

AT CALABASH

Commissioner Will Resign To Take Post

BY DOUG RUTTER
Calabash Commissioner Ed Schaack will resign from the town board and begin work Friday as the town's building inspector instead.

Town commissioners voted Tuesday unanimously to hire Schaack as building inspector and code enforcement officer, provided he resign from the town board.

"We're thinking it's a conflict of interest," Mayor Doug Simmons said of the condition placed on the hiring.

Contacted at his home Tuesday night, Schaack said he will resign to take the paid position with the town. He said he decided to apply for the job after taking office as commissioner and seeing the need for code enforcement.

"I felt, with my background, I could better serve the town as inspector and code enforcement officer," he said. "This is such a big need for the town."

Schaack will start work Friday when the probationary term of Calabash's present building inspector, Frank Adams, expires. Adams was hired two years ago, but has not received the certification necessary to continue serving the town.

Calabash Commissioners plan to fill the vacant seat on the town board at their Feb. 13 meeting. Since Schaack lives in Carolina Shores (District II), the town commission will have to appoint a Carolina Shores resident to fill the vacancy.

Schaack was one of three applicants interviewed during a 90-minute executive session Tuesday, but he did not take part in the selection process. Town officials said he was chosen from a field of 12 applicants based on his qualifications.

Schaack has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and has been involved in construction all of his professional life. He said he plans to take state certification tests as soon as possible.

The building inspector, who also serves as code enforcement officer in Calabash, works on a part-time basis. The inspector is paid a percentage of the fees he collects.

Commissioner Jon Sanborn was the only board member absent Tuesday.

German Shepherd Puppies Available

Two female mixed German shepherd puppies are among the best available this week at the Brunswick County Animal Shelter.

A pair of male, domestic short hair cats are also among the "Pets of the Week."

These and other animals can be seen weekdays from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Brunswick County Animal Shelter located off N.C. 211 south of Supply.

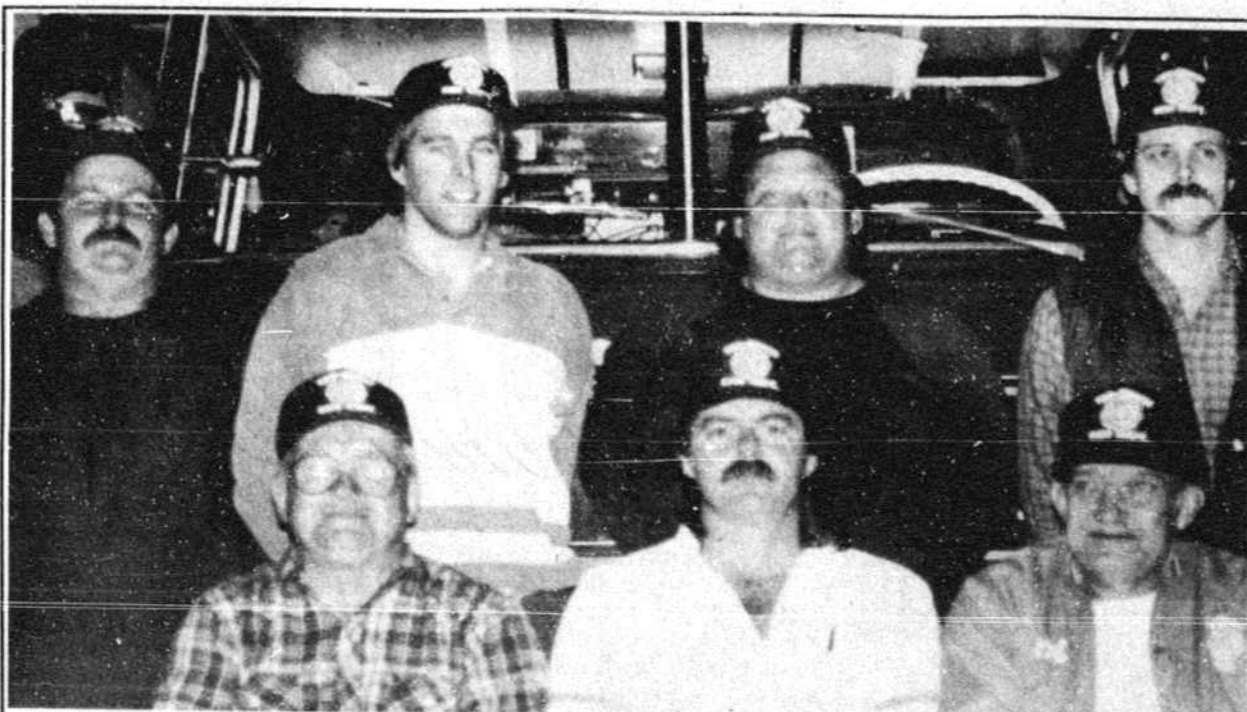
County Nominates Eight For Governor's Schools

