

# Bar To Select Nominees To Replace Judge Long

BY TERRY POPE

The 13th District Bar Association must meet within 30 days to select nominees to replace District Court Judge Wayne Long, who resigned Monday after being charged with driving while impaired last weekend in Durham.

According to Southport attorney Elva Jess, president of the bar association, no date has been set for a meeting to discuss Long's replacement. She added a meeting will be called "sometime fairly soon" to select the names of "three attorneys practicing in the same district and of the same political party as Long."

Long, a democrat, defeated Jess in the primary election and ran unopposed in November 1984 for his first judiciary seat.

"There are a number of different people who have expressed an interest in the position," Jess said Tuesday afternoon.

Long, 37, of Shallotte, was a district court judge for the 13th District, which includes Brunswick, Bladen and Columbus counties. Although he had a district court session scheduled for Brunswick County Criminal Court this week, Long did not preside over the session, requesting instead

that his resignation be effective immediately.

Copies of his letter of resignation were sent Monday morning to Gov. Jim Martin, who will name a replacement from the three nominees, and Chief Justice Joseph Branch of the State Supreme Court.

In a telephone interview Monday afternoon, Long said he resigned so he would not "bring adverse publicity to the judiciary." He stated he plans to plead not guilty to the DWI charge in Durham County District Court on March 14.

Long's seat does not become legal-

ly vacant until Gov. Martin has accepted his resignation, which should be within a few days, Ms. Jess said. Long now plans to return to his private law practice in Charlotte.

Long could have retained his judiciary seat even if found guilty of DWI since it is a misdemeanor and not a felony charge. Saying he understood those conditions, Long still resigned his seat Monday morning.

The incident leading to Long's resignation occurred early Saturday morning on the north side of Durham at the Interstate 85 and Guess Road

exit, according to Durham police reports.

Public Safety Officer W.R. Neighbours arrested Long around 1:15 a.m. Long was then taken to the Durham County magistrate's office where a breath analysis test revealed he had a .14 percent blood alcohol content. In North Carolina, a .10 percent or higher is considered impaired.

The magistrate released Long at 4:05 a.m. on a custody release while no bond was posted. He is scheduled for first appearance in district court at 2 p.m. on March 14.



Judge Long Resigns

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## Moore Takes Frink Seat At Calabash

With two names in the hat Monday afternoon Calabash council members voted unanimously to appoint Suzy Moore to serve the remaining portion of Councilman Michael Frink's term. At the board's Jan. 28 meeting, Frink recommended Moore to take over his position, saying he had contacted her and that she had agreed to accept the seat if appointed. Frink moved outside the town limits two weeks ago, thus becoming ineligible to serve on the council, said Mayor Sonia Stevens.

Prior to the vote Monday, Calabash resident John Johnson, who lives in the Village Green subdivision, volunteered his nomination to serve on the board. After Johnson left the town hall, Councilman Virgil Coleman nominated Ms. Moore, which was seconded by Robert Simmons. Johnson's name was not nominated for the seat.

Council member Cheryl Thomas was not present at Monday's meeting, prompting Mayor Stevens to ask if the board wanted to wait until a full board is present to vote on the replacement.

"It looks like we need somebody now," Coleman responded. Other board members agreed to proceed with appointing a new member to the board.

Ms. Moore, 26, a native of Calabash, owns and operates a photography studio. She will serve the remainder of Frink's term, which expires in November.

"I will definitely attend the meetings," she said when contacted Tuesday morning. "I look forward to working with everyone on the board. I'm a businesswoman myself, so I'm definitely interested in the town's problems."

Five council seats and the mayor's post are up for election this fall. Frink was elected to the board in November 1983 and was holding his first public office.

Ms. Moore said she is undecided whether she will seek election in the fall.

"I haven't made any plans," she added. "I'm going to see how this goes first."



SHALLOTTE Realtor and developer Buddy Milliken shared plans with town aldermen last Wednesday for a residential development proposed off Village Road near Brierwood Estates. From the left are Milliken,

Aldermen Wilton Harrelson and Bobby Ray Russ, Mayor Beamon Hewett and Mayor Pro Tem Paul Reeves. Present, but not pictured, were Aldermen Jerry Jones and David Gause.

## Shallotte Board Deals With Growing Pains

BY SUSAN USHER

Growth once again was the main topic of discussion for Shallotte aldermen last Wednesday night, though few items on the agenda referred specifically to the subject.

