

IN SUPERIOR COURT

# Lakes Teen Remains Under \$100,000 Bond

BY TERRY POPE

A Boiling Spring Lakes teen-ager charged in the shooting death of his mother was still being held under \$100,000 bond Monday.

James Vickery, 15, has been held in a juvenile detention center in New Hanover County since petitions were served on him May 21.

In Brunswick County Superior Court last week, Judge B. Craig Ellis set bond for the suspect and ruled that he undergo psychological testing.

"I don't think he'd be of any kind of risk to flee," defense attorney Michael Ramos told Ellis. "If he was a candidate to flee, he had opportunity to do so."

Last Thursday, Ellis ordered that Vickery receive private psychological testing. On Ramos' motion, the court appropriated \$2,000 for the evaluation.

According to the evidence, officers approached the Pierce Road home to find out why Virginia Anderson, 44, had not reported to work at Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport for more than a week.

Her body was found in a locked bedroom after Boiling Spring Lakes officers noticed a foul odor coming from the house. An autopsy indicated she had been shot in the head about a week earlier.

During that time, Vickery continued to live in the home.

Although he will be tried as an adult, the maximum sentence Vickery can receive, if found guilty of first-degree murder, is life in prison. According to state law, anyone younger than 17 at the time of a crime is too young to receive a death sentence.

"This is a non-capital case simply because of the age of the defendant," noted District Attorney Rex Gore.

Vickery's step-father and a number of relatives live in Charlotte, Gore said.

"I don't think he has any ties to the area," said Gore.

He will appear in Superior Court Aug. 5 for arraignment, when persons are brought to court to answer to criminal charges. The charge is then read to the defendant, who is asked how he or she pleads.

Judge Ellis also heard the following cases in Superior Court last week:

■Anthony Craig Smith, 27, of Route 6, Shallotte, was sentenced to a total of six years in prison. He was sentenced to two years in prison and given work release after pleading guilty to driving while impaired, driving with a permanently revoked license and driving with no insurance. He was given another two-year sentence and recommended for the DART program after pleading

guilty to driving without a license and driving with a fictitious registration.

DART is a drug rehabilitation treatment program administered by the prison system. Smith was also sentenced to two years in prison after pleading guilty to driving while his license was revoked, speeding to elude arrest and resisting arrest. All sentences are to run at the expiration of each previous sentence.

■Ronald Gary Hart, 49, of Bennettsville, S.C., was given a four-year sentence, suspended for five years and placed under five years' supervised probation after pleading guilty to the sell of marijuana and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Hart was accused of selling a quarter-pound of Columbian marijuana to an undercover SBI agent in Maco on May 13. Officers said he used his 7-year-old son as a decoy in the sell. Hart was fined \$2,000 and ordered to pay \$50 to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, \$500 in attorney fees and to perform 100 hours of community service.

■Gregory F. Williams, 26, of Route 1, Supply, was sentenced to two years in prison on each of three counts of conversion by bailor. The sentence was suspended for five years and he was placed on five

years' unsupervised probation. He was ordered to pay \$500 on July 10, \$1,700 on July 24 and \$1,647 on Jan. 24, 1992 in restitution to F&SW Inc., his employer at the time the money was reported missing in October 1990, indictments state.

■Joseph Carson Brooks, Route 5, Shallotte, was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended for two years and fined \$50 after pleading guilty to possession of undersized oysters and selling fish, shrimp and crabs without a license. He was ordered to pay \$72 in restitution for oysters to the State of North Carolina and to not violate any laws for two years.

■Thomas Wesley Blackwood, 34, of Greensboro, was sentenced to four years in prison, suspended for five years and placed on five years' supervised probation after pleading guilty to possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and simple possession of cocaine.

He was placed under six months intensive probation, fined \$2,000, ordered to serve 150 hours of community service within 12 months, pay \$240 to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and submit to warrantless searches.

He was ordered to cooperate fully with the sheriff's department and testify truthfully and submit to counsel and treatment if required by his probation officer.



STAFF PHOTO BY TONIA TREST

## Street Signs Going Up

New River Drive and Wilson Avenue street signs and 10 other signposts went up in Calabash Acres last Thursday. Every road in Brunswick County must have a street sign and name before the county's 911 emergency communication program goes into operation. Ten to 15 signposts will go up every day until the job is completed. Pictured from the left are Tom Birmingham, a county planner; Ellis Bryant, sign team member; and Board of Commissioners Chairman Kelly Holden. Kneeling are (from left) sign team members Donald Reavis and Bryan Hollis.

## Deputies Seize Marijuana

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department seized 53 marijuana plants at a value of \$84,800 in June, according to the monthly activity report.

Officers answered 1,164 calls during the month, including 166 domestic calls and summoned 138 witnesses.

The department conducted 117 investigations and recovered \$4,370 in property. Officers spent 334 hours in court, according to the report.

Lawmen served 467 civil papers, 326 local warrants, one juvenile petition and eight mental and inebriate papers.

Officers traveled 86,970 miles during the month and made 19 trips out of the county. The department logged 1,216 miles on the transport van.

The department held 50 crime prevention meetings during the month, according to the report.

