



DEAN WALTERS, president of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, signs the agreement between the N.C. Department of Transportation and governing operation of the visitors center. Looking on (from left) are State Transportation Secretary Tommy Harrelson, Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce President Margaret Rudd, and Wilmington Chamber of Commerce executive Joe Augustine.

Welcome Center To Open With Bypass

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ready served 200,000 visitors, Walters said, adding that he expects the local center to be just as popular.

"It was a logical choice that we put a welcome center in here," he said, citing Brunswick's status as the second-fastest-growing county in North Carolina, behind Dare. "People are not always aware of what this area has to offer. We have the best beaches, the friendliest people and the largest number of golf courses per square mile."

Walters said additional coastal counties will be invited to help support and operate the welcome center, as well as use it to promote features and attractions in their communities.

Speaking on behalf of the Brunswick County Commissioners, Chairman Gene Pinkerton described the center as "very exciting" and a boon to the tourism industry.

"Hopefully it will be one of the best things that has

happened in Brunswick County in a long time," he said.

The welcome center and bypass are part of a larger project, the four-laning of U.S. 17 from the Virginia to the South Carolina line. Work in Brunswick County is scheduled for completion during the 1993 federal fiscal year.

The welcome center was initially approved approximately four years ago when Rep. E. David Redwine worked out a cooperative agreement with the N.C. Department of Transportation.

The agreement was momentarily jeopardized last year when Redwine co-sponsored a bill in the General Assembly that would have taken money from the personal license tag fund to help operate the three regional centers. The tag money is set aside for the state's roadside beautification program, which former Transportation Secretary James Harrington described as "very popular" with visitors.

Bellamy's Appointment Triggers Rift

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Holden was the only commissioner to oppose Bellamy's appointment April 16. The former clerk of court was nominated by Commissioner Benny Ludlum, who said after the commissioners meeting that he felt Bellamy deserved a chance to serve on the RDC because he had "paid his debt," in reference to the 1987 drug case. Bellamy spent 16 months on probation after his guilty plea.

In Radcliffe's letter of resignation, which was received last Wednesday, he stated, "The recent decision to appoint to the Resources Development Commission an individual who has been criminally convicted for the possession of illicit drugs will, I believe, fail to represent the very best that Brunswick County has to offer to employers, and the appointment will certainly fail to enhance our standing as an area that presents a wholesome environment for the families of prospective employees."

Radcliffe told the *Beacon* last Thursday that he did not consult with any other RDC or county officials before he decided to resign. "I do not know that man (Bellamy)," Radcliffe said. "I have nothing in a personal sense that in any way, shape or form would be a critical statement about him. . . . (Bellamy's appointment) made a statement to me vis-a-vis the value of that board (RDC) to the county."

Williams said last Thursday that RDC members V.A. Creech, Dennis Crocker and Jerry D. Willets also had called the office and expressed concern about the appointment; however, no other resignations were tendered. Williams, who also serves

on the board, added Friday, "We're all sort of sitting tight to see what happens."

The RDC was scheduled to meet in executive session Tuesday night (April 24) to pick finalists for the commission's executive director post, which has been vacant since the resignation of Michael de Sherbinin two months ago. Williams said Bellamy's appointment could not be a topic of discussion since the special meeting was called to discuss the director's job.

RDC Chairman Baxter Stirling commented Sunday that he had not talked to Bellamy about the controversy. "I think we have a really good board, and I'm disappointed in the dissension it has caused," Stirling said. However, he added, "I don't think you can keep a man down all his life for a past mistake." Commissioners Chairman Gene Pinkerton, who had nominated Radcliffe for an RDC seat in March 1989, said Friday he felt Radcliffe "possibly reacted too quickly" to Bellamy's appointment. "I was a little disappointed, and I told him so," Pinkerton continued.

Pinkerton said he does not plan to raise the appointment issue before the county commission, even though "10 out of 12" calls he had received about the matter were negative and even though he would oppose Bellamy's appointment if another vote were called.

"This is Benny's little red wagon," said Pinkerton, noting that Ludlum has been outspoken in favor of commissioners being able to make their own district appointments.

Meanwhile, Ludlum said Sunday he does not intend to remove Bellamy from the RDC, because tele-

phone calls he has received support Bellamy's appointment "eight to one."

"They (callers) have told me they appreciate me giving him (Bellamy) a chance," Ludlum said, later adding, "My decision was made the night I made the appointment. It's over, as far as I'm concerned."

Beacon Notes Staff Changes

Two staff changes take effect at *The Brunswick Beacon* this week.

