



Outfoxed?

State wildlife officers outlined fox laws to county commissioners Monday. The story's on page 9-B.



Buckets Of Spots!

Anglers continued to fill their buckets with spots last week. See the weekly fishing reports on page 10-B.

D.C. Bound!

New rules brought extra drama to the Brunswick County Spelling Bee last Thursday. The story's on page 4-B.



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BRUNSWICK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC party officers elected Saturday were, front row (from left), Barbara Holcombe, secretary; Grace Peoples, first vice chairman; standing, (from left) Franklin Randolph, second vice chairman; Mark Lewis, treasurer; Cindy Gurganus, third vice chairman; and Crawford M. Hart, chairman.

Democrats Vote For 2-Year Terms, Elect Party Officers

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County Democrats want county commissioners and school board members to face election every two years.

Party delegates overwhelmingly voted at their convention Saturday to recommend that terms for the two boards be cut from four years to two.

Democrats also approved resolutions asking that school board elections remain partisan and that the issues be decided by legislative action rather than by a vote of the people.

"Democrats do not need to hide behind four-year terms," said outgoing Chairman Glenn Peterson. "If it's good enough for the state legislature, if it's good enough for the House of Representatives, then it's good enough for us."

More than 100 Democrats attended the convention Saturday to elect new officers and to decide on issues raised by State Rep. David Redwine.

New officers are Crawford M. Hart, chairman; Grace Peoples, first vice-chairman; Franklin Randolph, second vice-chairman; Cindy Gurganus, third vice-chairman; Barbara Holcombe, re-elected as secretary; and Mark Lewis, treasurer.

Also, delegates elected Odell Williamson of Ocean Isle and Elizabeth Dameron of Holden Beach as members of the state Democratic executive committee.

At their convention last month, Brunswick County Republican delegates voted to keep the terms for local offices at four years and to make school board races non-partisan. Republicans occupy all five seats on the Board of Commissioners, but Democrats have three of five seats on the school board.

Hart, of Boiling Spring Lakes, was elected chairman of the party just minutes after receiving a surprise honor from Peterson, who said he gave the award personally to the hardest working member of the party.

"I will strive to do everything I can for the Democratic party," Hart

Democratic Resolutions

Brunswick County Democratic delegates took action on the following resolutions at their county convention in Supply on Saturday:

- Adopted a resolution to cut county commissioner terms from four years to two years;
- Adopted a resolution cutting school board terms from four years to two years;
- Recommended that school board seats remain partisan;
- Requested legislative action to change commissioner and school board terms by local bill rather than a vote of county residents;
- Endorsed the South Brunswick Islands Committee of 100's effort to recruit new industry into the county to bring in more jobs;
- Endorsed the Shalotte precinct's resolution calling for a stoplight at the N.C. 211 and U.S. 17 intersection in Supply;
- Supported the Shalotte precinct's resolution asking the N.C. Department of Transportation for an overpass at N.C. 130 and the U.S. 17 Shalotte bypass for the safety of school children;
- Supported the Oak Island II precinct's resolution calling for a state lottery to raise money for the state budget;
- Turned down a resolution by the Oak Island II precinct to change precinct lines on the island between Oak Island I and II;
- Tabled a Shalotte precinct resolution supporting a package of changes for minimum wage and unemployment benefits;
- Turned down a Shalotte precinct resolution that opposed salary increases for U.S. Congressmen and called for a cut in the House members' current salary.

Some Fear, Some Praise New Subdivision Rules

BY TERRY POPE

Some developers think a new county subdivision ordinance will actually hurt the county rather than guard against poorly-planned communities.

Several told Brunswick County commissioners Monday that parts of the ordinance need to be changed. "I think they're reading in a worse case scenario," said Commission Chairman Kelly Holden. "We have had situations where the developers have rode in with a scraper and have sold worthless land for lots that have perked. That's the worse case scenario."

The board set a public hearing on the ordinance for April 29, 7 p.m., in the public assembly building at the government complex in Bolivia. Members of the planning department staff will also be there to answer questions.

County Manager David Clegg said he constantly receives phone calls from residents who complain because the dirt road they live on can't be paved. Usually, it's because developers did not plat enough land for a state right-of-way when planning the subdivision, he said.

Many of the requirements outlined by the county's new subdivision ordinance are actually requirements of the state, Clegg said. The ordinance acts as one source for local developers, a source that pulls together current regulations from many departments into one document. The county planning department has been preparing

the final draft for about two years, Holden said.

There are many copies floating around that are not the final version, added Clegg. Persons can get final copies from the planning department.

"What they may be upset over may in fact not be there," Clegg said.

The new ordinance has provisions dealing with minimum lot sizes, requires that all roads be paved and meet state right-of-way standards and requires projects within a certain distance of a county water line to tap onto the system.

The last subdivision ordinance was approved in June 1980. The county ordinance regulates developments in new subdivisions lying within unincorporated areas of the county or areas not affected by a town's extraterritorial zoning district.

