



Riverside Gets Flag

Preston Phillips, left, and Marion Davis prepare to raise a United States flag in the Riverside community at Varnamtown. Congressman Charlie Rose donated the flag after it was flown over the U.S. capitol Nov. 13, 1990.

Crack Cocaine Suspect Arrested Second Time

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County narcotics officers have arrested a Shallotte man on drug charges just two weeks after he was placed on probation in Brunswick County Superior Court for the same offense.

Jerry Lee McNeil, 37, of Airport Road, was arrested following a search of his mobile home last Thursday which uncovered "28 hits of crack cocaine," said Lt. David Crocker, head of the narcotics squad for the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

According to Crocker, Detective Charlie Miller received an anonymous tip that drug activity was allegedly taking place at the suspect's home. A search warrant was obtained and officers, aided by State Highway Patrol Trooper Jerry Dove and his drug-sniffing dog, Augustus Marcos, uncovered the estimated \$3,000 worth of crack cocaine.

Detectives went to the home around 11 a.m. and were let in by a woman.

"On entering the premises, the suspect was about to be read his rights when he ran from a bedroom to a bathroom," Crocker said. Officers forcibly entered the bathroom and placed McNeil under arrest.

Instead of officers searching the mobile home, Marcos was brought in to sniff for drugs. The dog led officers to a medicine cabinet in the bathroom where the man was arrested, Crocker said.

In the back of the cabinet was the crack cocaine, each piece wrapped in an aluminum foil packet, he said.

Detectives also seized \$110 in cash and found wrappers and razor blades with what may be drug residue on them.

McNeil was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, maintaining a residence for keeping and selling cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia and obstructing and delaying a police officer.

He was taken to the Brunswick County Jail where he was later released under \$20,000 bond.

In Superior Court on Dec. 10, McNeil was given a three-year suspended sentence and placed on five years' supervised probation after pleading guilty to possession with intent to sell and deliver crack cocaine. He was also fined \$300 and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service.

Judge Lynn Johnson also ordered that he not use or possess illegal drugs or controlled substances or associate with anyone who does. He was also ordered to enroll in a substance abuse program.

Those charges stemmed from a May incident in which he was stopped by a Shallotte Police officer for driving left of center on N.C. 130 west of Shallotte. When McNeil stepped from the vehicle, a medicine bottle containing 29 pieces of crack cocaine fell onto the ground, the report stated.

Another bottle containing four pieces of crack cocaine was also confiscated from the car along with \$1,067 in cash and the suspect's 1977 Ford Thunderbird. The drugs were valued at \$3,300.

Change Of Weather In Store For South Brunswick Islands

After enjoying springlike temperatures last week that ran 16 degrees above average, local residents can expect a sharp change of weather over the next few days.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said temperatures a little below average, ranging from the mid-30s at night into the mid-50s during the daytime.

While no snow is in the forecast, he said he expected normal rainfall, about a half inch.

For the period Dec. 18 through 23, Canady recorded a maximum high of 77 degrees, which occurred on the 22nd.

The minimum low of 47 degrees was recorded Dec. 18.

A daily average high of 71 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 55 degrees for a daily average temperature of 63 degrees. Canady said that is 16 degrees above average.

Also, he recorded .74 inch of rainfall.

Water Director Asking County For Workers

(Continued From Page 1-A)

and maintenance," Webb stated.

The department needs additional personnel to set up a "true preventative maintenance program," he added. The water department's functions no longer consist of just operation of the water system, but includes operations of the wastewater system for the government complex in Bolivia, the wastewater collection system, and the wastewater pumping station and treatment plant for the Leland Industrial Park.

"Staff training cannot be accomplished overnight," Webb adds, "and we must have sufficiently trained staff to operate this utility with the integrity it not only deserves, but requires."

The number of water customers has grown from less than 700 initially in July 1986 to more than 3,000 today. The department's number of employees has grown by only a couple since the 1987-88 budget year, when the county began adding water users through the first Special Assessment Districts (SADs).

SADs are projects in which the property owners are assessed the



"Staffing, funding inadequate for county water system headed 'upward and onward'."

—Jerry Webb
Director of Public Utilities

cost of running water lines from main trunk lines into adjacent neighborhoods. Property owners pay based on either highway frontage or the square footage of their lots.

