

## Soldier Due Home From Middle East

U.S. Army Sgt. William Robinson Jr. of Bolivia is coming home Saturday after five months in Saudi Arabia.

His family and neighbors plan to welcome him back in style, his mother, Mrs. William Robinson Sr., said Tuesday.

Robinson and the 101st Airborne, based at Fort Campbell, Ky., shipped out for the Middle East on Oct. 21, and have since played a part in Operation Desert Storm.

Mrs. William Robinson Sr. said her son arrived at New York's LaGuardia Airport Sunday via Pan Am. After checking in at Fort Campbell, he's traveling home with a friend to Chicago before both head south again to Robinson's home.

"They're leaving Chicago Friday and are due in Saturday, but we don't have any idea what time," said Mrs. Robinson.

When the soldiers arrive, the Robinsons and their neighbors on Brown Road will be waiting. They plan to line the roadsides, bearing flags, yellow ribbons, smiles and videocameras.

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## Seaside Gunfight Results In Grand Jury Indictment

BY TERRY POPE

A Calabash man injured in a gunfight at a Seaside business Feb. 19 has been indicted by a Brunswick County Grand Jury for shooting a man authorities believe was an innocent bystander.

Julian Herschel Allen of Valley Road, Calabash, was indicted Monday for the shooting of William Forrest Taylor Jr., who was injured during a shootout at the T&T Development Co. office at Seaside Plaza. Allen, who was shot twice in the gunfight, remains hospitalized and in fair condition at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington.

The indictment accuses Allen of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury.

Allen and Taylor's father, William F. "Bookie" Taylor Sr., are business partners. The two men met at the office to discuss a business

deal around 8:08 p.m. on Feb. 19, but ended up firing guns at one another after a heated argument began, said Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Billy Hughes.

Both men drew weapons and began firing shots, Hughes said. "Bookie" Taylor allegedly fired a .38-caliber revolver at Allen, hitting him twice, once in the upper chest and again in the elbow.

Allen is believed to have fired shots from two guns, a .38-caliber revolver and a .357-caliber pistol. When the shooting began, William Taylor Jr. was at a nearby business and rushed into his father's office.

Taylor Jr. was hit once by a bullet in the arm, Det. Hughes reported. He was taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply, where he was kept overnight, treated and released. In all, about 10 to 11 shots were fired, Hughes said.

(See GRAND JURY, Page 2-A)



NEWLY-ELECTED OFFICERS of the Brunswick County Republican Party are (from left) Marty Cooke of Ocean Isle Beach, secretary; Phil Norris of Ash, treasurer; Millie Murrow of Long Beach, vice chairman; and James Payne of Shallotte, chairman

## GOP Opposes Two-Year Terms, Partisan Education Elections

BY SUSAN USHER

With the aroma of fish frying in the background, Brunswick County Republicans took stands Saturday against partisan school board elections and two-year terms for county commissioners.

A standing-room-only crowd of between 150 and 200 packed the Brunswick County Republican Party Headquarters Building north of Supply to hear guest speaker Joseph Dean and to begin another year under new leadership, with James Payne as chairman.

"The Democratic leadership wanted this," said Mavis Freeman, supporting the party's position against two-year terms for county commissioners.

Few speakers Saturday had little good to say about the two-year term proposal. One was Wallace Smith, who said the county's been "stuck" with bad commissioners in the past, unable to do anything about it. "I say let's go for two-year terms and make them live up to this."

Last year the Brunswick County Democratic Party voted 39-23 to ask Rep. E. David Redwine to introduce local legislation to shorten the terms of county commissioners. Commissioners, and their counterparts on the Brunswick County Board of Education, presently serve staggered four-year terms.

Last week, Redwine asked the chairmen of both the Republican and Democratic parties to check their party's positions on issues relating to county governance.

Most of those at the convention Saturday agreed with Mrs. Freeman, saying the board needed the continuity of leadership provided by staggered terms and that the proposal smacked of Democratic manipulation in an attempt to weaken the power of the Republican Party, which now holds four of five seats on the board of commissioners.

Malcolm Grissett, immediate past chairman, called for a screening procedure for party candidates.

(See GOP, Page 2-A)



**Talent On Parade**  
Claire Hankins, 7, sings "America the Beautiful" during the Black Arts Festival Friday night at Brunswick Community College. More photos are on Page 4-B.



**Fitness Pays**  
That's the maxim touted by Brunswick County health educator Rita Hatcher, a power lifter, as she promotes prevention of diabetes and osteoporosis. See Page 12-B.

