

# THE BRUNSWICK VICK BEACON

HUGH & SONS BOOK BINDERY  
12/31/99  
PO BOX 162  
SPRINGPORT, MI 49284

Twenty-eighth Year, Number 32

©1990 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Wilmington, North Carolina, Thursday, June 28, 1990

25¢ Per Copy

92 Pages, 4 Sections

## Holden Beach ABC Store May Open Friday

The Brunswick County ABC Commission's first store will definitely open Saturday at 9 a.m. and could open sometime Friday, ABC Board members agreed Tuesday.

The Brunswick County ABC Board also unanimously approved a store liability insurance policy by Brunswick Insurance Service of Supply at an annual premium of \$2,198.

After a short meeting, the board recessed to the new store on Holden Beach Road and board members and store manager Dorothy Kelly began sorting and pricing the 737 cases of liquor that have been delivered to the store.

State ABC officials were scheduled to come to the store Wednesday to begin helping set up the store and stack the merchandise and the store's computerized cash register was scheduled to be set up Wednesday.

Douglas M. Robinson II, assistant manager, said.

(See STORE, Page 2-A)

## Questions Still Remain About Ash Drowning

A lot of questions still remained unanswered Tuesday in the Saturday night drowning of a Shallotte man in a pond off Alligator Road near Ash, according to Sheriff's Det. Lindsay Walton.

Larry William Miller, 38, drowned while apparently swimming during a camping party at a private pond in a secluded location in the woods, Walton said.

"It was a camping trip and party," Walton said. "People were partying and drinking. Practically everybody was intoxicated and nobody can tell us what was going on. We haven't reached any conclusions yet." He said people apparently were in and out of the water during the party.

Walton said Tuesday that he still had not been able to interview everyone he needs to talk to about the drowning.

Someone called the Sheriff's Department between 11-12 p.m. Saturday night to report a missing person, Walton said. The Sheriff's Department and Waccamaw Fire and Rescue searched Saturday night and then returned Sunday morning and found the man's body, he said.

Walton said Miller was a person who was "in and out" of Brunswick County and that he recently returned to Shallotte.



BEACON FILE PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

**FIREWORKS** will light the night skies at several locations, including Campground By the Sea at Holden Beach, as Brunswick County celebrates the Fourth of July next week. One of the largest events is the N.C. Fourth of July Festival at Southport; details on Page 8-A.

## Fireworks To Light Skies At Beach, Battleship Also

Southport's not the only place to go for a dazzling display of fireworks on the Fourth of July.

At Holden Beach, Campground By The Sea near the west end of the island will hold its Independence Day fireworks display at dark, about 9 p.m.

Visitors can go to the campground to watch, or view the light spectacle from elsewhere on the island, from across the waterway or from Ocean Isle Beach.

A display of fireworks will also be launched from the USS North Carolina Battleship Memorial, on the Cape Fear River near the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge at Wilmington.

The free show will begin at 9 p.m.

The fireworks will be visible over the Cape Fear River between Wilmington's Riverfront Park and the

Battleship Memorial. However, patrons of the Independence Day presentation of the Battleship's Sound and Light Spectacular, *The Immortal Showboat*, will literally have grandstand seats.

The outdoor drama will begin approximately 20 minutes after the fireworks display ends.

*The Immortal Showboat* tells the story of the battleship's role in the Pacific in World War II through voice, music, sound effects and more than 400 lights of varying color and intensity. Special effects include 20mm and 40mm antiaircraft gunfire, the blast and flame of large 5- and 16-inch guns and a simulated torpedo explosion.

Admission fees to the Sound and Light Spectacular are \$3.50 for adults (age 12 and older) and \$1.75 for children ages 6-11. Admission is free to those 5 and under.

## Commissioners Cut About \$600,000 From Budget

BY BOB HORNE

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners had cut approximately \$600,000, or between 1 1/2 cents and 2 cents on the tax rate, in a series of three budget sessions through Tuesday.

The commissioners were to have another budget session Wednesday, with some of them vowing to adopt the budget, which still called for about a 10 1/2-cent increase in the tax rate Tuesday, at the Wednesday session.

The board also voted to shift \$235,000 in bond money, which had been earmarked for improvements on the Public Assembly Building at the County Government Complex in Bolivia, to engineering design for water-system improvements and expansion.

Commissioner Kelly Holden made the motion Friday to designate the funds for the water-system improvements and rescind previous action that committed those funds to the Public Assembly Building. It passed on a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Grace Beasley dissenting because, she said, she arrived late for the meeting and didn't understand the vote without being involved in the discussion.

Holden said \$1.9 million will be available for the water system in January and he would like to have the engineering design completed and "be ready to move on it" when those funds become available.

Commission Chairman Gene Pinkerton made motions that the county add 11 1/2 of the 42 new positions that were included in the recommended budget. He proposed to start a county EMT program with seven new employees and to add a computer programmer/analyst, a person in the Sheriff's Department to implement a Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, one of two people requested for the Clean County Department and 1 1/2 requested for the Engineering Department. He said that, as new departments, the Clean County and Engineering departments "don't even have basic people yet."

All of the commissioners expressed concern about the growth of county government. Pinkerton said the county had 410 employees in 1987-88. That number, he said, increased by 5 percent to 431 in 1988-89, he said, then 2 percent to 440 in 1989-90. The 42 recommended increase to 482 in 1990-91 would be a 9 percent increase, he said.

