

## Shallotte Fees To Rise

Some merchants will be paying more for the right to do business in Shallotte starting July 1. For the details, see Page 6-A.



## Jackson Wins Tourney

Jimmy Jackson of Fayetteville won the Shallotte Point VFD Flounder Tournament with this eight-pounder. The story and photos are on Page 11-B.

## Share Your Opinion

The public is encouraged to submit public comments on Mobil's proposal to drill an exploratory well off the N.C. coast. See Page 9-C.

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## SUPREME COURT WILL BE ASKED TO REVIEW LOT 1-A CASE

# Court Of Appeals Agrees: Sunset Lot Should Remain Open

BY SUSAN USHER

The legal battle over Lot 1-A isn't over, despite a unanimous decision by the N.C. Court of Appeals last week that affirms with one modification a 1988 trial court ruling that the oceanfront lot at Sunset Beach is a public right-of-way for beach access.

"Plaintiffs are in our opinion entitled to have the 100-foot-wide extension of Sunset Boulevard left open," wrote Judge Sarah Parker in the unanimous decision filed June 5.

Jim Maxwell, attorney for the plaintiffs, Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association and several individual property owners, said simply, "We're delighted."

John W. Narron of Raleigh, an attorney for Sunset

*"Plaintiffs are in our opinion entitled to have the 100-foot-wide extension of Sunset Boulevard left open."*

—Judge Sarah Parker  
N.C. Court of Appeals

Beach & Twin Lakes, owner of the lot, said the defendants would petition before the deadline for a "writ of certiorari" from the N.C. Supreme Court—an order commanding the appeals court to send up a record of

the proceedings for the purpose of judicial review.

"We feel the decision is in error and we feel the Supreme Court will overturn it," Narron said. "The purpose for which the street was offered—vehicular access to the beach—no longer exists, therefore it should be closed, and the street was never accepted for dedication."

There is no automatic right of appeal to the state Supreme Court following a unanimous decision; the higher court agrees to review such cases at its discretion.

The case involves the ownership and use of "Lot 1-A," located south of the intersection of Main Street and Sunset Boulevard. The lawsuit was filed in 1985 by the

Sunset Beach Taxpayers' Association (SBTA) against Sunset Beach & Twin Lakes Inc., a business owned by developer Ed Gore and family. Gore is also mayor pro-tem of Sunset Beach.

The SBTA filed suit in 1985 seeking to have Lot 1-A declared an extension of Sunset Boulevard and declared "available and open to plaintiffs and other members of the public for ingress and egress to the Atlantic Ocean, for parking, walking and other public uses."

In 1988 Judge Bruce Briggs ruled in the plaintiffs' favor. Motions filed later that year by the defendant seeking a new trial and the setting aside of the judgment were denied.

(See SUNSET BEACH, Page 2-A)



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

**NOBODY WAS INJURED** when an automobile rammed through the front glass doors at Shallotte Post Office Monday morning.

## Car Smashes Into Shallotte Post Office

The quiet routine of employees and customers at Shallotte Post Office was shattered Monday morning when an automobile crashed through the front glass doors.

Nobody was injured when Fannie Belche Kecton, 79, of Route 9, Shallotte, drove her 1985 Ford LTD through the front doors of the post office Monday at 11:30 a.m.

"She went to mash the brake and mashed the gas by mistake," said Shallotte Patrolman Rhea Altizer, who charged the driver with property damage.

Altizer estimated that the vehicle was traveling no more than 5 mph when it ran over a concrete bumper block and handicapped parking sign and smashed through the post office doors. When the vehicle came

(See CAR CRASHES, Page 2-A)

## Williamson Offers To Build Water Line, Lease To County

BY BOB HORNE

Ocean Isle Beach real estate developer Odell Williamson Thursday night offered an alternative solution to one of Brunswick County's most pressing problems: the means to provide sufficient water flow south and west of Shallotte.

Speaking before more than 300 residents at a public hearing on the county's 1990-91 budget in the county Public Assembly Building at Bolivia, Williamson offered to build water transmission lines, pumping stations and water tanks to provide the water and lease the facilities to the county and give the county the option to purchase them.

County commissioners who were asked about Williamson's offer declined to comment, pending further evaluation of the offer.

"I'm ready to meet with the utilities board, the board of commissioners, or have a joint meeting or whatever," Williamson said. He told *The Beacon* Friday that he feels the ball is now in the county commissioners' court, that he made an offer and will now wait to hear from them.

Williamson told *The Beacon* that he has been working on the county water situation for "30 days or more. I've gone over this thing with a consultant of mine and an engi-



**ODELL WILLIAMSON** briefly explains his offer to the county commissioners, and more than 300 county residents.

neer and I think I might be able to save the county some money. And I thought this (public hearing) would be the appropriate time to present it, when the people would be there.

"If they give me the go-ahead in 60 days, I could give them water in two years," Williamson said. "If I don't do it, I think it will be three years. I made most of my money in this county and if I can make things better for the people, I want to do it."

Williamson said he is not averse to making money, but that profit isn't the motive behind this offer.

"Of course, I'm in business and anybody is entitled to make a profit," Williamson said. "But I didn't go into it for that. I think I can give

it (water facilities) to them more economically than someone in Charlotte or somewhere else. And if I made a profit on it, the money would stay here."

