

## It Is No Surprise

Trojan Aldwin Lance is co-player of the year on the Brunswick County All-County Prep Football Team. Details on the full 27-man line-up are on Page 6-B.

**SPEED  
LIMIT  
20**

## On The Rise

The speed limit on town-owned streets at Holden Beach may be increased. This and other Holden Beach news on Page 7-A.

## Breaking The Cycle

Counseling may be the key to breaking the cycle of sexual abuse. Local agencies talk about the problem and the solution on Page 3-B.

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SARAH TRIPP (left), Shallotte's new mayor, takes the oath of office with Town Clerk Mary Etta Hewett officiating.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

## JONES STEPS DOWN

# Tripp Chosen New Shallotte Mayor

BY DOUG RUTTER

Sarah Tripp became mayor of Shallotte last week on a split vote by the town board of aldermen.

She was first elected to the board in 1985, and is the first woman to serve as a Shallotte alderman or as mayor.

Board members David Gause and Wilton Harrelson supported Mrs. Tripp to succeed outgoing mayor Jerry Jones, who resigned from his town post to serve as a Brunswick County Commissioner.

Alderman Jody Simmons nominated Paul Wayne Reeves, who is mayor pro tem and has served on the town board since 1977.

Following the vote at last Wednesday's meeting, Mrs. Tripp said she wanted the support of all of the

board members. "I appreciate the chance to be mayor, but I would like for it to be unanimous," she said. "I would like to know you (Reeves) and Jody support me."

Gause, who said he nominated Mrs. Tripp after a lot of thought, said he knew Reeves wanted to be mayor and heard rumors that Simmons also wanted the position.

"To settle the difference, that's the reason I settled with Sarah, and that is the reason," Gause said. "It's no personal thing against either one of those boys."

Mrs. Tripp, who was elected to the town board in 1985 and re-elected in 1989, said, "To me it's been an honor to be the first woman to serve on the town board, and I think it would be an even greater honor to be the mayor."

She said a lot of people in the community asked her if she would serve as mayor prior to last week's meeting. Mrs. Tripp said she would like the full support of the board.

"Well, based on the vote you have the chair," Reeves said.

Prior to the appointment, the board accepted the resignation of Jones, who will take office as a county commissioner next month.

"This is one of the hardest things that I have had to do in a while," Jones told the town board members.

"I've enjoyed working with all of you, and I will continue working with you," he said. "As county commissioner, I will see that Shallotte and District 2 gets their share of representation on our county board."

In his letter of resignation to the

board, Jones said it had been a pleasure to serve the town for nine years, both as alderman and mayor.

"You and the citizens of Shallotte have shown great confidence to allow me to serve you during this time, and I want you to know that I will always be grateful to each of you," Jones wrote. "Shallotte has the most wonderful people in the world and I am proud to let others know that Shallotte is my hometown."

Harrelson, who made the motion to accept the resignation, said, "You've made a choice that I think we should honor."

Town board members took no action last week to appoint someone to the board to fill the seat vacated by Mrs. Tripp.

## Barefoot New 13th District Judge

Napoleon "Poli" Barefoot Jr., Brunswick County assistant district attorney, has been appointed the new 13th Judicial District Court judge to fill the seat being vacated by Judge William C. Gore Jr.

Barefoot was appointed Monday by Gov.

James Martin, said Nancy Pekarek, a spokesperson at the governor's office. "We haven't gotten the paperwork yet, but it has been confirmed."

Judge Gore was elected Nov. 6 to a newly-created Superior Court

judgeship in the 13th District. His seat on the district court bench will become vacant Dec. 31. Both judges are expected to be sworn in to their new seats Jan. 2.

The 13th Judicial District includes Brunswick, Columbus and Bladen counties. Barefoot's was one of three names submitted to Gov. Martin on Nov. 1 as possible replacements for Gore.

Also nominated by the 13th Judicial District Bar Association were James Melvin, a lawyer in Elizabethtown, and Tom Aldridge, an assistant district attorney in Columbus County. Barefoot received twice as many votes as the other candidates in a caucus of bar association members in October.

According to state law, the new district court judge must belong to the same political party as his predecessor. Barefoot is a Democrat.

Barefoot joined District Attorney Michael Easley's office in March 1984 after two years of general practice in Hyde County. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University law school.

District court judges preside in both criminal and civil court and hear cases ranging from routine traffic offenses to assault, arson, juvenile issues and child support disputes.

Barefoot's appointment is for two years, to fill the unexpired portion of Judge Gore's term. District court judges earn a base salary of \$60,060.