Commissioner Frankie Rabon said, "If we keep going, we'll be the biggest industry in the county."

Pinkerton's motion Friday to employ an EMT supervisor beginning July 1 at a salary of \$22,500 and six other EMTs for nine months of the Fiscal Year passed 3-2, with Mrs. Beasley and Commissioner Benny Ludlum dissenting.

Mrs. Beasley opposed "piece-milling" such a program and said, "I can see the supervisor, but I just think

you're talking about six people in that budget you don't know what you're going to do with." She also questioned whether such a program could use Rescue Squads' ambulances and how other necessary equipment would be purchased.

Ludlum said he agrees with the program but said, "I think we need to work some things out. I think we need to charge, since insurance will pay for it. It's worth delaying three months or six months to do right. But we can't do it today; I want to see it on paper. The north won't support it in the south, the south won't support it in the north and Mr. Pinkerton won't support it in the west. You have to put 120 EMTs out there and do it countywide."

But Pinkerton said his idea was to employ the supervisor and allow that person to help set up the program. He also specified that the program would be separate from the county Emergency Management office. He said his proposal would cost no more than employing the six positions that were included in the recommended budget. No other mention was made of charging for the service.

Mrs. Beasley and Ludlum also opposed Pinkerton's motion to include the other 4 1/2 new positions, which also passed 3-2. Then, after commissioners determined that Pinkerton's motion had not done all he intended, he made another motion that no other new positions be added. It passed 4-1, with Mrs. Beasley dissenting, "not because I want to go out and hire more people but because I disagreed with the previous action."

However, the board received a visit from Sheriff John Carr Davis Tuesday afternoon. Davis, who had requested seven new positions and had one approved, told commissioners that, beginning Oct. 1, the state will mandate that female jailers have no other duties. Therefore, he said, he would need five more positions to provide a female jailer 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"I don't know what we will do if we don't get those positions," Davis told the board, "unless we contract with someone to watch the female inmates." The board took no action on the sheriff's request.

The recommended 5 percent across-the-board pay increase for all county employees was approved after one failed motion and discussion on another possibility.

Ludlum made a motion that funds equal to the 5 percent increase be divided equally among all county employees, which would have amounted to about \$750 per employee. It failed on a 2-3 vote, with Pinkerton, Mrs. Beasley and Rabon dissenting.

Rabon expressed concern for the employees with the higher salaries, some of whom would have received pay increases less than 2 percent under that plan, and initiated discussion for a plan that would give each em-

(See COMMISSIONERS, Page 2-A)

## Calabash Cuts Tax Rate 9 Cents

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash Commissioners adopted a budget for fiscal year 1990-91 Tuesday night featuring a hefty 9-cent cut in the tax rate.

The tax rate will drop from 24 cents to 15 cents per \$100 of property valuation next fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Despite the 37 percent drop in the tax rate, however, adoption of the budget did not come without controversy.

As officials went through the spending plan and voted on each line item, some board members voiced objections about three expenses included in the budget.

Commissioners George Taubel and Phyllis Manning, who have worked on the issue of trash pickup for several months as members of the community services committee, opposed the \$49,000 budgeted for contracted sanitation service.

As proposed, the \$49,000 includes \$24,000 for an existing contract that provides residential and commercial trash pickup in District 1. The \$24,000 will come from Calabash's fund balance, which is a reserve fund built up over the years prior to the merger of Calabash and Carolina Shores.

The other \$25,000 in the sanitation budget could pay for the disposal of trash dumped in green boxes located in District 2, monitoring of those green boxes and four pickups of yard and bulk waste in both districts during the fiscal year. The town won't have to deal with green box collection in District 2 until Feb. 1, 1991, when the county stops picking up the trash.

Commissioners Taubel and Manning Tuesday night restated their earlier objections to the town paying for commercial trash pickup in District 1.

Mrs. Manning said town taxpayers should not subsidi-

dize businesses by paying for their trash pickup. "As I've said time and time again, I see no reason we should pay for commercial pickup," she said.

Taubel said the businesses don't pay enough town taxes to cover the cost of curbside trash service. Using the restaurant operated by Commissioner Keith Hardee's wife as an example, Taubel said the town gets about \$300 in taxes each year but pays \$900 for trash pickup.

Other commissioners, however, favored the \$49,000 budgeted for sanitation service, and it was approved on a 5-2 vote.

Commissioners Taubel and Manning also objected to the \$24,000 budgeted for street paving. They said the money budgeted isn't enough to meet the paving needs in Calabash.

Taubel suggested the \$24,000 be increased to \$52,000. But Mrs. Manning was the only board member to support his recommendation, and the allocation was left at \$24,000.

Later in the meeting, Taubel objected to the \$35,000 budgeted for mowing grass along the sides of the roads. Mowing should be the responsibility of the property owner, he said.

"This is the same thing as picking up commercial trash," he said. "You are satisfying a small number of people."

Commissioner Ed Rice joined Taubel in opposing the appropriation, but other board members supported the budgeted expense and it stayed at \$35,000.

Although commissioners had talked earlier about cutting the tax rate by 13 cents, the board had to adjust the tax cut Tuesday night because state sales tax revenues

(See CALABASH, Page 11-A)



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

## Beating The Heat

Mark Leonard of Ocean Isle Beach beat the heat last week by taking to the surf. He was one of about a dozen surfers and body boarders enjoying good surf conditions last Wednesday near Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier.