



A SOUTHPORT AREA MAN, Kirk Jerome Galloway, shown here in a bank picture with gun in hand robbing the Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company office at Bolivia last Tuesday, has been arrested on armed robbery charges. The Sheriff's Department has questioned another man, believed to have been waiting in a car for

Galloway, but no charges had been made at press time. The \$2,922 stolen in the bank robbery has not been recovered. Talmadge Willetts (left) and John Kopp talk in the background, apparently unaware that the robbery is taking place.

One Of Estimated 300

Child Abuse-Neglect Cases Not Prosecuted

By BILL ALLEN

How big a problem is child abuse - neglect in Brunswick County?

That was the question Commissioner Marvin Watson continued to raise

with officials in the Social Services department during a county board meeting on Monday.

The Brunswick County Youth Needs Report estimated that the number of child abuse-neglect cases

would increase from 144 in 1975 to 300 in 1976.

But Joyce Dowless, who is in charge of the program in the county department, said only one case — reported last week — had been prosecuted. Sheriff Herman Strong told

the board that he knew about only 25 reported child abuse-neglect cases in the county.

"I don't believe the figures (estimates) I see," Watson told Mrs. Dowless. "I don't go along with it."

Mrs. Dowless told Watson that the department had about 144 documented cases of child abuse-neglect in the county thus far in 1976.

But she said she could not provide the board with information about the final results on the cases investigated by the department.

"We spent a lot of time in juvenile court (with the cases)," Department Director Joel Webb told the board.

The commissioners, continuing to keep a close eye on spending, delayed approving the report until the January meeting. They said they needed more time to obtain information.

Chairman Cletis Clemmons expressed concern that the county could be forced to hire ten new employees at a cost of \$110,000 to \$120,000 if the

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Nothing Wrong With Site, Board Is Told

By BILL ALLEN

There is nothing wrong with the soil at the Brunswick County complex site outside Bolivia, county commissioners were told Monday.

"It (the soil) is buildable," said Friday Hodges of LB-C&W, architects and engineers on the project. "There is no problem since the soil is adequate."

Hodges said he could see no

additional costs to the taxpayers to build on the soil unless some problem develops that has not shown up in tests.

Basically, he said it was the same type of soil found in most areas of the county.

Hodges made the statements in answer to questions asked by Commissioner Pearly Vereen about the soil at the complex site. It sounded like a repeat performance of the meeting

the old board held prior to purchasing the site.

Hodges also told Chairman Cletis Clemmons that the soils presented "no problems" as far as road construction on the site is concerned.

"Although it was real wet because of the rain last Wednesday, we could have driven all over the site with no trouble if a couple of trees

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Hospital Tax Billing Late, Penalty Added

Smithville Township property owners will have to pay the new hospital tax before they receive the bills to avoid the penalty, County attorney John Hughes announced Monday.

Hughes told county commissioners at a meeting on Monday that there is no way under law that the county can provide relief — no penalty charge — because Smithville residents don't receive their bills on time.

All penalty taxes collected after December 31 will go into the county general fund since the hospital is only entitled to four cents per \$100 valuation under law, Hughes pointed out.

County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., said the county will not be able to mail the hospital tax bills containing the four-cent per \$100 valuation tax to residents until around the first of the year.

All 1976 taxes are due before December 31. Property owners who pay their taxes after December 31 are charged a two-cent penalty under law.

Hughes suggested that Smithville Township taxpayers contact the county Tax Office before December 31 to see how much money they owe because of the hospital tax.

"They will have the information to enable the person to pay the hospital tax and avoid the penalty," Hughes pointed out.

The county attorney said the law does not grant relief from the penalty because tax notices are not sent. In fact, he said that the law does not even require that the county send out tax notices.

County Finance Officer Regina McKeithan, who is in charge of computer operations in the county, said it will take about four days to print

the Smithville Township hospital tax notices. She said the computer program only arrived on Monday. The bill forms were expected to arrive before Wednesday.

Mrs. McKeithan said the Tax Supervisor's office was having to remove Boiling Spring Lakes property from the Smithville Township property cards.

Although Boiling Spring Lakes was placed in Town Creek township in 1975, it has recently been discovered that the property cards of the residents are still in Smithville Township.

In addition, Mrs. McKeithan said her department will have to delete the Boiling Spring Lakes information from the computer tape. She said she expects the job to take about a day.

Smithville Township residents voted to approve the four-cent hospital tax in an August referendum. The vote was challenged in the court and the county decided not to bill the tax until a ruling was made. The court ruled in late November that the tax should be collected, although it has been appealed.

Holiday Closings

City and county offices will be closed Friday and Monday, while the Clerk of Court's office will be closed Thursday and Friday. Financial institutions will be closed Monday, while PS&L will take an additional half-day, closing at noon Friday.

The Southport - Brunswick County Library will be closed Thursday and Friday.

Grand Jury Report On Schools Bothers Judge

A Superior Court judge has said that if Grand Jury reports about some schools in Brunswick County are true, "this is as deplorable a school situation as I have come across in the State of North Carolina."

Judge Hal Hanner Walker, presiding over the term of court in Southport, commented that the Grand Jury report "is almost frightening in its implications."

