

New Signs Erected

DOT officials hope evacuation signs will expedite evacuation from the coast when the next hurricane approaches. The story is on Page 12-A.



Schools Closer To Balance

Auditors have balanced the Brunswick County Schools' bank statements through March, says the school system's finance director, Rudi Fallon. See the story on Page 11-A.



Brown Wins The Amateur

Bill Brown edged Paul Simson by three strokes to take The Amateur at Brick Landing through Sunday. See the story on Page 13-B.

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Developers: New Fees Would Restrict Growth Of Shalotte

BY DOUG RUTTER

Local developers said Monday that proposed increases in impact fees and new acreage fees in Shalotte would restrict future growth of the town.

Shalotte officials are considering increasing capital reserve fees, which are paid when tapping on to the town sewer system, and charging new acreage fees that would be

paid prior to issuance of a building permit or the provision of town services such as water and sewer.

Several area land developers, including Larry Shreve who is developing Brierwood Estates in Shalotte, said at a public hearing Monday night that the proposed fees would discourage growth.

Shalotte Aldermen have proposed increasing minimum capital

reserve fees from \$500 to \$600 for residences and from \$600 to \$1,125 for businesses. The acreage fees have been proposed at \$1,000 per acre for land zoned conservation or residential, \$2,000 per acre for commercial land and \$2,500 for land zoned industrial. All fees would be doubled for property outside the town limits.

Shreve objected to the town mak-

ing developers pay for what he called the "past, present and future" of the sewer system.

The full cost of future sewer expansion should not be placed on people involved in today's development, he said, because everyone benefits when the town grows. Shreve said growth helps businesses and increases land values.

"If the city wants to grow, the

city ought to be willing to invest in their own future," he said. "What I think you have is a no-growth program."

A couple of months ago, Shreve requested water service outside the town limits to serve a 38-acre tract toward Shalotte Point he plans to develop for residential purposes.

Under the proposed fee structure, Shreve would have to pay the town

more than \$160,000 in acreage fees and capital reserve fees, plus the cost of water line construction. Shreve said developers cannot afford to pay that much money upfront and hope to make it back when they start to sell land.

However, town officials said Monday they don't plan to charge capital reserve fees when people get (See DEVELOPERS, Page 2-A)

Minor Is Able To Buy Alcohol At Only 2 Of 18 County Stores

BY BOB HORNE

WILMINGTON—A one-day investigation of businesses in Brunswick County last month resulted with two of 18 businesses checked selling alcohol to an under-age person, state Alcohol Law Enforcement Supervisor Tom Parker said in a press conference here Monday.

The 11 percent rate "is one of the lowest we've ever had in the five or six years since the inception of this kind of operation," Parker said. "The businesses in Brunswick County are to be commended for their vigilance in not selling to minors."

By comparison, Parker said the last time such an investigation was conducted in New Hanover County, the minor was able to purchase alcohol at approximately 30 percent of the businesses.

A 16-year-old blonde female went to 18 Brunswick County grocery stores and convenience stores on June 27 and tried to purchase beer, Parker said.

Of those, she succeeded in making a purchase at only two, Randy's Cooler in Boiling Spring Lakes and Quick And Easy No. 5 at Supply, Parker said.

At both places, the clerk requested identification, the girl produced a valid driver's license and the clerk sold her the alcoholic beverage after examining the driver's license, Parker said. The agent surmised that the clerks didn't really check the birthdate, "which isn't all that unusual."

Parker said the two clerks, Carla Randolph at Randy's Cooler and Cathy Tolley at Quick and Easy, have been charged with selling alcoholic beverages to a minor and will be tried in Brunswick County District Court. The offense is a misdemeanor, he said, punishable by up to two years in jail and/or a \$2,000 fine.

The store owners will be reported to the state ABC Commission, Parker said. State ABC Commission ac-

tion can range from nothing to permanent revocation of license he said. However, he added, "The usual penalty the commission hands down on the sale to a minor is a four-day active suspension of (alcohol) license and a \$400 fine."

The girl's ID also was checked at the other 16 locations and all refused to sell her alcoholic beverages, Parker said. Those were: Hill's, Leland; Wilson's Supermarket, Leland; Belleville Mini Mart, Leland; McGees Mini Mart, Leland; D and J Mini Mart, Leland; Young's Gas and Grocery, Winnabow; Kopp Kwik Stop, Bolivia; Southbound Service Station, Bolivia; Kirby's Food Center, Supply; Holden Beach Seafood; Sky Mart, Holden Beach; Beach Mart, Holden Beach; Jeff's Grocery, Holden Beach; Holden Beach General Store; Campground By The Sea, Holden Beach; Midway Trading Post, Bolivia.