Since 1988, the county has approved of 12 SADs while two, SAD 7 and 9, are still under construction off of the Holden Beach causeway. Those will be finished in February. SAD 12, approved by commissioners last month, will include 10 subdivisions between Ocean Isle and Calabash.

"Where are we headed in the coming years?" Webb asks. "Very simply, upward and onward. This system will continue to require both capital improvements as well as in-

frastructure, as indicated by our Master Plan, through the year 2010."

The Daniels and Associates report has indicated the county will need to spend in excess of \$18 million before 2010 in capital improvements. Those cost estimates are based on 1990 figures for materials only, no labor or legal costs included.

Another concern Webb mentions in his report is the continued use of SAD funds to pay for water line oversizing.

"This fund will become depleted and if this process of installing infrastructure is to continue, it will require additional funding," Webb reported.

In 1991, the master plan recommends the county start construction of a main distribution line from the Shallotte elevated water tank to the Georgetown Road area. That line would follow the Shallotte bypass, travel along U.S. 17 south to Thomasboro and down N.C. 904 to tie in to the existing line at N.C. 179 at Seaside.

Estimated cost of the project, which includes materials only, is \$3.8 million. For the 1989-90 fiscal year, the county appropriated approximately \$4 million for the entire water system.

Webb's report shows that in 1989-90, collections exceeded the budgeted amount for the second consecutive fiscal year while expenditures remained around \$3.5 million.

Just how fast is the water system growing? Eight subdivisions were dedicated to the county for water extension projects in 1990. Those included Inlet Waache, Windsong Villas and The Beach at Brickland Plantation; Carol Lynn Estates; Crownstream Subdivision; Forest Hills; Lakeside Subdivision Phase II; and Ocean Isle Estates.

News, Advertising Deadlines Earlier During The Holiday

Because of the New Year holiday, there will be earlier news and advertising deadlines for *The Brunswick Beacon's* issue of Jan. 3.

Routine news items should be submitted no later than Friday, Dec. 28, for the Jan. 3 edition.

Real estate advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27 for the issue of Jan. 3.

Classified and display advertising must be in by noon Monday, Dec. 31 for the Jan. 3 issue.

The issue will be mailed on regular schedule and mail subscribers should receive their copies on the usual delivery day.

The *Beacon* office will be closed Jan. 1.

Sunset Town Council To Look At Needs Identified In Plan

BY SUSAN USHER

Come January, Sunset Beach Town Council intends to take time out to study a community facilities plan completed last August and presented by Town Administrator Linda Fluegel in September.

The plan examines the adequacy of existing facilities and projects future needs for space, equipment, and to a lesser extent, workforce. The plan was developed by the town with assistance from the N.C. Division of Community Assistance.

Topics addressed include the town's possible development of a sewer system. "If the town does not act soon the opportunity (for state assistance) will again evade us and the property owners will have to bear the entire cost of a system," writes Ms. Fluegel in the closing paragraphs of the study. "The time will come very soon when the Brunswick County Health Department will not allow any additional development on the island."

Ms. Fluegel said she has been advised by a state official that the town "might be in a good position" to receive grants or loans to help underwrite the cost of a sewer system. Also, cooperation from Sea Trail Corporation might also be possible, she said, in the form of holding ponds and spray irrigation for the courses.

The town's last attempt to gain a sewer system was a sewer bond referendum in 1979 that failed by one vote.

Ms. Fluegel said she wants the council to discuss this and other needs identified in the plan before members begin work on the 1991-1992 fiscal year budget.

She is proposing that the town establish a "set-aside fund," designating a specific amount in each year's budget toward meeting future facility needs. If designated in this way, said Ms. Fluegel, then the funds cannot be tapped for other purposes.

At one time the town had informally maintained separate funds for future development, beach erosion and beautification. But these were merged into the regular budget by a past finance officer because the funds had never been formally es-

Leland Man Sues Sheriff's Deputies For Broken Arm

BY TERRY POPE

Three deputies with the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department have been sued by a man who claims they broke his arm and denied him medical treatment during an arrest last year.

Edward Noble Jr., 61, of Leland, filed suit against the deputies and the sheriff's department Dec. 12 in Brunswick County Superior Court. He is seeking damages in excess of \$10,000 and asks that a jury decide the case.