## Judge Rules On Unusual Bond Motion For 'Lady'

BY TERRY POPE

Lady, an alleged female pit and boxer mixed, has been behind bars since Dec. 28, when she was caught by the Brunswick County Animal Control and placed in the animal shelter in Supply.

Her owner, Steve Simmons of Ash, has been awaiting trial in Brunswick County Superior Court on charges of failing to confine or leash a vicious animal.

In Superior Court Monday, Judge Giles R. Clark ruled on a bond hearing concerning the case, but the bond request wasn't for Simmons, it was for Lady.

In Brunswick County District Court Feb. 4, Simmons was found guilty of failing to confine his dog, which animal control supervisor

## CRC To Talk Coastal Erosion

Options available to local governments interested in controlling coastal erosion will be one of the major items discussed when the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission meets next week in Wrightsville Beach.

The state panel meets next Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday and Friday at the Holiday Inn, said Jeanette Johnson, spokesperson for the N.C. Division of Coastal Management.

On Thursday, the coastal commission is expected to resume a discussion that started at its last meeting concerning the state's ban on seawalls, groins, bulkheads and other structures that "harden" the beach.

Also Thursday, a public hearing is scheduled for 4 p.m. on a proposal to expand the CRC's regulatory

authority to inland primary nursery areas designed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

Primary nursery areas are water where baby fish and other marine specimens spend their first growing seasons. Presently, the CRC has the power to regulate activity in coastal nursery areas only, which are designated by the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission.

Bill Hogarth, director of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, will report on the criteria and standards for coastal primary nursery areas Wednesday afternoon.

CRC members also will hear other reports next week on marina trends and permitting, state and federal wetlands preservation regulations and a system for rating wetlands based on productivity.

## Ocean Isle Beach Backs Off Regional Sewer Plan

BY DOUG RUTTER

Ocean Isle Beach officials have backed away from the idea of playing a leading role in establishing a regional sewer system. But they're not ruling out the proposal entirely.

Instead, town commissioners decided at their regular monthly meeting Tuesday to take care of the town's immediate sewer service needs and keep the big picture in mind.

Ocean Isle officials plan to expand the town sewer system so it serves the entire community. The existing system doesn't serve the east end of the island.

While in the planning stages, commissioners have been considering alternative sewage treatment options and the possibility of leading the way toward a sewer system that could serve areas outside the town limits.

Odell Williamson, the island's major developer and the town's utilities commissioner, first suggested the concept of the regional facility to the town board at its Feb. 11 meeting.

However, Williamson recommended this week that town officials take care of the town's needs first, and put the idea of a regional sewer system on hold for two reasons.

Williamson told the town board Tuesday that he thinks Ocean Isle

*"It doesn't mean that we won't pursue this route to serve the area. But in the short run, we won't have to spend any extra money."*

—Odell Williamson  
OIB Utilities Commissioner

Beach voters would be "a little reluctant" to pass a bond issue to finance a regional system.

Secondly, the developer said he thinks the town can pay for improvements to the town sewer system as it is designed and constructed without a general obligation bond issue.

Williamson also noted that some of the areas that could have been served by a regional sewer system in southwestern Brunswick County apparently aren't interested in it.

Sunset Beach officials are planning a sewer system that would serve the town, possibly working out an arrangement to use treated wastewater for golf course irrigation.

To take care of Ocean Isle's needs, Williamson has recommended that the town construct a holding pond where wastewater could be

stored until it can be applied to spray fields.

Williamson said the town could use the holding pond in the summer to store excess wastewater, and then spray the water in the fall when the tourists are gone and water usage slacks off.

The utilities commissioner said building a holding pond would be the quickest way to provide sewer service to the east end of the island, which has been the town's number one priority all along.

A holding pond could buy the town two or three years of time before it would need to expand its spray fields, he said.

Ocean Isle Beach Commissioners met with Williamson in executive session for about 50 minutes Tuesday to discuss hiring an engineering firm to design the holding pond.

Town officials did not choose an engineer, but will meet with representatives of three engineering firms Thursday, March 21, at 3:30 p.m. at the town hall.

The companies are Andrew and Kuske of Shallotte, Boney and Associates of Raleigh and Houston and Associates of Shallotte. They were among the half dozen engineering firms commissioners met with during a Feb. 19 workshop.

Williamson emphasized that building a holding pond to take care of the town's immediate needs won't preclude the town from considering a regional sewer system in the future.

"What we're doing would probably be needed in any circumstance," he said. "It doesn't mean that we won't pursue this route to serve the area. But in the short run, we won't have to spend any extra money."