## Judge Gives 12-Year Sentence In 1983 Ocean Isle Drug Case

BY TERRY POPE

Time was running out for both the defendant and the prosecutor in a major drug smuggling sentencing in Brunswick County Superior Court Monday.

Bailey Owen Cooper of Charlotte, who pleaded guilty in 1985 to drug trafficking charges in Brunswick County, was finally sentenced to 12 years in prison and fined \$50,000 by Judge Giles R. Clark.

Special State Prosecutor William E. Wolak said an agreement signed between Cooper and District Attorney Michael Easley in July 1987 specifically stated that sentencing would be held for Cooper while Easley was still in office. Easley did not run for re-election this year and will leave the district attorney's office in December.

Wolak told Judge Clark Monday that the state is not finished using Cooper as a key witness in other drug smuggling cases. He asked for a split-sentence that would force Cooper to truthfully testify in upcoming cases as part of his probation. However, under a split-sentence agreement the defendant can

only receive up to a six-month active prison term.

"It would be ludicrous for this court to sentence this man for six months for the kind of crimes that have been committed," Judge Clark told Wolak. "Once he receives his sentence, he is under no obligation to cooperate with anyone. You've let it drag on and now time's running out."

Cooper was originally connected to three drug smuggling operations in Brunswick County dating back to July 1982, January 1983 and May 1983. He pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to traffic in more than 2,000 pounds but less than 10,000 pounds of marijuana and to one count of trafficking marijuana. Other charges were dismissed under the condition that Cooper give testimony to a Brunswick County Grand Jury about the smuggling operations.

SBI Special Agent Fred McKinney testified Monday that although Cooper did provide information about the smuggling operations and listed "quite a few people involved" in the ring, he also lied to investiga-

tors about other details. A lot of information Cooper volunteered, McKinney said, was common knowledge to investigators.

According to Cooper's defense attorney, Howard Twigg, Cooper gave substantial assistance, including a description of how sailboats were used to offload the larger ships off the Brunswick County coast. Cooper even took SBI investigators to Somerset Landing and showed them how the operation proceeded, Twigg said.

In May 1983, federal, state, county and Ocean Isle Beach police officers seized 14,380 pounds of marijuana with a retail value of \$1.1 million from a mobile home at Lakewood Estates near Ocean Isle Beach. At the same time, another multi-ton load of marijuana was being shipped to Onslow County by the same drug ring, McKinney said. The investigation that followed unfolded a three-year drug operation that involved increasingly larger amounts of contraband smuggled into Brunswick County.

Cooper's role in this operation (See JUDGE, Page 2-A)

## PARADE IS SATURDAY

### Santa's Coming To Town

Santa Claus will follow a fleet of fire trucks and a bevy of beauty queens through downtown Shallotte Saturday morning in the annual Shallotte Christmas Parade.

The parade is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and will feature more than 100 entries from across Brunswick County and southeastern North Carolina.

For the best view, parade watchers can line up along Main Street between N.C. 130 West and the main branch of United Carolina Bank at Smith Avenue.

Among the entries will be fire trucks from eight different departments, three local saddle clubs, Brownie and Girl Scout troops and several area church groups.

Miss Brunswick County 1990 Wendy Williams, who was first runner-up to Miss North Carolina, will among the pageant winners appearing. The Brunswick County Cloggers and Sudan Thunderbolts should be among the crowd favorites.

Several roads leading into the downtown area will close early Saturday morning to accommodate line-up of parade entries, according to Phebie McLean, secretary at Shallotte Town Hall.

Closed starting at 8:30 a.m. will be Village Road/N.C. 179 from Copas Road to Sellers Road, and Blake Street, the short connector between Village Road and U.S. 17 at Shallotte Middle School.

Bands that will march in the parade are to meet at the main entrance of Shallotte Middle School, while floats will line up along Powell Street, behind the UCB south branch.

Those bringing participants to the parade line-up area are asked to park in the lots at Maxway and Hill's Food City, said Ms. McLean, and then walk to the appropriate location.

During the parade, U.S. 17 from the south end to the north end stoplights at N.C. 130 will also be closed to traffic. Vehicles will be detoured along the Whiteville Road (N.C. 130 east), Bridgers Road, White Street and Smith Avenue.

The parade line-up is on page 11 of this section.

## Parents Will Pay Up Or Make 'Scrooge Listing'

The state of North Carolina is putting together its own list of "Scrooges," in this case parents three months or more behind in child support payments.

David T. Flaherty, secretary of the state Department of Human Resources, said the parents have until Friday, Nov. 30, to either make good on their obligations or face being included on local "Scrooge Lists."

Mary Cornish of the Brunswick County Department of Social Services says the local "Scrooge List" at this time includes approximately 250 names of those who failed to make court-mandated child support payments for the period September through November.