Parker said such investigations consist of a combination of going to businesses where the ALE office has had a complaint that the store is suspected of selling to minors and a random sampling.

The purchases are taped on video and audio, from "a specially equipped vehicle" Parker said. And when clerks are brought into the ALE office and charged, they are first shown the tape, he said.

Parker said none of the clerks in the 16 stores that refused to sell to the girl attempted to prosecute her. It is illegal for minors to purchase alcoholic beverages, he said. For minors 18 and under, it is a misdemeanor with a maximum punishment of a \$2,000 fine and or two years in jail. For 19- and 20-year-olds, he said, it is an infraction, punishable by a \$25 fine. He said no store has ever tried to prosecute one of his agents.

"With just an 11 percent sales rate, we probably will direct our efforts in Brunswick County in other areas over the next year," Parker said.



Just A Bit Skeptical

Tate Patterson, 14 months old, was just a little skeptical when this huge dog stopped to shake his hand during the 1990 Fourth of July Festival parade in Southport last Wednesday. The dog is one of the Sudan Animated Animals who participated in the parade. A story and more photos are on Page 14-B.

STAFF PHOTO BY BOB HORNE

Coastal Property Owners May See Dip In Flood Insurance Premiums

BY DOUG RUTTER

Coastal property owners could be paying less for flood insurance starting next fall, thanks to a new program in which insurance premiums are discounted in communities that go beyond minimum federal flood protection requirements.

A new deal offered through the National Flood Insurance Program could give property owners a 5 percent reduction in insurance premiums beginning next October and even greater discounts down the road, said an official with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The new community rating system could lower flood insurance premiums 5 percent in the first year and up to 45 percent in future years, said Brad Loar, community planner with the FEMA regional office in Atlanta.

"It'll directly affect the flood insurance premiums," Loar said. "It can do nothing but lower them."

Loar said the amount of the flood insurance discounts in each community will be based on a rating system similar to the one used to rate communities for fire protection.

Communities will be rated in 18 different areas and get "bonus points" for anything they do that goes beyond the federal government's minimum flood protection rules.

For instance, premiums could be lowered in communities that require buildings to be elevated higher than the minimum level. Communities can also get points for preserving sand dunes, setting up a flood warning system and establishing a flood reference section in the local public library.

In communities approved for the discount, property owners would start paying less when their individual policies come up for renewal after Oct. 1, 1991. The highest possible discount for the first year of the program is 5 percent.

After the first year, communities can apply for greater discounts on insurance premiums. Loar said FE-

"It'll directly affect the flood insurance premiums. It can do nothing but lower them."

—Brad Loar, community planner
Federal Emergency Management Agency

MA officials will visit communities that apply for bigger reductions to see whether they qualify. He said the chance of a community being rated high enough for a 45 percent discount in flood insurance premiums is "very slim."

Each of Brunswick County's seven towns with beachfront property takes part in the federal flood insur-

ance program, as well as three other municipalities situated along rivers. Residents of flood-prone areas in the unincorporated areas of the county are also eligible for federal flood insurance.

More than 6,000 Brunswick County property owners have flood insurance. More than half of the policies are for property at Long

Beach, Holden Beach and Ocean Isle Beach.

Loar said communities have until Dec. 15 to apply for the program and be included in the first year. Property owners in each community should know by next March or April whether their flood insurance premiums will be lower.

Holden Beach Building Inspector Dwight Carroll said he has applied for the program. If the town receives the 5 percent discount in the first year, he said, property owners will cumulatively save more than \$20,000 in insurance premiums.

There are 1,145 federal flood insurance policies on Holden Beach, Carroll said, and the property owners pay \$404,110 per year in premiums. With a 5 percent discount, he said, policyholders would save \$20,206, or an average of \$17.65 per policy.

Carroll said the idea behind the new program is to reward communities that do as much as they can to lower the risk of flood damage. "If communities do more work, they should have less loss," he said.

There are about 1,500 federal flood insurance policies at Ocean Isle Beach. Building Inspector Drued Roberson said he's heard of the new program but has not applied.

In the past, Roberson said, the

town has required homeowners to meet minimum federal flood rules, but has not done much beyond the minimum requirements.