Aldermen took no immediate action on a request from Shallotte businessman Buddy Milliken to offer a "good faith evaluation" of both the character and technical aspects of a proposed development off Village Point Road. Instead they proposed to delve into the related issue of the town's capacity to provide services at the same rapid pace as its growth.

Milliken said he would like a written statement summarizing the board's views in the near future, before proceeding or investing further in the project. He made clear he was not asking the board to commit to annexation or a special use permit.

The board suggested Maintenance Superintendent Albert Hughes and consulting engineer Finley Doney compile information on the capacity of the town's sewer system for presentation at its next meeting.

"I don't think the town is in any trouble," said Mayor Beamon Hewett in reference to growth demands on the system. "We could handle 10 years of normal growth, but what we've been experiencing isn't normal."

"We can't go many more projects like this one," he added. Hewett said the town needs to consider who will bear the cost of a third lagoon to increase wastewater treatment capacity and possibly to extend the sewer system loop from Bluff Drive across the Shallotte River to the Wall Street pumping station.

Milliken proposes to develop a combination of condominiums and single-family residential lots on a 22.6-acre tract owned by his father, A.E. Milliken, and located adjacent to and east of Coppice Hollow subdivision near Brierwood Estates. The development would be served by Sylvan and Glade streets, with Pender Avenue the only outlet onto N.C. 179.

"Other than envisioning a quality project, I can't tell you too much about it," he said. While the project looks "promising," he said additional studies would have to be made

before the project's financial feasibility is certain.

"We don't want to do a study and then find out the town will not annex it and will not allow its development as proposed," he continued.

Adjoining property owners have responded favorably, he said, and the state transportation department has indicated the Pender Avenue outlet will not create undue traffic congestion.

Harrelson and Reeves indicated they had no objections to the annexation if the town's utilities could bear the increase.

### Flood Insurance

Discussion of flood insurance maps for the town was delayed until aldermen had more time to study the (See ABC, Page 2-A)

## Stoplights To Double In Shallotte

BY SUSAN USHER

Two new stoplights will be installed along U.S. 17 in downtown Shallotte if the State Board of Transportation acts as expected at its March 8 meeting.

"Our stoplights have been approved," Rep. David Redwine announced Monday, referring to an N.C. Department of Transportation staff recommendation to fund the lights.

After talking with Wesley Webster, deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Transportation, Redwine said Monday that board approval also is expected, with installation proposed in the spring before the summer season begins.

The lights would be located at the intersections of U.S. 17 with two major cross-streets—Smith Avenue on the north end of town and Shallotte Avenue, where the existing flashing light will be replaced.

Harold Steelman, DOT field support engineer, said the lights will be "three-phase, fully actuated traffic signals."

"I assume," he added, "the third phase is to handle left turns off U.S. 17."

Estimated cost of the signal project is \$33,000.

Steelman confirmed that Shallotte had only recently qualified for the lights—and then marginally.

On Dec. 1 the state eased its guidelines on traffic counts to include more warrants. Previously traffic counts were based on the volume of traffic entering an intersection during an eight-hour period. Under the new warrants, counts taken during a four-hour period or one-hour "peak" period can suffice.

"The signals would not have been warranted had these warrants not been approved," he said.

Shallotte came very close to qualifying on the four-hour and one-hour counts at both intersections, he said, adding that both signals should be fully warranted based on an anticipated shift in traffic from other outlots to Smith and Shallotte.

"Based on the anticipated shift in traffic, the accident history and the congestion you have down there, we decided to go ahead and recommend the traffic signals," said Steelman.

The Mulberry Street intersection was also considered for a signal.

Existing traffic lights are located at U.S. 17 and N.C. 130 East and N.C. 130 West.

"I think this will help solve our

traffic problem," said Shallotte Mayor Beamon Hewett, praising Redwine for his efforts on behalf of the town.

"We'll keep working on the bypass and we're working on some other things with DOT also."

Those "other things" include improving the flow of traffic at the intersection of Blake Drive and Village Road across from Shallotte Middle School, the scene of frequent traffic accidents.

In early November traffic engineer George A. Eason observed traffic flow in Shallotte at the three intersections and in the Blake Drive and Coastal Plaza areas.

At a Shallotte town board meeting last Wednesday night, Mayor Hewett said DOT plans to extend the third (turning) lane on U.S. 17 south past the Coastal Plaza entrance and also the 35 mph speed limit, as suggested earlier by town officials during Eason's visit.

Within the week following the opening of Wilson's food store, reported Police Chief Wayne Campbell, two accidents had occurred at the entrance onto U.S. 17. None were reported on the N.C. 179 entrance, he added.