Bob Horne of Lumberton joins the staff as managing editor, publisher Edward Sweatt announced Monday, while staff writer Rahn Adams is resigning to return to college full time.



HORNE, 48, has 25 years of experience in the newspaper business. For the past seven years he has served as editor of *The Robesonian*, a daily newspaper in Lumberton. His previous experience includes 5 1/2 years as managing editor of *The Enquirer-Journal* in Monroe, a year as news editor of *The Courier-Tribune* in Asheville and 11 years in sports. Horne was a sports writer for *The Fayetteville Observer* and *The Raleigh Times* and was sports editor for *The Daily News* in Jacksonville.

Adams, a resident of Ocean Isle Beach, has covered all phases of county government since joining *The Beacon* staff in August 1987. He will be enrolling this summer at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, with plans to earn a bachelor's degree in English education.

Nearly 27,000 Are Registered

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licans. One voter claims no party affiliation.

The county's southernmost precinct, Shingletree, in the Calabash area, is its largest, with 2,461 registered voters. It also is the only precinct in which registered Republicans outnumber registered Democrats, 1,182 to 1,129.

While registration for the primaries has closed, absentee ballots will be issued through 5 p.m. May 1 to voters who know they will be out of town or otherwise unable to go to the polls on May 8. The Brunswick County Board of Elections office is located at the government center in Bolivia.

Profiles of all candidates with primary races will be featured in next week's edition of *The Brunswick Beacon*, along with a list of polling places.

County Grand Jury Indicts Crummy, McGhee In Shooting

A Wilmington man now serving time in Central Prison in Raleigh on multiple cocaine trafficking convictions was indicted by a Brunswick County Grand Jury Monday on four counts stemming from an April 8 shooting incident outside a Brunswick County nightspot.

The grand jury returned true bills of indictment Monday charging David Crummy, 28, with one count each of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and discharging a weapon into an occupied dwelling, and two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury.

Crummy's half-brother, John McGhee, 28, also of Wilmington, was indicted on two counts in relation to the same shooting incident. He will be tried on charges of assault with a deadly weapon, inflicting serious injury, and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury.

The charges against Crummy and McGhee stem from a fight and shooting incident outside Club Valentino in Phoenix in which four individuals—including a witness in the Crummy drug trial—were injured.

In all, the grand jury returned true bills indicting 14 defendants on 39 counts.

Trial of the charges against Crummy and McGhee will be scheduled in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Crummy was arrested April 8 by New Hanover County and SBI officers at a relative's residence in Wilmington. McGhee was arrested later.

At the time of Crummy's arrest, a month-long trial was drawing to a close in New Hanover County Superior Court in which he faced conviction on 53 counts of cocaine trafficking. Crummy is presently serving sentences totaling more than 200 consecutive years. McGhee is being held in the Brunswick County Jail.

The grand jury also returned true bills of indictment against these defendants, as follows:

- Romel Anemont, trafficking in cocaine by transportation; maintaining a dwelling or motor vehicle for the keeping or sale of a controlled substance; trafficking in cocaine by conspiracy, involving more than 400 grams; and trafficking by possession of more than 400 grams of cocaine;
- Rodney Cornelius Bannerman, larceny and possession of stolen goods;
- Tracy Gail Coring, possession of a Schedule I controlled substance;
- Christopher S. Freeman, robbery with a dangerous weapon; first degree burglary and larceny of a motor vehicle;
- Sergeant Hypolite, conspiracy, conspiracy to traffic in more than 400 grams of cocaine; and two counts trafficking in more than 400 grams of cocaine;
- Ricky Allen King, breaking and/or entering and larceny;
- Roscoe Roberts III, three counts taking indecent liberties with a child, three counts of first-degree rape of a child and three counts of incest;
- Robert Deon Smith, possession with intent to manufacture, sell and deliver marijuana; maintaining a dwelling or motor vehicle for the keeping or sale of cocaine;
- Jean Lesly Sylvain, trafficking in cocaine by transportation, trafficking in cocaine by possession of more than 400 grams, conspiracy to traffic in more than 400 grams of cocaine;
- Larry Edward Watson, discharging a weapon into an occupied dwelling;
- Nicholas Lewie Webb, larceny of a motor vehicle, first-degree burglary and robbery with a dangerous weapon; and
- Franklin Eugene Young Jr., forgery.

Holden Beach May Get Liquor Store

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meeting set for Tuesday, May 1, at 4 p.m. at the county commissioners chambers in Bolivia.

The board also set regular meeting dates for the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Meetings will begin at 4 p.m. in the commissioners chambers.