Roberson said he's not sure the town would qualify for premium discounts. "The discussions I attended were so broad-based I couldn't really say one way or the other," he said.

Even if the town can't get discounts, homeowners can ensure lower premiums by elevating their homes above the minimum level, Roberson said.

Loar refused to speculate on whether any of the local communities may be eligible for premium discounts. But he said some communities are enforcing rules that are stricter than the federal rules.

FEMA had received about 10 inquiries concerning the program as of last week, but no applications, Loar said. Representatives from about 100 communities in North Carolina attended recent workshops, he said.

The new program has been discussed for about 10 years and was initiated by a group of flood plain coordinators in several midwestern states, Loar said. Officials in those states pushed for the premium discounts because their state flood protection laws were stricter than the federal rules, but property owners weren't getting discounts, he said.

Shalotte Man Killed In Wreck

The N.C. Highway Patrol was continuing its investigation Tuesday of a one-vehicle accident early Sunday morning that resulted in the death of a Shalotte man.

Ricky Alvin Wilson, 25, of Route 4, Shalotte, was killed instantly in the accident that occurred Sunday at 1:20 a.m. in the Hickman's Crossroads area, said Trooper W.H. Thompson of the Highway Patrol.

The accident happened on the Ash-Little River Road near its intersection with No. 5 School Road about 12.8 miles south of Shalotte, Thompson said.

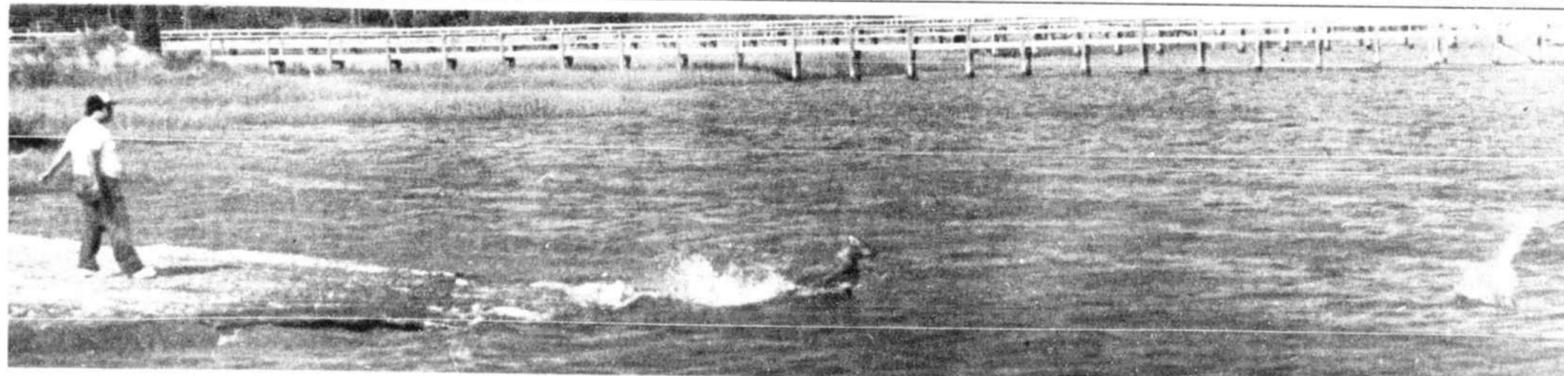
The vehicle in which Wilson was riding was traveling west on Ash-Little River Road at a high rate of speed when the driver lost control and the vehicle ran

into a ditch on the right side of the road and overturned, Thompson.

The trooper said the vehicle was traveling in excess of 80 mph when it ran off the road. As of Tuesday, Wilson was listed as the driver of the vehicle.

Three other people in the vehicle at the time of the wreck were injured. Thompson said Jeffrey Green, 25, of Shalotte, and Michael Gore, 19, of Shalotte, both suffered multiple lacerations and broken bones, and Ricky Green, 21, of Bolton, had bruised ribs.

Thompson said there was evidence that all four people in the vehicle had been drinking alcohol. He said an investigation was continuing and no charges would be filed until the investigation is complete.



Retriever

"Jeremiah" races after a stick thrown into the Intracoastal Waterway by his owner, Jim Henley, who recently moved to the Holden Beach area from Susanville, Calif. "He loves the water," Henley said. "I have to come out here and do this every day. When I come out the door, he's standing there with that stick in his mouth, ready to go."

STAFF PHOTO BY BOB HORNE