



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Driver Falls Off

John Lester Floyd, 30, of Shallotte, was traveling west on Gray Bridge Road (S.R. 1134) about three miles east of Shallotte Friday evening when he fell off his 1985 moped near the right shoulder. He was transported by ambulance to The Brunswick Hospital, where he was treated for minor injuries. Trooper W.H. Thompson said no charges would be filed in the 5:30 p.m. incident.

Police Chief Finalists To Undergo Evaluations

BY TERRY POPE

Two finalists for the Leland police chief job will be asked to undergo psychological evaluations before the town council makes a decision on whom to hire.

But one councilman says neither is the right person for the job.

"I think it would be a waste of time to proceed with any further evaluation of either of these two," said Councilman George Yates.

The two candidates are Franklin Strickland, 53, of Durham, and Johnny McCarthy, 57, of Wilmington. Routine background checks will also be made on the two men.

Strickland is a lieutenant with the Durham Police Department and is director of the Durham Police Academy. He is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Army and has been with the Durham department 11 years.

McCarthy retired four years ago as a lieutenant with the New York City Police Department, having served 27 years. He was head of the department's internal affairs division and is currently a consultant for the Wilmington Police Department.

"I believe either candidate would make a very good chief," said Leland Mayor Russell Baldwin. "I also would like to say that I have

not made up my mind on who I would vote for, despite what has been alleged."

Baldwin said he is leaning toward one candidate but wants to wait until the evaluations and background checks are complete before making his choice.

"We've spent a lot of money and a lot of time and effort, and they have both been recommended to us by trained professionals," said Baldwin. "I think we should proceed."

The two men were interviewed by the council in open session at a meeting July 18.

Councilwoman Lynette Carlisle said she agrees with Town Attorney Glen Peterson, who reported that the town would be getting the top law enforcement officer in the county, regardless of which man is hired.

"He (Peterson) said that we would be extremely lucky to have either one," said Ms. Carlisle, "that they were the type of individual that the district attorney would love to have in court."

At a meeting Saturday, the board

set a salary range from \$21,051 to \$29,851 for the new police chief, based on a state survey and comparison with other local police departments.

Yates said the minimum salary might be too high for Leland. A motion setting the salary scale passed, 4-1, with Yates voting no.

In other business Saturday, the board unanimously approved a fringe benefit package for town employees establishing vacation periods, sick leave, probation periods, health insurance and life insurance benefits.

The council decided to give 10 days of vacation to workers who have been employed for one to five years with the town.

"It's one of the top stress level jobs in the world," said Town Clerk Joyce Bragg. "If you want your people served correctly and council served correctly, you probably should give 10 days a year."

Employees will get 12 days of vacation for five to 10 years of service and 15 days of vacation for more than 10 years of service.

CONTROVERSY SURROUNDS SCHOOL GRANT

PTO Says No Thanks To Leland's \$1,000

BY TERRY POPE

Controversy over a \$1,000 educational grant from the town of Leland will delay a program for students this fall at Lincoln Primary School.

The school's Parent Teacher Organization was given a grant from the town on July 18 to help implement a program designed to reward students for making improvements at school.

But council members voted 3-2 Saturday to revise a contract that had already been signed by PTO President Tina Childs, requiring that the group match the town's donation by 50 percent.

PTO representatives plan to question the legality of that vote at a council meeting tonight (Thursday) at 7 p.m.

The contract was delivered last Tuesday to Leland Mayor Russell Baldwin, who had not signed it as of Saturday's council meeting.

"I really feel that you have decided that you want to stop this thing and this is an attempt to do that," Councilman George Yates told Baldwin. "I think it's wrong to do that."

Councilman William Benton's two-part motion asked that Town Attorney Glen Peterson revise the proposed contract to require donations be matched \$1 for every \$2 given. It also asked that grant requests be referred to the town's education commission for evaluation before they are awarded by the council.

At a July 18 meeting, the council voted 3-1, with Benton absent, to bypass the commission and a matching funds requirement in awarding \$1,000 to the PTO. The contract required the PTO to give the council two reports on how the money was spent.

Benton's motion Saturday passed 3-2, with Councilwoman Lynette Carlisle and Baldwin voting for it. Yates and Councilwoman Jane Gilbert voted no.

The PTO now says it doesn't want the town's money.

"The PTO is not going to be bullied into matching funds," said spokesperson Letha Thomas. "We do not care to reapply for that grant."

To implement the "Caught You Being Good" program, the PTO will have to raise additional funds on its own, which may delay it until January, she said.

"I'm not even positive that we'll be able to start the program in mid-semester," said Ms. Thomas. "That's unfortunate."

The program is designed to improve the grades, behavior and self-esteem of Lincoln's 800 or more students in grades K-3. Students receive tokens that can be traded for

prizes at the school store and also have a chance to eat lunch off campus with the principal.

"We did our part and got the contract and signed it on Monday," said Ms. Thomas. "As a voter and taxpayer, I am absolutely outraged that they could punish, not me, but my children."

It is a thought also voiced by Councilwoman Gilbert.

"The people that are going to lose by this are not the parents, they're not this board," she said. "It's the children in the school that are going to lose."

Matching funds are important, said Baldwin, for it will increase the amount of money available for education within the community by 50 percent. The PTO had also only presented one signed contract while two are required, he said.

"It wouldn't be fair to waive that provision for one group and then to require it of another," said Baldwin on the matching funds.

The education commission was approved in March by a now familiar 3-2 vote of the board. From the town's 1991-92 budget, \$6,000 was set aside for grants. No one has been appointed to serve on the commission headed by Baldwin.

"The matching funds is nothing but fair, and right and honest," said Benton. "And I will not consent to nothing less from the one that is soliciting it now and the ones that are soliciting in the future."

In March, Yates accused Baldwin of rushing to form the education and other commissions just so he could announce them in the town's newsletter mailed to residents. His motion Saturday to have the March 9 minutes reflect why he opposed the education commission was defeated by the board, 2-3.

Baldwin wants to appoint people from outside of Leland to serve on the commission, Yates charged.

"What he wants is to dictate what

goes on in this town," said Yates, "and I'm against that."

Baldwin responded that he only wanted volunteers from outside of the town to help in forming a charter for the commission.

"If someone has a project to offer, they should be allowed to develop that project to the point that it's ready to go to the council," said Baldwin.

Education Board Slates Meetings

The Brunswick County Board of Education has set up a schedule for its regular meetings over the next 11 months, generally alternating between school sites and the central office at Southport.

As a rule, the board meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. But on occasion, as in August and December, the meeting is rescheduled to avoid conflict with another event.

Special or emergency meetings of the board—those called on 48 hours or shorter notice—are usually held at the central office, which is located on N.C. 133/N.C. 87 near Southport.

Meetings in each community are intended to make it easier for residents of that section of the county to attend a meeting or present concerns to the board.

Regular meetings will be held as follows:

- Aug. 6.....Shallotte Middle
- Sept. 9.....Central office
- Oct. 7.....Waccamaw
- Nov. 4.....Central office
- Dec. 9.....Central office
- Jan. 6.....North Brunswick
- Feb. 3.....Central office
- March 2.....Sth. Brunswick M.
- April 6.....Central office
- May 4.....Bolivia
- June 8.....Central office

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