

Adult School Bus Driver Policy Tabled By Board

BY TERRY POPE

A policy that would begin phasing in all adult school bus drivers for Brunswick County's 11 schools was tabled by unanimous vote of the Brunswick County Board of Education Monday night.

School Superintendent Gene Yarbrough presented the proposal that called for hiring all adult school bus drivers for the five elementary schools next year. In the 1986-87 school year, all middle schools would hire adult drivers while all adults would staff the high school buses in the 1987-88 school year.

"The Brunswick County Board of Education believes that the employment of adults as school bus drivers will enhance the safety of our students being transported to and from school," the policy states. "This will alleviate certain stress condi-

tions placed on student drivers."

The policy would be phased in over a period of three years, "provided that a sufficient number of adult drivers can be obtained," Yarbrough said. It would only "give preference" to hiring adult drivers, he added.

However, board member James Clemons said the policy would "close the door on the student drivers' faces." Clemons added that the schools have been fortunate to have student drivers in the past.

"The state hasn't passed a law for it," he added. "There's no incentive to those student drivers. Some of them need the jobs."

Clemons' motion to table the discussion until another meeting was seconded by Jane Causey, who questioned how the safety record of student drivers compares with adult drivers in Brunswick County. Yar-

brough said those figures would be available at the next meeting.

Forty of the county's 126 bus drivers must be replaced next year due to graduation or retirements, including ten student drivers for the elementary schools. One reason high school drivers have trouble driving for elementary schools is the conflict in their class schedules, Clemons said.

A bill before the N.C. General Assembly introduced by State House Rep. Alex Hall, D-New Hanover County, that would have mandated all-adult school bus drivers across the state did not pass the house this session. Hall introduced the bill following a series of school bus accidents in southeastern North Carolina.

A school bus accident in Shallotte on May 6 sent 17 Union Primary

School students to the Brunswick Hospital for treatment. The student driver was charged in that accident for running a red light.

A salary scale that is designed to attract adult drivers was also introduced to the board Monday by school business manager Sam Adcock. Currently, all school bus drivers earn \$4.25 per hour, but under the revised salary schedule drivers could earn up to \$5.38 per hour depending on their experience.

"This year's drivers would begin next year at \$4.35 per hour," Adcock said. "There would be no pay decrease since they already have a year's experience."

Beginning drivers with no experience would start out at \$4.17 per hour, he said. The yearly increases to different pay levels are based on five percent cost of living adjustments.

The revised salary scale would be "utilizing the full amount of the state allocation for school bus drivers," Adcock said, which is \$4.25 per hour. A second-year driver would earn \$4.53 per hour, a fourth-year driver \$4.72, a sixth-year driver \$4.92, ninth-year \$5.15 and 12 years or more, \$5.38 per hour.

School transportation mechanic Mercer Sullivan, who is retiring next week, said the safety record for young drivers "over the past year has been good. If you take the reverse out, we might not have any accidents," he added. "We've had some adults to have accidents, and some young people, too."

Brunswick County's school buses will travel 1,165,217 miles this school year, Yarbrough said, or about 9,247 miles per bus. The average driver travels 51.4 miles each day and

spends 3.59 hours on his or her bus route, he added.

"There has been a lot of comment on the move toward hiring all adult drivers," Yarbrough said.

In other business Monday, board Chairman James Forstner presented school bus driver Myrtle Carroll with the Tracy Lea Calhoun Award. The annual award is given to one outstanding school bus driver in each county for their contribution to school bus safety.

Ms. Carroll has driven 13 years for Bolivia Elementary School without an accident. She has also never received a citation during her 50 years of driving in North Carolina.

The award is given each year in honor of Tracy Calhoun, a 17-year-old junior who was killed on her way to an after-school job at an oil company in Raleigh in May 1980.

Commissioners Tell Health Director Yes, No, And Maybe

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County Commissioners told Health Director Thomas Blum "yes," "no," and "maybe" Monday night to proposals for three new health programs.

They approved a demonstration program, funded with a \$12,000 state grant, that would help elderly residents in Shallotte and Waccamaw communities learn to reduce the possibility of accidents within their homes. If the program succeeds, the state will use it as a model for similar programs around the state. Part of the grant pays one-third the salary of the department's health educator. Adjoining urban and rural areas were chosen for comparative purposes. In developing the project the health educator will work with some organized senior citizens groups.

But commissioners rejected a proposal to establish, at no additional cost to the department, an AIDS Counseling Center. "Since we're not offering it now, I see no reason to start it. I'd just as soon we don't get into it," said Commissioner Jim Poole in making the motion to deny the request. Commissioner Frankie Rabon was absent and Commissioner Grace Beasley voted against Poole's motion.