### Democrats Set Precinct Meets

Brunswick County Democrats will hold precinct meetings Thursday, March 8, in preparation for the party's county convention on April 13.

All meetings will begin at 8 p.m. at the precinct polling place unless otherwise posted, said Brunswick County Democratic Party Chairman Glen Peterson.

Ten registered Democrats from the precinct must be in attendance to attain a quorum.

For precincts that do not meet or gain a quorum Thursday, make-up meetings will be held Thursday, March 15, at 8 p.m., Peterson added.

Each precinct is to elect to two-year terms a chairman, three vice-chairmen, secretary and treasurer. Four other persons will be named to form the precinct committee and delegates will be elected to the county convention.

The number of delegates allocated to each precinct is based on how the precinct voted for the Democratic candidate, Rufus Edrington, in the 1982 general election.

Precinct meetings are open to all of the county's registered Democrats.

## Drug Bust At West Brunswick Labeled Community's Problem

BY TERRY POPE

West Brunswick High School administrators began fighting off the usual rumors and negative comments last week following a drug bust at the school involving ten students.

Two students were expelled from the school for the remainder of the year while eight others were suspended for distributing and using marijuana on campus, said Assistant Principal Maliston Stanley. Although the recent crackdown on drugs in the school may release a flood of misinformation in the community, it is the school's reputation that Stanley hopes isn't tarnished.

"We don't manufacture marijuana at West Brunswick High School," Stanley said. "We don't condone drug use, the selling, manufacturing or anything at this school. We're going to do anything we can to see that it stops."

Stanley said once the school takes disciplinary action against students involved with drugs or starts enforcing other policies, residents in the community often find reasons to blame the school and faculty.

"There is marijuana everywhere, not just at West Brunswick High School," Stanley said. "I think parents are giving us a bum rap if they think it's only at this school. When you compare our school with any its own

size, I don't think we have a serious drug problem."

Drugs stemming from last week's incident were supplied to students by people in the community, Stanley said. What West Brunswick is battling at its school is an apparent breakdown in attitudes and communication between parents and students, a concern of schools across the nation, Stanley said.

Students who view the situation everyday are also concerned.

"I'd like to see smoking and drugs stopped," said junior Dave Ward, editor of the student newspaper 'The West Wind.' "Administrators are trying to do something about smoking and drugs, but it's not easy. It's not only our school doing it."

Ward said the most recent crackdown on drugs has helped "knock out a lot of it" from the WBHS campus. "There are those who are trying it for the first time, then you have users and sellers," Ward said. "After this, I think the tryers are going to be kind of scared to start. So I think it helps."

It was with the help of other students that administrators were able to "get to the bottom" of the recent drug busts, Stanley said. School officials disciplined the students without calling in law enforcement officers.

Students at West Brunswick would also like to see an end to the board of education's ban placed on smoking cigarettes on campus. Ward said it has led to smoking in the school restrooms and is "impossible for administrators to cut it off. You can walk in and you can't even breath," he added.

"It was a lot better for those who didn't smoke when they allowed smoking on campus," said senior Marisa Grissett, who says smoking in the girls' restrooms is also a problem. Designated areas for smoking outside would help, both students added.

Whether it is for using drugs, smoking in the restrooms, disrupting classrooms or disrespecting teachers, after students are disciplined the faculty "always get a lot of verbal abuse or character assassinations," from the community, Stanley said.

"I get accused of selling marijuana myself," he added. "I get accused of being unfair. The school system in general is accused of being unfair."

When drugs are found in the schools, the students are bringing the illegal substances in from the homes, he added. If there is a drug bust in the community, it's impact is often felt in the schools.

"Almost everytime we have a drug bust or start enforcing the rules, that's when the rumors start,"

Stanley said. "I've had several people come back to me and say, 'I heard you got busted,' or 'I heard you got picked up for drugs.'"

At West Brunswick, administrators have started conference sessions for parents to meet with teachers from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day to discuss the students' discipline problems. Parents are also notified when a student is reprimanded at school, Stanley said, but often it doesn't help.

"We will invite parents out to meet with the teachers," Stanley said, "but we can't even get them out to the school. They will not even come out, yet at the same time, those are the same people who are out blasting us in the community."

Stanley said he is concerned about the lack of close parent-teacher relationships and the lack of discipline in the homes.

"Lots of times," he added, "we're looked upon as being able to produce miracles. We can't produce miracles. If a parent can't do anything with them at home, then how in the world are we going to control them at school?"

Parents are often more concerned about their status in the community or the embarrassment it may cause them when their student is caught with drugs at school, he added.