

Sheriff Installs Video Camera In Maximum Security Jail Cell

BY RAHN ADAMS

In the wake of the second jail hanging to occur here in just over 12 months, Brunswick County Sheriff John C. Davis last week ordered installation of a video camera in the cell where convicted murderer Rayford Clayton Piver died.

Davis said Monday that workers began installing the camera Friday in the Brunswick County Jail's only maximum security cell. The camera, which was hooked into the jail's present closed-circuit monitor system, was expected to be operational early this week, he said.

"It's something we're going to have to be careful with in that cell,"

Davis said. "But it's something we'll have to use with someone who is suicidal or escape prone."

On the morning of Oct. 25, Piver—a 43-year-old Ash resident who was to be sentenced for first-degree murder later that day—was found hanged to death with a bedsheet in the maximum security cell. Davis said Monday that the death officially has been ruled a suicide.

A preliminary autopsy report from the Regional Medical Examiner's office in Jacksonville listed strangulation as the cause of Piver's death, the sheriff said.

Also, Davis said an SBI investigation conducted last Tuesday "found

nothing to differ" from local authorities' findings that Piver had taken his own life.

Brunswick County Coroner Greg White last week estimated the time of the inmate's death at approximately 5 a.m. on Oct. 25, which was about an hour after Jailer Thomas Gore last checked Piver's cell and found him apparently asleep in his bunk.

According to White, the bedsheet had been fastened behind the upper edge of a square steel plate that covered a window in the cell wall. The window is located above a small metal table, which also is attached to the wall.

Davis said Monday that the SBI in-

vestigation determined that there was "no culpable negligence on the part of the jailer," in connection with Piver's death. Also, a state jail inspector toured the facility Friday at Davis' request and "could find no fault," the sheriff added.

The other recent jail death occurred on Oct. 22, 1987, when 17-year-old Riley Bradford Ridgeway of Shallotte was found hanged to death in his cell. Ridgeway was not being held in the maximum security cell.

Davis earlier had indicated that he probably would not change operating procedures at the jail unless he was instructed to do so as a result of the

SBI investigation into Piver's death. He said Monday that he decided on his own to install the new video camera.

"I just decided to see if I could do it," the sheriff said. "It was not recommended by anybody."

Before installing the camera, Davis last week checked with the N.C. Attorney General's office to make sure the measure did not violate the law.

"The attorney general's office said there are no statutes against it but that we would have to be careful," Davis said, noting that maintaining some degree of privacy for inmates is the main concern.

The jail's current closed-circuit system uses cameras that monitor a dayroom and corridors. The only cell that will be individually monitored is the maximum security cell, Davis said.

He explained that the maximum security cell is different from other cells in that it does not open directly into a cellblock corridor. Also, it is the only cell which contains its own lavatory and toilet facilities. The cell has two bunks.

Davis said the cost of buying and installing the new camera was about \$800. He added that the funds would come from his department's budget.

Holden Board Halts Hearing

A technicality pertaining to time limits on public hearing requests prevented the Holden Beach Board of Adjustments from discussing a situation Monday night which its members agreed needs to be considered.

A public hearing was called for the purpose of reviewing the application and building permit along with other related information on 354 Ocean Boulevard West.

Charles Pahl requested the hearing and in a letter to Building Inspector Dwight Carroll, he outlined several areas which he felt were violations of town code. Among those were visibility at street corners, enclosing a previously unenclosed area and ad-

ditions to non-conforming uses.

After opening this week's meeting, however, board chairman Martin Feldt indicated that there was a problem with the time frame of the hearing request.

According to board of adjustments regulations, an application for public hearing must be submitted no later than 30 days after receiving a written ruling from the building inspector.

In this case, however, appellant Pahl received an inspector's notice on Aug. 8 and did not submit an application for the hearing until Sept. 28. The house in question is located at the corner of Ocean Boulevard and High Point Street and is owned by Kenyon L. Davis of Asheboro.

While stating that the case could not be heard this week, board member Allan Dameron said there is definitely a need to look at the situation and determine if any action needs to be taken.

Agreeing with Dameron, board member Gloria Barrett added, "I don't know how we could bend the rule. That's definitely what it says."

Pahl, who also serves as an alternate on the board of adjustments, agreed that the board could not hold the hearing.

Feldt added later that he did not believe the fact that time ran out on Pahl's hearing request precluded anyone else from calling for a public hearing on the same issues.

Board Seeks Other Member

The Holden Beach Board of Adjustments will ask the town board of commissioners to appoint a new member after one of its regular members violated the three consecutive absence rule.

During a public hearing Monday night, board member Allan Dameron pointed out that Al Bell had missed meetings on Aug. 22 and Sept. 26 in addition to this week's meeting.

Holden Beach Commissioners appointed Bell to a three-year term on the board of adjustments on Aug. 1, but he never took the oath of office.

The board of adjustments includes five regular members and two alternates who sit on the board when needed.

River Pollution, Shared Problem

(Continued From Page 1-A) recommendations," Gilbert said. "Then it will be up to those agencies to decide how far and how fast they will move."

Several of the agency spokespersons agreed that the developer of Lockwood Folly, Channel Side Corp., has tried to work within the system. However, even if the firm follows all the existing regulations on marina development, "the threat is there," said Chuck Wakild of DEM. "It doesn't eliminate the problem completely."

If a problem developed later the marina could conceivably be closed, he said, but only if the state could prove it was the direct source of the problem.

Preston Pate, assistant director of the N.C. Office of Coastal Management, noted that, through the CAMA permitting process the county has the ability to stop any project. Projects must not conflict with the county's land use plan.

Mason Anderson, a principal of Channel Side, acknowledged the firm is beginning "to negotiate" with the state on amending its application for a marina permit to one for dry storage. "We're open to discussing several modifications if the opportunity arises," he added.