"I don't think they're really going to be as affected by it as they think they are," Holden said. "We have a lot of fly by night developers. What we're saying with this document is, the developer should be responsible for that subdivision and not the taxpayers of Brunswick County."

Surveyor Bobby Long said the ordinance will have a tremendous impact on rural development. He said requiring that roads be paved to state standards in rural communities would cost about \$35 per foot, thus making those projects too costly.

(See SOME FEAR, Page 2-A)

Armed Robber Flees Longwood Store

Brunswick County sheriff's detectives are still searching for an armed robber that held up a Longwood store Saturday afternoon, leaving with an undetermined amount of cash.

A man entered Smith's Produce on N.C. 904 around 2 p.m. with a sawed-off shotgun and held it on a clerk while he took the money, said Lt. Donnell Marlow.

The robber entered the store once and asked the clerk if she had any roses, Marlow said. When the victim said she did not, the suspect left and returned about a minute

later with the shotgun.

He told the clerk to open the cash register and to give him the money, Marlow reported. While holding the shotgun on the clerk, he threatened to kill her.

The robber sped away in a black car headed toward Columbus County, the report states.

Detectives were in Columbus County earlier this week searching for the suspect.

Marlow said there is a suspect and that detectives expect to make an arrest this week.

Murder Suspect Turns Himself In

An Ash teen remained in the Brunswick County Jail without bond earlier this week after having been charged with the murder of his brother.

Harold Allen Graham, 18, of Route 1, turned himself in to Brunswick County sheriff's detectives Friday morning, said Detective Gary Shay.

Graham is accused of shooting his brother, Lacy Franklin Graham, 28, of the same address, twice in the head on March 30 outside of their home on State Road 1300 (Ash-Little River Road). The shooting occurred around 3:20 p.m.

Since the shooting, the suspect has been in hiding in a wooded area along the Waccamaw River. His parents had been cooperating with the investigation, but also could not locate him.

Shay said the suspect's mother drove Graham to the Southeastern Mental Health Center in Wilmington last Friday.

"She informed the people at the Mental Health Center who they were, and they in turn called the Wilmington Police Department," Shay said.

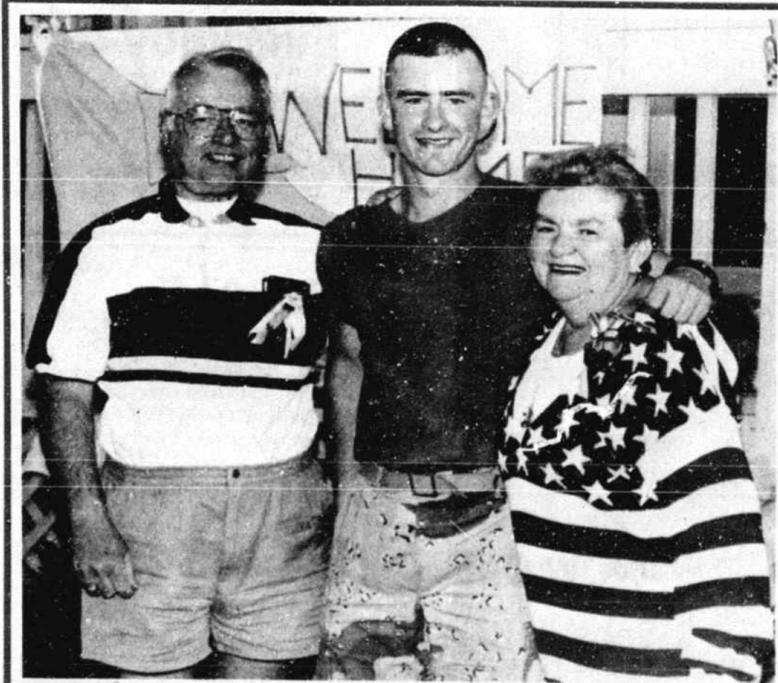
Brunswick County detectives were immediately notified by Wilmington police early Friday. An arrest was made around 9 a.m., Shay said.

"No motive has been established, as of yet," said Shay.

The shooting occurred just one day before the suspect's 18th birthday. Shay said Graham will be tried on murder charges as an adult.

Graham also faces a charge of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury stemming from an Oct. 8, 1990 shooting that injured a Shalotte Middle school student in the leg.

The student had been shot with a .22-caliber rifle. A Brunswick County grand jury indicted Graham on that charge in February.



Soldier Returns From War

Marine Reserve Cpl. Peter Sullivan was welcomed home from Operation Desert Storm last Friday when his family greeted him with banners, yellow ribbons and patriotic music at the foot of the Holden Beach Bridge. The soldier returned from overseas last week after more than four months in Saudi Arabia. He was involved in the liberation of Kuwait. In the left photo, Sullivan is pictured with parents James and Marian Sullivan. They live in West Springfield, Mass., and own a condominium unit at Holden Beach. At right, the soldier's nieces, Lauren Bell and Sarah Palolino, wait for Uncle Pete to arrive.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTER

