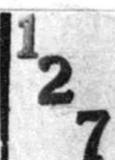




Split Decision

The Cougars' Preston McGriff outmuscles West Brunswick's Jerry Reaves (No. 44) in last Friday's showdown. The Cougars won the boys' game, but the Lady Trojans win their game. Complete coverage is on Pages 6-8B.



A Numbers Game

A proposal to have beachfront homeowners at Holden Beach mount house numbers on walkways leading to the beach goes before the public next week. For details, see Page 7-A.



Detective Distress

A veteran Brunswick County sheriff's detective quits the department this week to join a local police force, but he's not the only plainclothes officer feeling the stress from a high caseload. The story's is below.

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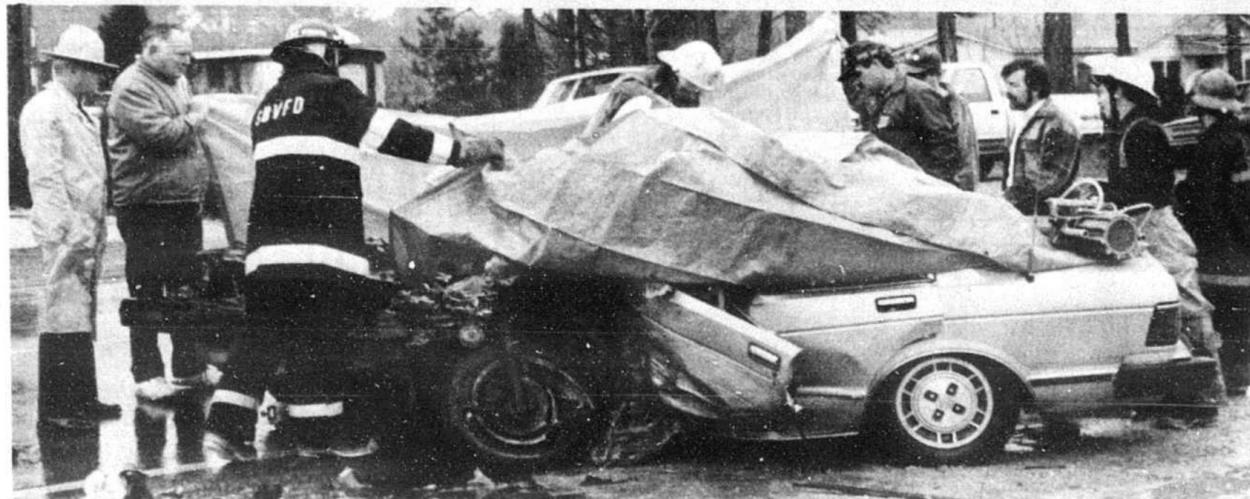
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STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

EMERGENCY PERSONNEL responded to the scene of a two-car accident last Thursday morning on U.S. 17 near Thomasboro. The driver of this vehicle, Aaron Leon Stevenson of Calabash, was killed.

County Still Falls Short In Revised Census Totals

BY TERRY POPE

About 4,000 Brunswick County residents may still be missing, lost in a paper shuffle between the U.S. Census Bureau and the Brunswick County Planning Department.

Revised figures released last week by the Census Bureau increased Brunswick County's population count from a preliminary 50,681 residents to 50,985 residents, still about 4,000 persons short of what county officials say they think is the correct number.

The preliminary figure was released last September but Brunswick County protested, saying it was too low. Adding 300 residents to the revised figure last week didn't impress county officials.

"I'd say they have given about 4,000 Brunswick County residents to New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago," said John Harvey, county planning director.

"They have warned that it will still be July 15 before we have the final totals," Harvey said.

When asked if he thought there was any hope that the county's figure would increase before July 15, Harvey replied, "No, I don't."

Local government officials are concerned about the final figures because in many counties, state sales tax revenues are distributed based on population. Part of the beer and wine taxes and Powell Bill gasoline taxes collected by the state also go to counties and cities based on population. Powell Bill funds are used by municipalities for street maintenance improvements.

Funding for social services, health and educational programs is also based on population. State legislators will also use the census figures to determine where to redraw political districts for state house seats in the N.C. General Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives. The state will gain an additional U.S. Congressman.

According to the revised figures, Shalotte gained 137 residents in the recount, from 828 reported in September to 965. The town maintains its population stands closer to 1,400 residents, as estimated by the state budget office.

Two towns actually lost in the recount. Both Holden Beach and Caswell Beach ended up losing two residents each in the recount while most other towns gained one or two people.

Southport was the largest gainer, increasing its population by 31 persons. However, city officials there estimate the population is about 34 percent larger, or closer to 3,586 persons, as estimated by the state budget office.

According to the Census Bureau's figures released last week, the following adjustments were made to area municipality recounts since last September: Bald Head Island Village, from 76 to 78; Bellville, 66, unchanged; Boiling Spring Lakes, from 1,649 to 1,650; Bolivia, from 226 to 228; Calabash, from 1,209 to 1,210; Caswell Beach, from 177 to 175 (lost two); Holden Beach, from 628 to 626 (lost two); Leland, from 1,793 to 1,801; Long Beach, from 3,815 to 3,816; Navassa, from 440 to 445; Ocean Isle Beach, 523, unchanged; Sandy Creek, from 238 to 243; Southport, from 2,338 to 2,369; Sunset Beach, from 310 to 311; Varnamtown, from 402 to 404; Yaupon Beach, 734, unchanged.

Calabash Man Killed In Head-On Collision

A Calabash area man was killed Thursday morning in a head-on collision on rain-slick U.S. 17 near Thomasboro. It was the second fatality on Brunswick County's highways this year.

Aaron Leon Stevenson, 30, was traveling south on U.S. 17 when his 1983 Datsun crossed the center line and collided with another car occupied by four Iowa residents.

Stevenson died at the scene, reported State Trooper W.H. Thompson. No charges were filed in the accident.

According to Thompson's report, the driver of the other car, Lyle Boren Blair, 59, of Paton, Iowa, was traveling north on U.S. 17 about four miles west of Calabash. Blair did not have time to stop, the report indicated.

Blair and three passengers in his 1979 Lincoln were all taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply with serious injuries. Also injured were

Mary Jane Blair, 58, also of Paton, and Lyle Marshall, 65, and Ellen Marshall, 62, both of Jefferson, Iowa.

The accident occurred around 9 a.m. in a rainstorm.

The State Highway Patrol is awaiting results of a blood toxicology report on Stevenson, said Ruby Oakley, a patrol spokesperson.

Damage to the vehicles was estimated at \$2,500 each.

In another accident Saturday, a Bolivia man was charged with driving a moped while impaired on U.S. 17.2 mile south of Bolivia.

Peter Michael Qualter, 33, was riding a 1988 Thomas motorized cycle south on U.S. 17 when he ran off the right shoulder and overturned in a mudhole, reported Line Sgt. A.L. Midgett.

Qualter received minor injuries in the 10:15 a.m. accident. No damages were reported to the cycle.

Driving while impaired charges

were also filed against a Supply man who ran off the road at a high rate of speed Saturday morning and hit a ditchbank.

Tony Hewett, 32, was driving a 1987 Chevrolet pickup truck on Mt. Pisgah Road (RPR 1130) when he ran off the left shoulder, reported State Trooper Jerry Dove.

Hewett was charged with DWI and driving with no operator's license. He, and a passenger in his truck, Billy D. Hewett, 22, also of Supply, received serious injuries and were transported to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Damage was estimated at \$2,000 to the truck.

In another accident early Saturday morning, a Leland teenager was charged with driving while impaired after the station wagon he was driving ran off the road and struck a ditch.

Michael Heith Dunn, 17, was traveling on N.C. 87 about two miles

south of Leland when he ran off the right shoulder around 12:30 a.m., State Trooper D.A. Lewis reported.

Dunn was not injured, but he was charged with DWI. Damage was estimated at \$800 to his 1985 Ford station wagon.

Another driver was charged with driving while impaired Saturday night when she ran off of Red Bug Road a mile south of Shalotte and struck a ditchbank.

Tina Marie McClain, 27, of Shalotte, was traveling south when the 1986 Nissan pickup truck she was driving ran off the road, causing an estimated \$3,000 in damages, reported State Trooper Roy Murray.

Ms. McClain was charged with driving while impaired and driving while her license was revoked. Both the driver and a passenger in the truck, Shawn Haley, 21, were seriously injured and taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply following the 7:50 p.m. accident.

Clegg Angered By Suggestion That Blacks Are Singled Out

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County Manager David Clegg says the decision to investigate improvements needed within the county's landfill and solid waste department had nothing to do with race.

Last month, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners ordered that landfill and solid waste director Leo Hewett have his workers clean up the county's green box sites and transfer stations, noting

that strewn debris at the sites had become an eyesore for the county.

Clegg made unannounced inspections of several sites Jan. 16 and Jan. 17 and filed a written report to commissioners last week on his findings.

Hewett, who is black, was asked to attend the commissioners' meeting in December when the board first discussed the need for cleaning up the county's 67 disposal sites. Several leaders of the black

community have attended board meetings since then but have sat quietly in the audience.

A letter to the editor printed in last week's Brunswick Beacon stated that five black department heads within the county administration were being "singled out by the newly-elected board for reasons that have not been clearly defined." The writer questioned if the board should "try and undo what the former commissioners have done."

"I don't believe that," responded Clegg last week. "And I would really take offense to it even being suggested."

Clegg said no department heads have been singled out by the county manager's office or the board of commissioners as implied in the letter.

"I was offended by it," Clegg added. "Although they didn't say David Clegg in it, they did say the board of commissioners."

Clegg said the landfill inspection wasn't

part of a broader plan to place department heads before commissioners for public evaluations. The decision to make improvements within the solid waste department was the board's idea, he said.

"I hope that I have a very good grasp of what's going on within the departments," Clegg said. "It's not unusual for me to show up unannounced to deal with the issues departments are facing."

(See CLEGG, Page 2-A)

BONDS SET AT \$325,000

Three Columbus County Men Charged In Beach Burglaries

BY SUSAN USHER

Sunset Beach Police Chief J.B. Buell was half-joking Saturday when he instructed Patrol Officer Lisa Hoagland to make an arrest that night in connection with a string of at least 13 break-ins discovered the day before.

Hoagland was returning to duty after having completed a criminal investigation school Friday. She put her training to immediate use, he said.

Early Sunday morning, she called the chief to report that his instructions had been followed—in triplicate.

"Lisa was on the ball," said the chief.

Three Columbus County men charged in connection with the string of break-ins at Sunset Beach were being held Tuesday in Brunswick County Jail on \$325,000 bond each.

Arrested Sunday morning as they fled on foot from a Sunset Beach oceanfront residence were Bobby Lynn Watts, 23, of Whiteville and Roger Dale Godwin, 34, and Albert Lee Soles, 36, both of Route 1, Clarendon.

Assisting in the arrests were Officer John Godwin of the Ocean Isle Beach Police Department and Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Shelton Caison. Hoagland called for assistance after spotting a vehicle with an unfamiliar license tag and learning that the unit it was near was supposed to be vacant at the time.

The three suspects arrested are each charged with second degree burglary, possession of burglary tools and resisting arrest, with additional charges expected once property owners have completed checking their beach homes for missing property, said the chief.

Buell said he eventually expects

to charge the three in connection with approximately 50 breaking and enterings on the island, most of which occurred either Saturday night or sometime during the night last Thursday.

He estimates damage to external and internal doors alone at \$5,000 or more. He said it appears the suspects worked their way along East Main Street, starting about one-fourth the way down the street and working halfway its length, then "picking up" Saturday night where they had left off.

The homes were all broken into from the oceanfront side, where it would be least noticeable. Some buildings were ransacked.

The alleged burglars apparently used a pry bar to break off locks and then force the doors open, said Buell, displaying a bar seized at the time of the arrests and photographs of the damage to various homes. He

said the suspects wore ski masks and that two apparently posted watch while the third gained entry into each house.

Goods taken from the cottages were piled behind a single house and then picked up. Items seized by officers either on the beach or during searches of the suspects' residences in Columbus County ranged from electronic equipment such as microwaves, videocassette recorders and televisions to liquor, field glasses and a cast iron Dutch oven. Officers expect to recover additional items, said Buell.

All three suspects have "very long" arrest records on a variety of charges, the chief said.

"I'm very proud of the way the officers handled this," said Buell. "They've all joined in working together on it. The Town of Sunset Beach has some police officers it can be proud of."



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

SUNSET BEACH POLICE Chief J.B. Buell displays some of the stolen property recovered last weekend following a string of break-ins on the island.

High Caseload Puts Sheriff's Detectives Under Job Stress

BY TERRY POPE

As Brunswick County grows in population, so does its crime rate. Brunswick County sheriff's detectives say the investigative caseload has become too much for them to handle.

"We have had over a 100 new cases added to our caseload since the first of the year," said Phil Perry, chief of detectives for the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department. "I handed Donnell (L. Marlow) eight cases today that need to be in-

vestigated. That's just for one day."

The increasing caseload and the stress that comes with the job has been cited as one reason the sheriff's department will lose a 10-year veteran of the detective division Friday.

Det. Lindsey Walton has resigned to join Chief Don Troutman's public safety office on Bald Head Island. Walton, who lives at Hickman's Crossroads, said the chance to spend more time with the family while remaining in the same

field of work was a key in his decision to leave the sheriff's department.

"It was very stressful, in the number of caseloads you get," Walton said Monday. "I felt it was a good career move for me and my family. I just felt at this time that it was in my best interests."

Perry said the department will need more detectives to keep up with the increasing number of cases. During the summer tourist season, the

(See SHERIFF'S, Page 2-A)