Williamson said a holding pond probably would be needed even if the town decided to expand its plant to handle another million gallons of wastewater per day.

**Other Business**  
In other business Tuesday, commissioners:

■ Agreed to post "No Parking" signs at the oceanfront end of Shalotte Boulevard and on Fayetteville Street between Second and Third streets. A property owner near the

east end of the island had asked the town board in a letter to close those areas to vehicular traffic because visitors have damaged the dunes and caused the beach to erode.

■ Authorized Mayor Betty Williamson to write a letter to Brunswick County's state representatives urging them not to cut funds paid to towns. The mayor had received a letter from the governor's office saying the state might reduce the amount of utilities franchise tax revenues paid to towns due to the state budget crisis.

■ Discussed doing away with the town's underground gas storage tank at the old town hall and contracting with a service station or buying a new above-ground storage tank. Odell Williamson suggested the town implement a better method of controlling who has access to the gas tank and when it can be used.

■ Heard the monthly building inspections report for February. Druied Roberson issued two permits in the extraterritorial area and collected \$59 in fees on construction valued at \$7,500. He issued 16 permits in town and collected \$1,350 in fees on construction valued at \$90,585.

■ Authorized the mayor and town clerk to accept the best offer for an old police car the town wants to sell.

## NO WORD ON PUBLIC HEARING

# Health Board Has Questions About Proposed Crematorium

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County Manager David Clegg said Tuesday he has received no word from the state on whether a public hearing will be held on a proposed animal crematorium targeted for the Town Creek community.

Brunswick County commissioners requested a public hearing last week after residents packed the commissioners' chambers asking that the board do what it can to stop construction of the project.

The proposed crematorium is a concern for the Brunswick County Board of Health, which has asked Health Director Michael Rhodes to investigate the project. Board members said Monday they want to know if the disposal of frozen animals is an operation that would require inspections by the health department for potential public health hazards.

Southeastern Pet Cremation has proposed building the crematorium just off Town Creek Road (State Road 1413) about two

miles from U.S. 17. The owner, Ron Currie, animal control supervisor for New Hanover County, has applied to the N.C. Department of Environmental Management for an air quality permit.

Residents had until March 9 to file written comments on the permit application, but one permit for the project has already been revoked.

Following the commissioners meeting last week, Clegg revoked Currie's county building permit, which stated the building was to be a 320-square-foot "residential workshop."

The building would sit on a nine-acre tract and house an incinerator that's 32 square feet. The animals would be burned by natural gas. The facility would be used to cremate pets, carcasses, organs and wastes from animal pounds and slaughterhouses.

"It doesn't sound like a residential workshop to me," Clegg said.

Currie can reapply for the building permit, Clegg added. The county would have to apply the correct volumes of the state building code to the project to see if the proposed building would be acceptable.

"I don't know how I could sit here, knowing what I did, without investigating it further," Clegg said of his decision to deny the permit.

A cement foundation has already been poured at the building site.

Health Board Vice Chairman Jerry Lewis questioned Monday if the county would have to inspect the burning of animals at an incinerator to make sure there were no public health hazards involved.

"I don't know where our authority lies with that particular issue," Rhodes said. "If the animals are frozen they must be disposed of within a certain period of time."

Rhodes said he had no information on how the incinerator would operate, but that he would request data from the applicant.

"I think it'd be good public relations for them to tell us," said Lewis.

Board Member H.J. "Skip" Davis said if inspections would be needed then the board would have to adopt an inspection policy for animal crematoriums.

"It's a definite health issue," added Davis.

Environmental Health Supervisor John Crowder said local governments must dispose of dead animals within 24 hours if they are to be buried.

"As long as they're not disposing of anything into the ground and the operations are not causing any air quality problems it's not considered a health hazard," Rhodes added.

Lewis said it was his understanding that the state is concerned whether the site chosen for the crematorium could be considered a wetland. Rhodes said the U.S. Corps of Engineers was "looking at that situation now."

Town Creek residents oppose the crema-

torium because they say it will pose environmental and health problems and cause their land values to drop. Those speaking at the commissioners' meeting last week said a commercial building should not be allowed in a residential neighborhood.

Clegg said if the county had a zoning ordinance in place the Town Creek area would likely have been in a "residential classification with an overlay of agricultural."

"I'm assuming a crematorium would have been light industrial or light commercial," he added. "It would not have been considered for a residential or agricultural zone."

Countywide zoning is an issue county commissioners are hoping to tackle this calendar year. Clegg said he believes the county should first adopt a subdivision ordinance and then turn its attention to zoning.

"The subdivision ordinance is perking right along," Clegg added.