The center would have offered blood testing that wouldn't determine if a client had the acquired immune deficiency, but it would identify whether further testing were needed.

Offering the testing, Blum told commissioners, should help protect the supply of donor blood. Since the American Red Cross began screening all blood donated to it, persons who think they may have AIDS, he said, are coming to American Red Cross bloodmobiles across the country to donate blood. They do it because they want the screening.

Blum said no one has identified that as a reason for donating blood locally or requested the screening from the health department.

County Attorney David Clegg said there would be much less risk of

employees contracting AIDS than they currently face from hepatitis.

Staff members had already completed training for the project and Southeastern Mental Health had agreed to help any clients with more serious concerns about the testing results.

Commissioners said they wanted more information about a proposal to screen elderly patients leaving hospitals in Brunswick, Columbus and possibly Pender counties to determine their long-term health care needs. The goal of the program is to match patients with services that allow them to live at home rather than enter a nursing facility.

Conducted in cooperation with the Cape Fear Council of Governments and the county's new older adults program, the project would involve \$8,000 to \$25,000 funding in the county over a two-year period.

The screening, by mandate, would be offered to adults who require nursing care and are eligible for Medicaid or likely to become eligible; and those who want and can pay for the screening through other insurance or private resources.

With the patient and his or her physician's approval, a case worker would talk with the existing patient before discharge from the hospital and with the discharge nurse, then make a site visit to the home. If the type of service the person needs were not available, the project staff would try to encourage existing service providers to offer the service, or to seek out other providers for the service. Some of the \$25,000 budgeted could be used to help start services that aren't already available.

Commissioners authorized Blum to continue looking into the program, but said they also wanted to hear Comprehensive Home Health Care's views on the proposed COG contract with the county to provide the service.

Blum said the reason COG asked the health department to conduct the screening was to avoid a possible

conflict of interest that could result. If an agency that offers the services in question gets the contract, it could conceivably be in a position to refer clients to its own programs.

Cost Study

Commissioners also allocated \$7,000 for a contract with David M. Griffin & Associates to develop an indirect cost allocation plan and to examine areas in county operations where user fees could be established.

The indirect cost allocation study could result in substantially larger reimbursements to the county from state and federal agencies. Care agencies such as social services, for instance, can obtain reimbursement for the county of a prorated portion of the indirect costs associated with administering certain programs. Indirect costs include centralized support services.

Reimbursements in some programs often triple using Griffin's detailed plan, Finance Director Wallace Harding said.

Other Business

In other business, commissioners: • Met behind closed doors for nearly two hours to discuss a personnel matter, land acquisition and client-attorney matters. Part of the time was spent meeting with Parks and Recreation Director Bobby Jones and Security Fence Co. owners Jimmy and Brenda Register relative to a \$17,002 contract from September 1984 for fencing of Waccamaw Township Park at Ash. No action was taken.

• Heard from Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan on behalf of Supply Volunteer Fire Department seeking funds to bring a 1951 pumper used for mutual aid response and backup back into service by repairing the transmission, clutch and brakes at a cost of \$1,200 or more. Commissioners said the work could begin now, but that the money would come from the 1985-86 county allocation to the department or district. Chairman Chris Chappell said honoring requests for extra funds is the type action that causes problems among the departments.

• Accepted a budget revision to allocate \$1,040 in Belville ABC Board contributions to the sheriff's department, to be used for undercover work.

• Authorized Chairman Chris Chappell to sign an encroachment agreement with Seaboard System Railroad allowing the county to install and maintain a water line on company property near Navassa. Instead of paying annual rent of \$76 "forever," commissioners agreed to a one-time payment of \$1,140 proposed by County Attorney David Clegg.

• Heard a request from Grace Peoples of the Holden Beach Senior Citizens for more—and "better" if possible—"no littering" signs along N.C. 130 from Opeen Road to the beach causeway road, the area the club is helping to keep clear of litter.

• Reappointed Louis "Bobby" Brown of Navassa and Ronnie Young of Ash to the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

• Accepted an SR-1 petition from Marlee Acres developers Hilton and Eva Herring asking the state to take over Harbor Street, Camelot Drive and the Camelot Drive extension for maintenance.

• Delayed appointments to the Brunswick County Library Board from District 4 and 5, and an appointment to the 13th District Jury Commission. The commissioners choose one member of that panel; Durward Clark's term expires June 30.