Saying lack of communication was part of the problem, Anderson invited those present to visit the development "to look at what we're doing... It's environmentally sound."

Anderson said Channel Side would be willing to help clear up any problem attributed to it, but assured the group that there was no direct runoff from Lockwood Folly development into the river.

Ditches Drain

However, Gilbert later said there was a problem with drainage into the river from adjacent development—at least one ditch feeding into the marsh from Lockwood Folly and several

from River Run Plantation near Sunset Harbor.

River Run was begun before state stormwater regulations went into effect. Lockwood Folly's density, of less than 25 percent area, exempts it from having to have a collection system.

Also, several of the River Run ditches appear to be spring fed, Gilbert said, which means they drain continuously into the river.

While a few ditches would have nominal effect, the cumulative result of 10 or more unloading into the river with very high fecal coliform levels, said Gilbert, could mean less overall dilution and higher counts in the river itself.

Gripes Aired

James Bellamy, chairman of the county's Soil and Water Conservation District board, spoke at length, seeking inclusion in any future talks on water resource protection.

Chris Chappell, the only county commissioner present and general manager of development for Lockwood Folly, suggested state and local government should work together better.

"Why weren't we informed there was a problem before the river closed?" he asked. "We can't do it (work to protect the river) on the local level without your help and these people can't do it without the help of local government."

Varnamtown Mayor Tracie Varnum urged teamwork of another sort.

"We're going to destroy it; we're parasites," the minister cautioned. "If we don't work together to clean up our environment, it's going to clean us out."

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Redwine Faces Challenge

(Continued From Page 1-A)

predicted earlier this year that the 1989 session would be known as "the highway session" because of pressing infrastructure needs in the state's highway system.

A Shallotte native and graduate of East Carolina University, Redwine has also served in the past on the Brunswick Community College Board of Trustees and on the Battleship North Carolina Memorial Commission. He is a former chairman of the Brunswick County Democratic Party.

Assignments in the House have included chairmanship of the Alcoholic Beverage Committee and vice chairmanship of the appropriations base and expansion budget committees on natural and economic resources and marine fisheries. He has held membership on insurance, manufacturing and labor, public utilities, Judiciary III, banks and thrifts and agriculture committees.

ROZELL HEWETT

Hewett was a Democrat when he was elected to a four-year as county

commissioner in 1978. But, saying he was "disillusioned," he has since registered as a Republican.

He's concerned that the county's rapid growth is occurring without regard for preserving the area's natural state.

Much of Hewett's life has related to the river and sea—in the U.S. Navy, as a licensed marine engineer, as a commercial shrimper, boat owner and packing house operator, and in teaching marine occupations for nine years in the Brunswick County Schools.

The county should support development in the interest of economic development, he said, while developers should "take into consideration other people who earn a living in Brunswick County."

Before Lockwood Folly River became an issue in local campaigns, Hewett was campaigning on the need to "keep the Cape Fear and other water avenues clean and productive for the commercial and sports fishing industry."

After five years in Raleigh, Hewett put conditions on Redwine's effec-

tiveness. "I don't see results," he said. "What's he done to help the average family and its pocketbook?"

Along with protecting natural resources, as a legislator he would also like to see regulations changed to provide for more frequent across-the-board property tax revaluations, a toughening of drug laws, immediate funding for additional public access to the waterfront, and a holding of the line on utility rates.

While a county commissioner Hewett served one term as vice chairman. He was chairman during one of his two terms on the Council of Governments.

In 1983 he chaired the Shallotte Point Water Committee, which fought unsuccessfully to obtain county water service for that community. Shallotte Point was identified by a regional study as having a high priority need for a public water supply.

Discussing his campaign, Hewett said local people need to regain from "special interest groups" their control of government at all levels.

Rainy Weather Is Forecast

The Shallotte area is expected to receive slightly more precipitation than normal over the next few days, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Canady said that the area should receive about three-quarters of an inch of rain through the weekend. About one-half inch of rain is normal for this time of year.

The short-range outlook, however, calls for temperatures to be near normal, ranging from the upper 40s at night to the upper 60s during the day, Canady said.

During the period of Oct. 25 through 31, the average daily temperature in the Shallotte area was 60 degrees, which Canady said was normal.

The average daily high temperature was 70 degrees, and the average daily low temperature was 50 degrees.

The maximum high temperature during the period was 79 degrees, occurring on Oct. 28. The minimum low temperature was 42 degrees, occurring on Oct. 25.

Canady measured .32 of an inch of rain during the seven-day period.

Access Facility On Hold

(Continued From Page 1-A)

to buy trash receptacles.

Local matching funds of \$12,000 will come from the county, said Rhett, and will pay for construction of a concrete boat ramp and concrete pad at the top of the ramp.

The Town of Long Beach will also receive state assistance toward improved beach access, with a neighborhood access area proposed for 54th Place West that is similar to the one at Ocean Isle.

According to Town Manager Gary

Britt, the access area will include a dune crossover with a deck and sitting area at the top of the dune. State monies totaling \$4,940 will be combined with \$1,519 in town funds for a total project cost of \$6,459.

Britt said residents in the neighborhood pushed hard for the beach access area and worked this summer to get the end of the street dedicated to the town so there would be no land acquisition costs involved.

With state grants, local contributions and in-kind donations, the three

projects are expected to cost \$126,087.

NRCD Secretary Thomas Rhodes was expected to announce the grant awards in person earlier this week. He had scheduled a stop in Navassa on Tuesday afternoon and at Long Beach and Ocean Isle Beach Wednesday morning. A Wednesday afternoon ceremony had originally been scheduled for Sunset Beach but was called off Monday.

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