## Tree Care Session Scheduled July 30

A tree care workshop will be held July 30 at the Southport Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The seminar will be conducted by Dr. James McGraw of N.C. State University. Topics covered will include the basic biology of tree growth, maintenance and protection from construction, said Bruce Williams, extension area turf agent. Tree pruning and other maintenance

will be demonstrated.

The cost is \$5 per person. The course is limited to 25 people, so pre-registration is required.

To register send a check payable to County of Brunswick to Brunswick County Extension Service, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422.

For more information, call the extension office at 253-4425.

## More Drivers Charged With Drug Possession

BY TERRY POPE

Officers are taking to the highways and the air this summer to combat drugs in Brunswick County.

Drug charges were filed against a Cincinnati man last week after officers seized a number of marijuana seedlings from a car near Leland.

Charles Erwin Skidmore Jr., 41, was stopped by Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Shelton Caison for suspicion of driving while impaired.

The marijuana plants were found following a search of the suspect's car, said Lt. David Crocker, narcotics officer with the sheriff's department.

Skidmore was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana, maintaining a vehicle to keep a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The seedlings are among 25 marijuana plants that have been seized by narcotics officers in Brunswick County during July. Last month, 53 plants were seized, said Crocker.

The plants confiscated this month range in size from seedlings to more than three feet tall, he said.

As in years past, spotter planes have also been used this summer to

locate marijuana plants from the air. "This season, the plants are slow growing and are well-hidden," said Crocker.

On the streets, sheriff's detectives and the N.C. State Highway Patrol organized Operation RIP in March. The joint effort is aimed to combat the flow of drugs on the county's highways.

Operation RIP was back in force during the July 4 holiday weekend as six people were charged at several highway drug checkpoints.

Two drug-sniffing dogs aided officers in the searches, said Crocker.

Marcos Augustus Ceasar is handled by State Trooper J.V. Dove. Buddy, a county crime prevention dog, is handled by Deputy Don Gates.

The six people charged with drug violations during the latest road checkpoints are:

■Sharon Arline Lupton, 21, of Spring Valley Road, Wilmington, was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana, maintaining a vehicle to keep a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of pyrotechnics (fireworks) by Trooper Roy Murray.

■Matthew Eugene Neil, 17, of Providence Forge, Va., was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana by Murray.

■William David Hatfield, 21, of Sophia, was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana by Dove.

■Ralph Edwin Church, 27, of Acadia Avenue, Winston-Salem, was

charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia by Dove.

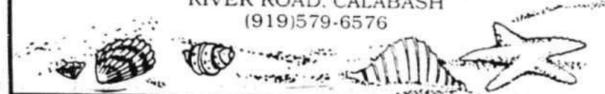
■David B. Levy, 37, of Oneonta, N.Y., was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana by Crocker.

■Donna Moore Pearson, 32, of Lenoir, was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana by Crocker.

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# Answers to your Questions about "Dry Eye"

### Q. What is "dry eye"?

A. The tears your eyes normally produce are necessary for overall eye health and clear vision. Dry eye occurs when your eyes do not produce enough tears or produce tears which do not have the proper chemical composition.

### Q. What causes "dry eye"?

A. Dry eye symptoms can result from the normal aging process, exposure to environmental conditions, problems with normal blinking or from medications such as antihistamines, oral contraceptives or antidepressants. Dry eye can also be symptomatic of general health problems, or other diseases or can result from chemical or thermal burns to the eye.

### Q. What are the signs/symptoms of "dry eye"?

A. The most common signs/symptoms include stinging, itchy, scratchy and uncomfortable eyes; and sometimes having a burning feeling or a feeling of something foreign within the eye. You may experience increased dry eye symptoms on awakening. Some people experience an overly wet eye. This is a natural reflex to comfort a dry eye.

### Q. How is "dry eye" diagnosed?

A. During the examination, your doctor of optometry will ask you questions about your general health, your use of medications and your home and work environments to determine any factors which may be causing dry eye symptoms. This information will help your doctor decide whether to perform dry eye tests. These tests use diagnostic instruments, which allow a highly magnified view of your eyes and usually use special dyes. These tests allow your doctor to evaluate the quality, the amount and the distribution of tears to detect signs of dry eyes.

### Q. Can "dry eye" be cured?

A. Dry eye cannot be cured, but your eyes' sensitivity can be lessened and measures taken so your eyes remain healthy. This most frequent treatment is the use of artificial tears or tear substitutes. For more severe dry eye, ointment can be used, especially at bedtime. In some cases, small plugs may be inserted in the corner of the eyelids to slow drainage and loss of tears.

### Q. Will "dry eye" harm my eyes?

A. If dry eye is untreated, it can harm your eyes. Excessive dry eye can damage tissue and possibly scar the cornea of your eye, impairing vision. Dry eye can make contact lens wear more difficult due to increased irritation and a greater chance of eye infection. To keep dry eye symptoms in check, you and your doctor of optometry need to work together. Follow your doctor's instructions carefully. If you have increased dryness or redness that is not relieved by the prescribed treatment, let your optometrist know as soon as possible.



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