

Shallotte's Growing Pains

Town officials eye annexation requests and a proposed zoning territory as they grapple with steady growth. Page 6-A.

Sunset Beach Listens

Council members hear offer of free life-guard services in exchange for a beach concession. Page 7-A.

Bedding Down At Holden

Commissioners put building inspector on the alert for camouflaged bedrooms. Details on page 12-A.

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LOCAL HUNTER THOMAS INMAN shows off his newest blue tick coon hound, Blue, auctioned off for \$260 Friday at the Brunswick County Animal Shelter. STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

Senator Proposes Legislation To 'Tax' Illegal Drug Dealers

BY RAHN ADAMS

Illegal drug dealers would be looking over their shoulders at taxmen as well as lawmen under a bill filed last week by a state legislator who has been keeping an eye on Brunswick County's drug trade.

19th District Sen. Robert G. Shaw, a Greensboro resident and Holden Beach property owner, last Wednesday introduced legislation that would impose an excise tax on controlled substances. "It's just another way to give them (drug dealers) problems," Shaw told the Beacon Monday. He added that he also intends to file a companion bill this week which would ensure that major drug traffickers serve active prison time.

The senator's tax bill calls for levies of approximately \$100 per ounce of marijuana and \$200 per gram of cocaine and other controlled substances. Dealers who do not pay the tax—which they could do anonymously—within 48 hours of obtaining the illegal drugs would be

subject to the tax, an additional penalty equal to the tax, imprisonment of up to five years and a fine.

"What I like about it is that it will bypass the judicial system," Shaw said. "In many cases, the judges are not giving them (drug dealers) the mandatory minimum fine." He added that he became aware of that situation from reading the Beacon's accounts of drug prosecutions in Brunswick County over the past couple of years.

In 1987 and 1988, Brunswick County investigative grand juries indicted 84 individuals on drug trafficking charges. According to court records, only two of the 65 defendants who have been sentenced so far have been ordered to pay mandatory minimum fines—\$50,000 for 28-gram cocaine trafficking counts, \$100,000 for 200-gram counts and \$250,000 for 400-gram counts.

The two defendants were Alvin Bryan Willis III of Shallotte, who was fined \$250,000 on one count of conspiracy to traffic in more than 400 grams of cocaine; and Rocky Robinson of Supply, who was fined \$200,000 on two counts each of conspiracy to traffic and trafficking in more than 28 grams of cocaine. Both men also received mandatory minimum

prison terms of 35 years and 28 years respectively.

Under current state law, a judge can give drug traffickers sentences that are lighter than the mandatory minimum prison terms and fines, if the defendant has provided "substantial assistance" to investigators. The Willis and Robinson cases have been the only ones so far in which no findings of substantial assistance were made.

Shaw noted that drug arrests have been on the increase in North Carolina over the past three years, with approximately 16,000 arrests in 1986, 19,000 in 1987 and 22,000 in 1988. He estimated that the proposed excise tax and penalties would have raised approximately \$400 million last year across the state.

For example, three local men who pleaded guilty to cocaine trafficking charges last year each would have owed more than \$100,000 in taxes, if Shaw's proposed law had been in effect.

Olaf Dale Varnam of Supply, who pleaded guilty to 18 trafficking-level possession counts involving at least 2,364 grams of cocaine, would have owed \$472,800 in taxes at a rate of \$200 per gram. Clarence Virgil (See SENATOR, Page 2-A)

Smuggler's Hound Sniffing Out Coons Again

BY RAHN ADAMS

Old Blue has something to howl about again.

After spending 15 long months in the "pen," the hunting dog that got into trouble for being the wrong Florida man's best friend left the Brunswick County Animal Shelter Friday and didn't look back.

Sold at public auction, the four-year-old trained blue tick coon hound—once owned by convicted cocaine trafficker Larry Charles Green of Starke, Fla.—went to high-bidder Thomas Inman of Shallotte for \$260. A trained hound can be worth up to \$5,000.

According to Brunswick County Chief Civil Deputy Liston Hawes, six prospective buyers participated in the auction Friday afternoon at the animal shelter. Hawes opened the bidding at \$70—the amount the county had spent to advertise the sale.

Although Blue's actual value was questionable because his registration couldn't be verified, he was worth exactly \$1,509.50 to Animal Control Supervisor Zelma Babson, who had tallied up the animal's 15-month boarding and medical bill.