Williamson also proposed that those who use the water pay for the cost, saying, "I think, properly constructed and properly handled, the rest can be done pretty much on a pay-as-you-go basis." He would build the transmission lines, pumping stations and tanks to get the water to the southerly and westerly areas of the county and the county would handle tap-ons and water meters, Williamson said. "I would take care of the most-costly part."

"I'm a developer; I installed the water system on Ocean Isle Beach, so I know quite a bit about it," Williamson said. "I know pressures, I know how to make it work and I know a lot of people out there are entitled to water."

Williamson said he figures he can build the system for less than the \$7.3 million that has been projected as the cost of the water-system improvements. "I would probably save them a million or two," he said.

Williamson said that if some of the commissioners "don't like my politics or something else and don't want it, so be it. But I gave them the best offer they can get, I'll tell you that."

## PUBLIC HEARING ATTRACTS 300

# 39 Speak To Commissioners

BY BOB HORNE

More than 300 people turned out at a public hearing on the 1990-91 Brunswick County budget, some to let the county commissioners know how they feel and others to applaud those who verbally expressed the sentiments they felt.

Fifty-six people signed up to speak to the commissioners, with 39 of those actually taking their three-minute turn.

The two biggest items on the agenda of the speakers was 1. for commissioners to find a way to avoid a tax increase and 2. for the commissioners to find a way to provide water to everyone south of Shallotte who needs it. Developer Odell Williamson made an offer to commissioners to provide the water line. An accompanying article details that offer.

Vernon Ward called for consis-



**KENNETH BELLAMY** emphasizes a point to the Brunswick County commissioners.

tency in the treatment of county advisory boards and the elimination of "any advisory board which is not meeting constructive and defined objectives which are in the best interests of the taxpayers and/or is

self-serving to individuals" and a discontinuance of all payments of "per diem, meals, etc." to all advisory boards.

Ward also suggested that the county misuses the interest earned on the sale of bonds and should use it to pay off interest expense on the bonds, instead of for other purposes.

He also questioned why unexpended departmental funds are allowed to be carried over, instead of reverting back to the county. He cited the county Board of Education as an example. He said the school board requested dental insurance, "I believe it was, for the employees of the school system. The commissioners refused their request for \$37,000 and the Board of Education said that it was okay. They would pay for it from their contingency-fund balance." Ward also said the num-

(See 39 SPEAK, Page 2-A)

## County Man Charged With Murder Of Stepfather

A Brunswick County man is in Central Prison for the Thursday night murder of his stepfather, according to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

Albert Grover Hensley, 74, of Route 3, Box 113, Supply, was killed and his stepson, Eddie Wayne Earlywine, 34, of the same address, was charged with first-degree murder, according to a Sheriff's Department report.

The Sheriff's Department received a call about 7:40 p.m. and was told that people were fighting and someone had been shot at an Ocean Pines section residence, according to a departmental report.

When officers arrived at the scene off Holden Beach Road, they found Hensley shot once in the chest with a .38-caliber pistol and Earlywine waiting at the scene.

Earlywine's first appearance hearing was Friday and he was then transported to Central Prison for safekeeping, according to Capt. Douglas Padgett. His probable-cause hearing is scheduled for June 26 and attorney Mike Ramos has been appointed to represent him, according to the arrest warrant.

Hensley's body was sent to Jacksonville Friday for an autopsy, according to Padgett. Sheriff's Detectives Lindsey Walton and Kevin Holden are investigating officers, Padgett said.



## Santa Takes A Vacation

*While Santa Claus was vacationing at Holden Beach last week, he caught up with vacationing youngsters at Calabash Nautical Gifts and St. Nick Nacks at night, telling them how much they had grown since Christmas and reminding them to be good for the next six months. In the photo, Tyler Sams, of Arden, N.C., who was vacationing at Murrells Inlet with his parents, John and Martha Sams, convinces Santa he has been a good boy. Santa told us he hit his finger with a hammer while making a toy and severely bruised his finger. So, he said, while he was forced to take a vacation, he decided to take it in the South Brunswick Islands. He assured us he would be back at the toy-building shop this week, however.*

## CP&L Plant Producing Power Again After Crews Requalify

BY SUSAN USHER

Both units of Carolina Power & Light Company's Brunswick nuclear plant were expected to be operating at 100 percent power again by late Wednesday after two of three crews of operators passed relicensing tests this past weekend that they earlier had failed.

The utility shut down both reactors at the plant May 20 after 23 of 47 operators failed one or more portions of a relicensing exam adminis-

tered by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Those who failed were reassigned to other duties until they could pass the tests. The NRC administers relicensing tests to all licensed operators in the country on a staggered, six-year schedule.

Those retested over the weekend were operators who had failed only a crew simulator test, the final portion of the three-part requalification exam. The simulation, a computer operated program, presents opera-

tors with problem scenarios—hypothetical emergencies—that test operators' overall knowledge of components, systems and safety procedures. A mistake by one crew member causes the entire team to fail if it is not noticed and corrected.

The third team, which did not pass the retesting, will be retested again, said CP&L spokesman Elizabeth Bean, but a date has not been set.

(See CP&L, Page 2-A)