In mid-December participating agencies plan to purchase space in local newspapers to print their "Scrooge Lists," similar to how counties publish the names of persons delinquent in paying property taxes. Each list will include the names and last known addresses of non-supporting parents.

"We want non-supporting parents to realize that the state of North Carolina is serious about child support enforcement," said Flaherty. "We're making a pro-active effort to collect the millions of dollars of child support payments that go unpaid each year."

In September the Child Support Enforcement Section unveiled its "10 Most Wanted" poster of parents delinquent in child support payments. The list included at least one local man.

In October two of the "10 most wanted" were located by local law enforcement agencies.

## Teen Faces Additional Driving-Related Charges

Just two months after receiving a suspended sentence for a misdemeanor death by motor vehicle charge, a Sunset Beach teen-ager faces a number of new charges including driving while his license was revoked.

Matthew Shawn Arnette, whose 17th birthday was Nov. 25, has had 11 charges filed against him since Oct. 31, 1989, according to documents on file at the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office. All but one were for alleged driving-related offenses.

Arnette, then 16, pleaded guilty

in August to the charge of misdemeanor death by motor vehicle. The charge stemmed from a traffic accident on March 18, 1990, that claimed the life of Clyde Justice Olive, 37, of Supply.

District Court Judge Jerry A. Jolly gave Arnette a two-year suspended sentence and placed him on unsupervised probation. His license was revoked until November 1991.

In that March 1990 accident, Arnette was also charged by Trooper C.E. Ward with running a stop sign and failure to wear a seat

(See TEEN, Page 2-A)

## State Will Build Sandbag Wall In Effort To Save Island Road

BY DOUG RUTTER

A wall of sandbags will be built at the east end of the Ocean Boulevard at Holden Beach in an attempt to save the erosion-threatened road.

Wysco Contractors of Morehead City has been hired to build the seawall at an approximate cost of \$36,620, said Jim Cook, division engineer with the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT).

The state owns the street and will cover the full cost of the project. The DOT funded a similar project in May 1988 to protect the road. "It's a stop-gap delay action again," Cook said.

Holden Beach Building Inspector Dwight Carroll said he expected to receive an emergency CAMA permit Tuesday that would allow the work to be done in the street right of way.

Due to abnormally high tides and rough seas this fall, Holden Beach has experienced significant erosion damage, particularly at the eastern end of Ocean Boulevard.

A section of the road undermined about two weeks

ago remains closed to car traffic. There are about six second-row houses between the blockade and the east end of the street.

Cook said the sandbagging work to be done before the end of the year will differ from the last sandbagging project because the bags will be arranged more effectively.

Four sandbags will be stacked on top of each other to build the wall, which will be about 300 feet long. "It's an improved design people have learned through trial and error," he said.

Cook said work on the project could begin at any time. The state contract says it has to be completed by Dec. 22.

The DOT will put dirt behind the sandbag wall once it is built, Cook said, and repair the edges of the road that have collapsed.

Beyond the sandbagging project, Cook said the state has no long-term plans for the eastern end of Ocean Boulevard. Future action will be based on the rate of

erosion or renourishment.

Meanwhile, the Holden Beach Board of Commissioners are looking into the possibility of relocating the street.

Town officials are developing a proposal to move the threatened section of the road away from the ocean and run it behind a row of houses that are now considered second row.

While the state plans to protect its street, Carroll said people who have witnessed dune erosion near their beach homes this fall can do something to protect their investment as well.

Property owners who lost part or all of the sand dune that was built adjacent to their lots last winter can have sand pushed up on the dune starting Dec. 15.

Landowners will have until April 15 to get the work done. Carroll said bulldozers will not be allowed to dig more than one foot deep in the beach when getting sand for the dunes.

People who own homes that are in serious danger

don't have to wait two weeks to take action.

Carroll said homeowners can have sand pushed or sandbags placed at their property immediately if the main part of the structure is within 20 feet of the edge of the dune.

If lot owners choose to have bulldozers push sand in front of their homes, Carroll suggests the sand be taken from as far out on the beach as possible, near the low water mark. Taking sand next to the dune to rebuild the dune would defeat the purpose of the project, he said.

Although Holden Beach has suffered more beach erosion this fall than its neighbors, officials in at least one other South Brunswick Islands community are taking action aimed at holding off the encroaching sea.

Ocean Isle Beach Building Inspector Druied Roberson has been working to get a permit that would allow the town to place sandbags at the end of East Second Street, which also has been threatened by erosion.

The town must get approval from adjacent property owners before it can receive the sandbagging permit.