However, due to the low sale price, Animal Control had no choice but to mark \$1,319.50 off the dog's bill and

wish him the best. Proceeds from the sale—minus expenses—would have gone to the Brunswick County Board of Education, as do all drug forfeitures.

Inman, a local coon hunter who already owned four blue tick hounds before buying Blue, said he heard about the auction from a relative, then read an article about the dog in last week's Beacon. He added that he planned to run the dog for the first time on Monday.

When asked if he thought \$260 was a bargain price for the coon hound, Inman simply replied, "I'll let you know Monday."

BILL STALLS IN COMMITTEE

Redwine Proposes Consolidation Of Calabash And Carolina Shores

BY DOUG RUTTER

Legislative committee action on a bill to incorporate Carolina Shores was postponed last week when State Rep. David Redwine introduced a proposal aimed at easing growing tension between the community and its neighboring town, Calabash.

Redwine said he asked representatives of the two southwestern Brunswick County communities to work out an agreement whereby both areas would be included in the Town of Calabash.

"We have asked that the folks at Carolina Shores and the folks at Calabash sit down and talk about consolidating the whole area into one town instead of there being two," said Redwine. "The bill is on hold until they have enough time to see if they can work it out."

The incorporation bill was scheduled to go to a vote last Wednesday in the Local Government II Committee,

but Redwine said action was postponed at his request and that of state Sen. R.C. Soles. Legislative committee chairperson Edith Lutz of Lawndale could not be reached for comment this week.

When contacted Monday by telephone, Carolina Shores Property

Owners Association President Robert Cook refused to comment on the record about consolidation, and POA Manager Robert Noe said he knew nothing of the proposal.

According to Calabash Mayor Doug Simmons, however, Carolina (See CONSOLIDATION, Page 2-A)

Shallotte Clerk Resigns

Shallotte Town Clerk Cynthia Long resigned Tuesday, one day before town aldermen were to consider her continued employment with the town.

She had been suspended without pay on March 22 and given an opportunity to appear before the aldermen in a hearing. The hearing would have been held Wednesday had it been requested by the clerk, but aldermen will likely accept her resignation instead.

Mrs. Long, town clerk since July 7, 1982, said she dropped a resignation letter off at town hall Tuesday and that she was resigning for personal reasons. "It's just something that I

wanted to do," she said. While refusing to comment specifically on the suspension, she said it did not have anything to do with town finances. Mayor Jerry Jones and town aldermen refused to discuss reasons for the suspension following the action last month and could not be reached for comment Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Long, an employee of the town for nearly 15 years, had been earning an annual salary of \$17,160 at the time of her suspension.

Since the action, Assistant Clerk Mary Etta Hewett has been serving as interim town clerk. She has worked in town hall nearly seven years.

Lockwood Folly Report Says Septic Tanks 'Probably' Pollution Source

BY DOUG RUTTER

Septic tanks are pinpointed as the most probable source of pollutants in Lockwood Folly River in a preliminary water quality report by the N.C. Division of Environmental Management.

Of five potential sources of coliform bacteria—an indicator of pollution—malfunctioning septic tanks were tagged as the leader, contradicting an earlier study conducted by another state agency.

Other bacteria sources listed were surface wastewater discharge, animal waste, stormwater runoff and influx from the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

However, in addition to citing "septic tanks and possibly urban stormwater runoff" as the major sources of bacteria in the river, the report also recommends that a more intensive study be conducted to confirm the relative importance of the various bacteriological sources.