"I would strongly recommend that you make immediate investigation and take immediate action to remedy the situation," Judge Walker said in a written statement accompanying the Grand Jury report.

"I would also further recommend that you have a detailed report ready for the Honorable James H. Pou Bailey prior to his arrival" for a term of Superior Court

starting January 17.

Copies of the memo were addressed to the county Board of Commissioners, the N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Director of the Health Department, the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education, the District Attorney's office and Judge Bailey.

The report covered only six schools. There was no inspection at Northwest area schools or the two in Southport "due to time element," the Grand Jury report stated. "It must be noted," the Grand Jury statement read, "that a large number of the glaring discrepancies noted pertain to the latest newly built schools. Preservation and a healthy living environment must be maintained in all our schools."

The Grand Jury requested that "the proper county

authority" be informed so that an investigation could be started and correction made.

The report included the following discoveries at the county schools:

BOLIVIA ELEMENTARY
Storm drain in front of Bolivia School partially stopped up. Water fills to knee in school bus parking area on rainy days, which is health hazard to get from the buses to school.

Windows out in girls restroom.
Children's playgrounds a muddy mess, with heavy equipment ruts approximately 10-12" deep.

Windows in boys restroom are out, glass panes cracked and window frames about to fall out.

Gutter on south side of school building has holes rusted through and needs to be replaced.

Wall paneling inside of auditorium — eight feet up and about to fall down. It is recommended that these repairs be made immediately before they fall.

Provisions needed for storm drain in parking lot and playground.

SHALLOTTE MIDDLE
Girls restroom on north wing needs three tank lids to be replaced commodes fifth section needs repair. One pane in room is out and three door panes needed.

Boys restroom main building needs cleaning.

Girls south wing — six panes missing and one broken. Fourth commode fixture is lacking. Trash is in the heating element, mesh is off of the top and the element is used to put trash in, which

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with brush fires "that can be controlled in many cases before the fire truck arrives."

Sloop also reported that Walter Ikner of Wadesboro joined the department as a patrolman on November 23. He has two-years' experience, and is being paid a starting salary of \$138 per week.

The board adopted an agreement with the Department of Natural and Economic Resources for a \$4,800 planning grant —

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Water System Rules Discussed By Board

By ED HARPER

Multi-unit customers will pay the same minimum water rate as individuals to use the Long Beach water system, town commissioners decided during their regular meeting last Wednesday night.

The agreement came during discussion of an "Ordinance to Establish Rules and Regulations for the Operation of a Water System for the Town of Long Beach," drawn from a Farmers Home Administration model. Town Manager John Berry

had presented a payment scale in "an attempt to resolve the inequities" between owners of single and multi-unit property, but noted it was "the pleasure of the Council" to make the decision.

While every user will pay the minimum of at least \$8.92 per month, commissioners felt multi-unit owners would pay their share by increased usage above 3,000, which the minimum rate covers.

The discussion began when commissioners talked "customer" paying for a multi-unit like a duplex, or

even a motel. Berry suggested a \$4.46 minimum — half the individual rate — for each unit. But only one meter would be used, it was noted. Therefore, Commissioner Ellis Dudley said, it would be impossible to decide who would be responsible for usage above 3,000 gallons.

Berry agreed that the change from his recommendation would make his office work easier. "I don't have any heartburns on that," Berry commented.

The board made several other changes in the

ordinance before adoption. The cost of regular tap-on will be "cost plus ten percent," and complaints will not have to be presented "in person" as the draft ordinance stated.

The town will require a water deposit equal to two months payment of the minimum rate then in effect. Commissioner Pauline Morgan said she was concerned about owners "being stuck" if summer renters left without paying. The ordinance says that water could be denied the next occupant, commissioners noted.

Commissioner W.L. Jones

said that owners should "take precautions" — like requiring deposits — to see that the water bill is paid. He said that collection from owners was the "only way" to insure payment.

Commissioner Carroll Adams said the ordinance says the town is "not required" to provide water to the next occupant until the balance - due is paid. This, he said, gives the town manager some leeway to collect the amount due.

In other business conducted during the one-hour, 40-minute meeting, the board

decided to write a letter commending former county FHA Director Ed Johnson for his effort in connection with the Long Beach water supply system. The letter was suggested by Dudley, who noted that Johnson "showed a great deal of interest" in the local project before being transferred.

Under the "new business" heading, Town Manager Berry noted that no one asked to be placed on the agenda. Berry did report he has submitted to the board "for study" the first draft of a personnel ordinance. He said

he said conferred with the state, which "will respond to our needs" if necessary.

The board okayed a budget amendment adding \$820 in federal Anti-Recession funds.

Town Attorney James R. Prevatte, Jr., said he had nothing to report, that information for the board had already been sent by mail.

The board received a report from the Police Department that three five-gallon fire pumps had been purchased and one placed in each patrol car. Chief James Sloop said the pumps will be "a great asset," especially

with brush fires "that can be controlled in many cases before the fire truck arrives."

Sloop also reported that Walter Ikner of Wadesboro joined the department as a patrolman on November 23. He has two-years' experience, and is being paid a starting salary of \$138 per week.

The board adopted an agreement with the Department of Natural and Economic Resources for a \$4,800 planning grant —

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