Final location of a county ABC store will be the decision of the N.C. ABC Commission in Raleigh. The county board members noted that after a location is selected locally, a sign must be posted for 30 days to identify the property as a prospective ABC store site. The public has that period to comment to the state ABC commission about the location.

For the past month, the county ABC board has sought a merger with an established ABC system in order to allow businesses within the county's jurisdiction to apply for mixed drink permits for the upcoming tourist season. Another reason for the push to merge was that county restaurants' brown-bagging permits expire April 30 and cannot be renewed under state law.

The first ABC system officially approached by the county was Boiling Spring Lakes ABC, which is the smallest system in the county and is located closest to Bolivia. However, Boiling Spring Lakes town commissioners rejected a proposed merger agreement April 16.

Town officials said they disagreed mainly with the county having a 3-2 advantage in voting members on the merged ABC board and with the town having to bear all operating expenses as long as those expenses did not rise.

Even after Boiling Spring Lakes had vetoed the merger proposal ear-

"We don't want to hold this thing off any longer than we have to."

—Clyde Babson
ABC board member

lier in the day, Brunswick County Commissioners approved the terms of the merger agreement April 16, to facilitate a merger with Boiling Spring Lakes ABC or any other municipal ABC system.

On a motion by Ramsey, the county ABC board Tuesday voted unanimously to recommend to county commissioners that they rescind the "open invitation" for any municipal system to merge with the county system, since a merger undoubtedly would increase the amount of money needed to start a new county store.

Estimated cost of opening a new store is \$136,000, said Mrs. Vereen. As a result, the board members also decided to solicit financing proposals from local banks through Monday and to pick an accountant at the May 1 meeting to handle the system's finances. Members indicated they prefer to open a \$150,000 line of credit, rather than obtain a straight loan for that amount.

Passage of last November's countywide ABC referendum and previous votes in individual municipalities already allow mixed drink permits to be obtained by eligible businesses in towns where ABC stores are located.

Towns with ABC stores include Belville, Boiling Spring Lakes, Calabash, Long Beach, Ocean Isle Beach, Shallotte, Southport, Sunset Beach and Yaupon Beach. Special state legislation also allows mixed drink sales at Bald Head Island.

However, businesses in the county's remaining municipalities and unincorporated area cannot obtain mixed drink permits until the county establishes its own ABC store or merges with an existing system. State law requires a business to buy its liquor from the ABC system whose territory covers that business.

The county ABC board members initially shopped around for a merger, because state ABC officials told them that establishing a county ABC store would take up to six months. Also, cost estimates of starting a county store range from \$136,000 if a building were leased, to more than \$250,000 if a new building were constructed.

Ramsey and Babson expressed frustration Tuesday with the state ABC commission's recommendations to seek a merger with Boiling Spring Lakes ABC. "They didn't know how to go about doing it," Ramsey said, adding that no voluntary ABC mergers have ever been accomplished in the state.

"We don't want to hold this thing off any longer than we have to," Babson remarked later. "We've got people out there depending on us to move on with this."

Last month, both state and local ABC officials said several Holden Beach area businesses had inquired about the availability of mixed drink permits. However, Babson said Tuesday that only one Holden Beach restaurant had contacted him personally about the matter.

County Seeks Landfill Expansion

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County landfill that was recently built.

Over the past few months that Tucker has been on board as county engineer, the central landfill has undergone a facelift, in part the result of state requirements. In early February, the N.C. Division of Solid Waste Management notified Brunswick County that the landfill was in violation of erosion control regulations.

Under Tucker's guidance, the county has worked to correct the erosion problems in order to avoid a possible administrative penalty of up to \$5,000 per day for continued violations of state solid-waste laws.

The most obvious evidence of corrective efforts is that the completed section of the landfill—which Tucker said once looked like "a desert"—is seeded in grass and now resembles a county park more than it resembles a garbage dump.

The engineer noted that the violations were found by Guyton in late January, after Tucker requested an on-site inspection. Tucker said the only corrective action the county has yet to complete is a "closure plan," which must be submitted to the state by June 1.

The closure plan for the landfill is "directly related to Tucker's formula for extending the facility's life and for meeting upcoming requirements of Senate Bill 111, a state measure which Guyton described as one of the most comprehensive sol-

id-waste management acts in the United States.

"We're just trying to figure out how to complete the landfill to the existing plan," Tucker said, noting a plan that received state approval in 1983.

The old plan allows for an 18-foot rise in slope elevation from the perimeter of the landfill to the center of the site, a situation that would give the landfill property a conical shape, Tucker said.

However, he observed that past management procedures haven't utilized "vertical air space" that remains available and have used up dirt from the site that must be used to cover layers of garbage.

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