• Accepted a low bid of \$57,247 from Rooks Construction of Whiteville for a water plant spiractor building.

• Met Miss Brunswick County, Belinda Jacobs of Leland.



THIS WAS THE SCENE on Holden Beach when a swimmer was identified as an escapee last Wednesday. He was handcuffed by officers and taken back to the New Hanover County Prison Subsidiary. The story is on Page 1.

Deputy Defends Actions

(Continued From Page 1-A)

ask for an officer may come from a lie detector test that he is willing to take, since the department's telephone recording system is not in operation.

"There is no apparent reason why I wouldn't have sent her an officer if she had requested one," Nance said. Nance and another deputy were at the store drinking coffee and talking to the clerk just prior to the rape.

After leaving the store, Nance returned to the sheriff's department in Bolivia where within minutes he received the first telephone call.

How Hot Was It? 101 Degrees

Sunday's daytime temperature climbed over 100 degrees for the first time this year, reported local meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Sunday's high of 101 degrees was typical of highs recorded throughout the southern states this week, Canady said. A minimum low of 64 degrees was recorded on three days last week, the 28th, 30th and 31st.

The outlook calls for more of the above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation, Canady said. Highs should range in the 90s during the day and the 70s at night. Three-fourths inch of rain is also expected.

"We're looking for somewhat hotter than normal weather for the next couple of days," Canady said. "But it's still a little too early to think that we're going to have this kind of weather for the rest of the summer."

Canady said all indications point toward a nice summer rather than an extremely hot and dry summer for the South Brunswick Islands area.

For the period May 28-June 3, an average daily high of 94 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 67 degrees for an average daily temperature of 80 degrees, or about six degrees above normal. Approximately 1.03 inches of rain was also recorded last week.

that another deputy and the sheriff was helping to apprehend a subject that was running from Columbus County authorities at the time.

A group of Nance's friends in Calabash have started circulating a petition addressed to Sheriff Davis that calls for a "further investigation of the charged offenses, together with a lie detector test." It also requests that the telephone recording system be reconnected at the department.

"It is our belief and concern that a man of his caliber," the petition states, "whose reputation and record have been above reproach, and who has been an asset to your office and our county, has been unjustly treated in this matter."

Davis called Nance last Thursday and offered the deputy the opportunity to resign, but he refused. Nance was then fired.

"I have no doubts about what I've done," Davis said. "I feel I've made the right decision."



INSIGHT INTO EYESIGHT

CHRIS MOSHOURES

OPTOMETRIST

DEGREES OF EYE PROTECTION

Millions of people should be wearing some form of eye protection while engaged in hazardous activities, whether on the job or while pursuing their hobbies at home. The type and degree of eye protection depends on the nature of the hazards which they face.

All corrective lenses prescribed by doctors of optometry are, by law, impact resistant. Impact resistant spectacles provide LIMITED frontal protection against flying particles. However, "impact-resistant" lenses will break.

"Safety glasses", on the other hand, contain lenses which meet industrial safety lens standards

which are significantly more stringent. These glasses offer considerably more protection than those which are merely "impact resistant."

For maximum protection, especially against the hazard of flying particles, safety thickness goggles are recommended. These may be worn over regular glass and offer both frontal and side protection.

In the interest of better vision from the office of: Chris Moshoures, O.D. Pine Street, Shallotte 754-4020

Tax Hike Proposed

(Continued From Page 1-A)

includes a new carpenter's assistant and a maintenance assistant.

• Maintenance Garage, \$1,002,666.

• Sheriff, \$1,080,983, reflecting nearly a \$142,000 increase in salaries and wages for two new telecommunicators, two new detective trainees, one office deputy and four deputy sheriffs.

• Jail, \$218,653, includes an additional jailer.

• Veterans Service, \$38,598.

• Emergency Management, \$78,747.

• Public Housing Agency (all federal funds), \$639,218.

• Soil and Water Conservation, \$17,496.

• Parks and Recreation, \$940,431, up about \$180,000 to reflect proposed

improvements to parks.

• Agricultural Extension, \$150,510.

• Integrated Pest Management, \$4,962.

• Mosquito Control, \$190,320.

• Corps of Engineers contract, \$35,500, reflects salary increase from \$8,792 to \$20,000.

• Sanitary Landfill, \$770,606, includes an additional truck driver.

• Construction, \$221,920.

• Coroner, \$17,500.

• Courts, \$18,915.

• Non-departmental (includes \$250,000 for merit pay and \$150,000 in contingency), \$1,037,425.

Other additional positions proposed include two clerk-typists and animal control officer in the health department.

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