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(Continued on page 2)