Named in the suit are Deputies Gene Browning, Kenneth Messer and Timothy J. McGinn. In the suit filed by his attorney, David Ford of Long Beach, Noble claims that on July 16, 1989 Deputies Browning and Messer grabbed him from behind and twisted his arms until he heard the bones breaking.

Noble was handcuffed and transported to the Brunswick County Jail in Deputy McGinn's vehicle. He was kept in jail for two hours, the suit states, before he was released.

After seeking medical treatment it was learned Noble had suffered multiple breaks in his left arm, the suit states. He was required to wear a cast for six months. The suit claims Noble suffered permanent damage in the arm and is still undergoing medical treatment and has been unable to work.

"I think it's highly inappropriate for me to comment on it while it's in litigation," said Sheriff John Carr Davis.

Davis said he has given his copy of the lawsuit to County Attorney David Clegg.

"We're going to defend it," Clegg said Friday. "We'll be filing an answer in due course. I have definite opinions about it, but I'd rather not say anything."

Noble was charged with resisting and obstructing a public officer and found guilty of the charge in Brunswick County District Court. His at-

torney, David Stanley, appealed the decision to Superior Court, where a jury on Oct. 11, 1989, found Noble not guilty, according to documents filed at the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office.

According to the suit, those charges stemmed from a heated discussion Noble had with a neighbor on the day of his arrest. The discussion took place on the defendant's property and "was not violent and neither participant had requested assistance from any law enforcement agency," the suit states.

It claims Deputy Messer, out of uniform and without a warrant, approached while the two were arguing and told Noble to go home. Noble had exited his vehicle and was walking toward his house when McGinn, who was in uniform, approached and placed the defendant under arrest, it states. McGinn did not have a warrant for Noble's arrest.

Noble told the deputy that he was on his own property and had broken no laws and "then proceeded to his house," it states. Deputies Browning and Messer then grabbed Noble from behind and twisted his arms behind his back.

The suit states that Browning and Messer both admitted under oath at Noble's trial that they "heard the bones breaking in the plaintiff's arm and continued to twist his arm and when asked why they had done so stated they didn't know."

The suit claims the deputies treated Noble in a rough manner "by pushing, shoving and striking him all of which was unnecessary and aggravated injuries he had previously received." Both in transport and while at the jail, Noble asked for medical treatment but was refused, the suit states.

He was held in jail for two hours. The lawsuit states Noble was denied his rights under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

New Shallotte Postmaster To Report In Mid-January

A new postmaster has been appointed for the Shallotte Post Office, but he won't report until about mid-January.

Frank Bringoli, a native of Staten Island, N.Y., and currently superintendent of postal operations at Beach Haven, N.J., will succeed Frank Patton, who retired in August.

His appointment was announced last week by Bill Austin, general manager of the Postal Service's Columbia Field Division.

L.B. Black, who has served as acting Shallotte postmaster since Patton's retirement, said last week that today (Thursday) would be his last day at the office. He begins work Friday as postmaster at Hampstead.

Ronald Reaves, superintendent of postal operations, will serve as act-

ing postmaster until Bringoli reports.

Bringoli, 41, has held his Beach Haven post, his first in management, since 1984. He began his postal career in 1967 as a special delivery carrier at the general post office in New York City and in 1978 was transferred to Beach Haven, N.J., as a clerk.

He has completed a number of postal detail assignments and taken several courses in postal technology.

He and his wife, Maureen, also a native of Staten Island, reside in Barnegat, N.J. They have two sons, Frank and Brian.

Bringoli was selected on the basis of merit from a list of qualified candidates as determined by a review committee, a news release from John E. Vermeire, sectional center manager.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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SHALLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28459

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL:		Sr. Citizen
In Brunswick County	\$6.30	\$5.30
N.C. Sales Tax	.32	.27
Postage Charge	3.68	3.68
TOTAL	10.30	9.25
Elsewhere in North Carolina	\$6.30	\$5.30
N.C. Sales Tax	.32	.27
Postage Charge	8.18	8.18
TOTAL	14.80	13.75
Outside North Carolina	\$6.30	\$5.30
Postage Charge	9.65	9.65
TOTAL	15.95	14.95

Complete And Return To Above Address

Address _____
City, State _____
Zip _____



Best wishes for the peace and joy of the holiday season to live in your hearts throughout the New Year.

We appreciate your kind support and look forward to serving you in 1991.

Kirby's
DEPARTMENT STORE
and BEN FRANKLIN
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