

Parents Ask For Action On Principal At South

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN
 "It's time something was done about Mr. Lewis," Doug Shaw told the Brunswick County Board of Education Monday night.
 Shaw and his wife appeared at the board meeting to call attention to the recent discovery that South Brunswick High School Principal Mose Lewis had a gun in his briefcase at school one day in June.
 Lewis admitted the briefcase, stolen when two South Brunswick students broke into the building one

night in the closing weeks of the school year, was his. He said he accidentally brought the wrong briefcase to school the day before, and without ever opening it, locked it in the school at the end of the day.
 The next morning he found the briefcase, with several items gone, including his briefcase. Checking his second briefcase at home, he realized the stolen one contained the gun.
 Superintendent Gene Yarbrough was not informed of the gun theft, "because it was personal property,"

Lewis said. "I reported it to the police."
 State law prohibits weapons on school grounds with the exception of law officers.
 The Shaw's said they had reason to confront school officials about the incident. "It was our son who was thrown through a plate glass window by Mose Lewis," Shaw said. "He-Lewis" was convicted of assault last year."
 Shaw noted that news reports quoted Yarbrough as saying he

would decide the seriousness of the matter before bringing it before the board. "I think this is a very serious matter," Shaw declared, "and I've contacted the attorney general about it. If any crimes were committed with that gun, the schools could be liable, and lawsuits against the school involve taxpayers' money."
 Board members emerged from a two-and-a-half-hour executive session following the meeting with grim faces. All had been advised by the school attorney to say nothing about

the matter. Yarbrough admitted the Lewis affair had been discussed.
 "I Lewis joked Tuesday morning that he was 'cleaning out my desk,' but had no word of any disciplinary action from law enforcement of the school system."
 The Shaw's 18-year-old son, Bill, had a confrontation with Lewis outside the school office a year ago. Mrs. Shaw said it was over his re-admission to school, and that the son had "spoke roughly" to Lewis, at which point the principal flung him

into the glass office door.
 In October, 1983, Judge William Gore found him guilty but gave him a prayer for judgment continued. The school system gave him a reprimand.
 "I just hope the publicity over this will at least cause parents to be careful," Mrs. Shaw said after Monday's meeting. "I know kids are dying to deal with sometimes, but be sure to treat them right."
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"DON'T SHOOT ME, I'M JUST THE MESSENGER," said Jeff Martin, left, as 100 angry postal customers shouted at him. In front row center, wearing the white shirt, Mayor Doug Simmons of Calabash, studies the petition he presented to Martin.

Communities Fired Up Over Address Changes

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN
 The presence of firefighting equipment was embarrassing as tempers flared Thursday afternoon in the Sunset Beach fire station. Over 100 residents of Sunset Beach, Ocean Isle Beach and Calabash were there to lambast postal authorities about the change in their addresses.
 Letters went out recently to these patrons of the Shallotte post office, advising they would be required to use Shallotte on the last line of their address, instead of the names of their communities.
 So much concern and anger was generated by this message from Shallotte Postmaster Homer Andrews, Thursday's meeting was arranged with representatives of the regional Fayetteville postal center and the division center in Columbia, S.C.
 From the moment Jeff Martin, manager and postmaster of the Fayetteville center, began trying to explain problems the postal service has with Brunswick County growth, he was repeatedly shouted down. The bottom line, as put by Mary Frances DeBoy of Ocean Isle Beach, was this: "We don't live in Shallotte, so we don't want that as our address."
 Martin said the extreme growth going on in the county is happening all over the county, and the postal service must find a way to continue delivering the mail efficiently and inexpensively. "Lots of you can tell me you've had four different addresses in the last ten years, and that's what we want to avoid in the future," he said.
 When he said, "We've made great strides in the last few years," his voice was overpowered by a chorus of raucous "No's." But he struggled to continue. "We're now going into automation, and the standardization of address formats allows us to deliver mail faster and cheaper."
 He said automation in the Charlotte division office meant an optical character reader (OCR) that scans the last line of an address. "If it reads a 'proper' address, with the town name matching the zip code as listed in our directory of post offices, it's sent right on and you get it the next day."
 If, however, a town name on the last line does not