Eight students have been nominated by the Brunswick County Schools to attend Governor's School this summer.

The students, all rising juniors or seniors, were chosen from among 43 students nominated from the county's three high schools.

From West Brunswick the nominees are sophomores Nancy McGee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred McGee of Supply, natural science, and Terrance Nawara, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Nawara of Calabash, math.

From South Brunswick the nominees are Samuel Kirby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kirby of Southport, 10th, natural science; Kyle Monday, 11th, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curt Pack of Boiling Spring Lakes, social science; Aaron Clemmons, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Clemmons of Southport, 11th, math; John (Don) Shannon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Shannon of Long



Tri-Beach Board Elected

During last week's annual meeting, Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department elected its new board of directors. Elected (above) were, from left, front, Roland Varnam, William Smith and Bob Smith; back, president Curtis Todd, vice-president Johnny Craig, secretary Timmy Phelps and treasurer Keith Sawyer. Todd was also named Tri-Beach fireman of the year.



Honored For Service

Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department (serving the greater Holden Beach area) honored four members for distinguished service during last week's annual meeting. They are (at right) from left, front, Johnny Lockamy and Mack Phelps, both for 20 years of service; back, Roland Varnam, 20 years of service, and Robert Norton, rookie of the year.

Strickland Appeals Federal Prison Sentence in 'Murder-For-Hire' Case

BY RAHN ADAMS
A Brunswick County man who admitted plotting to kill his wife, District Attorney Mike Easley and two local lawmen are appealing an active federal prison sentence he received Jan. 23 in U.S. District Court, Fayetteville.

Judge W. Earl Britt sentenced Lloyd Neill Strickland, 38, of Winabow, to a nine-year, seven-month prison term for one count of using the mail in the attempted murder-for-hire scheme, according to U.S. Assistant District Attorney John Bruce.

A spokesperson for the U.S. District Clerk of Court's office in Raleigh said last Thursday that Strickland appealed the federal sentence, which is to run at the expiration of consecutive 15-year and 10-year prison terms he is serving for drug-trafficking and murder solicitation convictions in Brunswick County.

In June 1989, the defendant was named in a 14-count federal indictment charging that he mailed 13 letters from the N.C. Department of Corrections facility in Burgaw, in an attempt to hire a hit man to kill Barbara Strickland, Easley, SBI Special Agent Corey Duber and Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Lindsay Walton.

Strickland pleaded guilty in October 1989 to one of the 14 counts and faced a possible maximum prison term of 10 years, Bruce said. The usual prison sentence for the charge against Strickland is no more than eight years; however, the prosecution asked Britt to hand down a stiffer sentence in Strickland's case, the attorney noted.

Strickland was one of 32 individuals indicted on cocaine-trafficking charges in June 1987 by the first investigative grand jury in Brunswick County and the state. He later received a 15-year prison term on the drug charges.

In February 1989, Strickland was sentenced in Brunswick County Superior Court to an additional 10 years in prison for attempting to have his wife killed.

SBI Special Agent J.R. Freeman, who had posed as a professional killer to trap Strickland, testified in Superior Court that the U.S. Attorney's office authorized the sting operation at the Burgaw prison unit in December 1988, after authorities

heard that the defendant "was looking for a hit man."

The agent testified that Strickland agreed to pay \$25,000 to have Easley and Duber killed, and \$10,000 apiece for Mrs. Strickland and Walton's murders.

Strickland told the agent that he wanted his wife killed because she wouldn't bring their children to visit him in prison and because she was "taking all of his property," Freeman said in court.