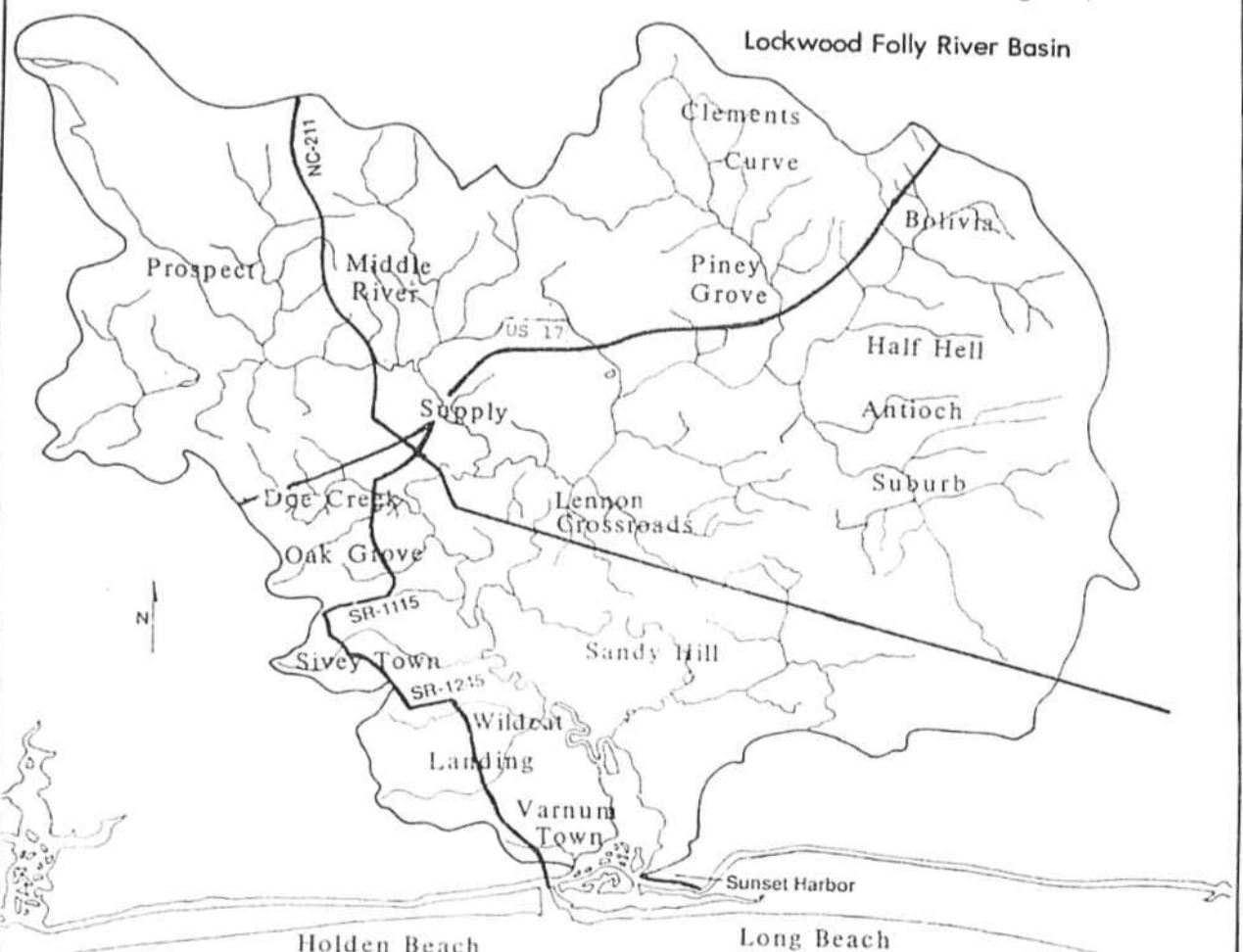
The draft evaluates the decline in water quality in the Lockwood Folly River Basin and offers suggestions

to state and local government agencies and the public aimed at protecting and enhancing water quality and reversing the trend of areas being closed to shellfishing. The study is an outgrowth of a public meeting held in Bolivia last October at which several state agencies were represented.

The report goes on to suggest that 1) (if additional study confirms) failed septic tanks as the source of pollution and 2) reopening shellfish waters has a high priority, then the county and state need to consider establishing sanitary districts or similar wastewater management systems to serve the rapidly-developing lower portion of the basin—the Varnamtown-Sunset Harbor area.

As of December 1988, 71 percent of the available shellfish acres in the river area were closed to harvest because of pollution. Since last August, more than 650 acres of the 1,650 total acres have been shut down temporarily.

The report also pinpoints stormwater runoff and (See POLLUTION, Page 2-A)



LOCKWOOD FOLLY RIVER BASIN includes approximately 88,600 acres, or approximately 15 percent of the land in Brunswick County. Most of the acreage is forest or wetland, with development concentrated near

Bolivia, Supply, Varnamtown and Sunset Harbor. Soils in the watershed "generally have severe limitations for septic tank use," according to a state study.