Optional Sales Tax Draws Mixed Reviews

BY SUSAN USHER
 An optional half-percent sales tax increase drew mixed reactions from ten people at a hearing held Tuesday night by Brunswick County Commissioners.
 Board members said they were surprised at the low turnout.
 Comments from Board of Education personnel and retirees were about equally divided for and against the new tax during the brief session.
 "For we folks on fixed incomes these taxes keep on adding up and our incomes don't," said Pearl Krick, speaking in opposition of the tax on behalf of the nearly 600 members of the Calabash Chapter of American Association of Retired Persons. She was also concerned that the state legislature had not exempted costs from the tax.
 School board member James Clemmons, a retired principal from Leland who said his mother was illiterate, was equally adamant in his support for the tax because of its school funding.
 "I'm retired too, but to where else will you get as much for your tax dollar than in Brunswick County," he said. "We owe it to the children who come after us to provide the best type of education possible. We know their only future in Brunswick County is education."
 He said the remaining funds could be used by the county to finance expansion of the water system.
 Commissioners, whom Chairman Chris Chappell said appear to be leaning toward adoption of the tax, took no action on the proposal Tuesday. He expects the tax to be on their Sept. 2 agenda. More than half the counties statewide have already adopted it.
 Commissioners met privately before and after the hearing to continue a Monday night discussion of a personnel matter.
 Speaking as a private citizen at the hearing, Chappell said if the tax is adopted it should be used to reduce the property tax. "As he said this could be done by using the school's 60 percent to pay off school construction bond indebtedness, and the county's share to meet general fund needs. He said he would willingly campaign for

Water Decisions Dominate Action By Commissioners

BY SUSAN USHER
 A new utilities operation board created by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday night will soon begin overseeing the county's expanding water system.
 Creation of the board was just one of many water system-related items that nearly mandated commissioners Monday night. In other major business, they also authorized planning of a new \$150,000 pumping station south of Shallotte, adopted a new interim water budget good for six months and adopted a revised water user agreement.
 While named "utilities" board to reflect future directions, said District 2 Commissioner Jim Poole Monday, "for the foreseeable future its one and only priority will be water."
 His remarks were in part to reassure several Hick Landing area residents in the audience that water continues as the county's top priority. The group praised the county for establishing the board and including in the budget \$1.1 million for water system lateral expansion.
 Seven men were appointed to the board, as follows:
 •District 1—Ed Gore of Sunset Beach, developer and also chairman of the county planning board, three years;
 •District 2—W. Alfonso Roach of Holden Beach Road, developer, three years;
 •District 3—Morris Crouch of Long Beach, residential builder, three years;
 •District 4—Robert C. Nubel of Boiling Spring Lakes, plant manager at Pizer Chemicals, one year;
 •District 5—Ernest McGee of Leland, a Federal Paperboard Co. employee, one year.
 Serving at large for two years each will be Frank Thomas of Leland, in the mobile office business, and William A. English of Shallotte, in real estate. Thomas, who served two terms as a county commissioner and is a former chairman of the board, also served on the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority. He is giving up an apartment in Wilmington and returning to full-time residency in Brunswick County, he said Tuesday.
 Chairman Chris Chappell said Monday that one reason for English's appointment was to have representation on the board from Shallotte.
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Supply Woman Charged In Embezzlement Case

Reba Atkins, 29, of Supply was indicted last week by a grand jury in Brunswick County Superior Court on a charge of taking \$100,000 from Ballenger Corp. of Supply, where she was employed as office manager. She was arrested Monday and released on \$5,000 bond.
 Detective Sonny Padgett of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department said Ms. Atkins is charged with taking the money in various forms over the last year-and-a-half.
 She is charged with one count of embezzlement and six counts of false pretenses and cheating.
 Padgett said some of the money was taken through checks she wrote on the company, made out to herself or to cash.
 The false pretense and cheating charges come from allegations that Ms. Atkins rented post office boxes in the names of fictitious companies and sent authentically stamped bills to Ballenger from these companies.
 Ballenger officials were not suspicious, Padgett said, because they were making money and business was going well. However, when Ms. Atkins purchased a second computer for the company and took it home for her payroll work, there were questions asked that led to extensive probing into her actions as office manager.
 Her trial is scheduled for Sept. 13 in Brunswick County Superior Court.