Easley supervised the prosecution of Strickland's 1987 drug case. Duber, assigned to a DEA/SBI task force in Wilmington, was a lead agent in the 1987 investigative grand jury drug probe. Walton was involved in the local investigation of the initial murder solicitation charge against Strickland.

Six Students Suffer Minor Injuries In Bus Accident

Six West Brunswick High School students were slightly injured last Thursday morning when their school bus collided with a car in the Grisetown area, according to Highway Patrol spokesperson Ruby Oakley.

The accident happened last Thursday at 7:25 a.m., 5.4 miles south of Shallotte on Old Shallotte Road, and involved a bus driven by Sadie Mae Webster, 41, of Longwood, and a 1987 Dodge driven by Bulah Hill Bellamy, 36, of Ash.

Ms. Oakley said both vehicles were traveling north on Old Shallotte Road, when the Bellamy auto passed the bus and then stopped in the roadway, causing the bus to run into the rear end of the car. Ms. Bellamy told Trooper W.H. Thompson that she was trying to stop the bus, Ms. Oakley added.

Ms. Bellamy and the six students all complained of minor injuries and were taken to The Brunswick Hospital at Supply for treatment. Ms. Webster and 18 other passengers on the school bus were not hurt.

The injured students were identified as Heather Stanley, 15, James Daniel, 16, and Taylia Marlowe, 17, all of Shallotte; Alicia Smith, 16, and Jenny Hill, 18, both of Ash; and Cynthia Williams, 17, of Longwood.

Thompson charged Ms. Bellamy with an unsafe movement violation. Damages were estimated at \$2,000 to the Bellamy car and \$50 to the bus.

In another local traffic mishap last week, a South Carolina man was seriously injured in a two-car wreck Friday in northern Brunswick County.

Ms. Oakley said the collision occurred Friday at 3 p.m., 3.6 miles south of Wilmington on U.S. 74's southbound ramp to U.S. 17. Drivers were George Cornelius Granger, 41, of Castle Hayne, and Earl Henry Thompson, 66, of Murrells Inlet, S.C.

The wreck happened when Granger tried to change from the ramp's left to right lanes in his 1984 Fiat and struck Thompson's 1990 Subaru, causing it to hit the guardrail.

Thompson suffered incapacitat-

ing injuries and was taken by ambulance to New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington for treatment. Granger was not hurt.

No charges were filed in the wreck, although Trooper B.L. Wilkes indicated that the accident resulted from an unsafe movement by Granger, Ms. Oakley said. Damages were estimated at \$3,000 to the Thompson car, \$500 to the Granger auto and \$500 to the guardrail.

Monday, in Shallotte, the driver of an ice cream truck was charged with failure to stop at a red light following a two-vehicle accident.

The wreck happened at 11:30 a.m. Monday at the intersection of U.S. 17 and Shallotte Avenue and involved a Pine State Ice Cream truck and a 1986 Ford Thunderbird, according to a Shallotte police report.

Larry Daniel James, 40, of Greenville, S.C., was driving the ice cream truck south on U.S. 17; Julianne Maureen Hancock, 43, of Shallotte was traveling north on U.S. 17 in the Ford.

The 1984 truck collided with the Ford when Mrs. Hancock attempted to make a left turn from U.S. 17 onto Shallotte Avenue. Shallotte Patrolman Kathy McDonald charged James with running a red light.

Mrs. Hancock was taken to The Brunswick Hospital. James was not injured.

The Ford sustained about \$3,000 in damage, while damage to the truck was estimated at \$300.

Repairs Close N.C. 133 Bridge

The Jackey's Creek bridge on N.C. 133 is closed through Friday (Feb. 2) for emergency repairs, according to the N.C. Department of Transportation. Work on the bridge was to begin Wednesday (Jan. 31).

Only local traffic is allowed on N.C. 133 while repairs are underway. Through traffic between the Leland and Southport areas is detoured on U.S. 17 and N.C. 87. Length of the detour is 21.8 miles.



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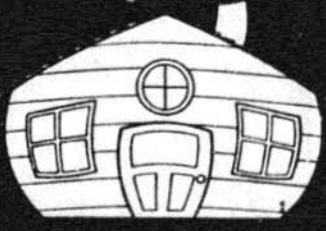
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