

## Cook Named Holden Chief

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach has a new police chief.

Robert Cook, a sergeant with nearly three years experience in the town's police department, was promoted to the post last week. He replaces long-time chief Raymond Simpson, who retired Wednesday after more than 15 years with the department.



COOK

"I'm real excited," Cook said after being notified of the promotion last week. "I think it's a very good town, and I've always enjoyed being here."

Town Manager Gary Parker, who announced the hiring last Thursday, said Cook was chosen from approximately 30 applicants for the post.

"He's got an outstanding record here in the department," Parker said. "He knows police work and public relations, and he's got a lot of experience in supervision."

Cook, who will be paid about \$21,000 as chief, was promoted to sergeant July 1. He started working for the police department in April 1989.

Before entering law enforcement, Cook worked 30 years with the J.P. Stevens textile company and retired as a shift manager at the age of 50.

The Laurinburg native began working at Holden Beach two weeks

after graduating from the N.C. Police Academy. Parker said it was entirely his decision to hire Cook, but he discussed law enforcement "philosophy" with the new board of commissioners which took office Dec. 2.

"They made it pretty clear to me from the start that they wanted to leave that decision to me," Parker said of the hiring. "But I consider it healthy for elected officials to let management know their expectations of how the town should go."

At a town meeting last Wednesday, Commissioner Jim Fournier said he thought public relations was an important part of a police officer's job.

"But that does not mean special treatment for any special interest group..." he said. "I want fair and equitable treatment of everybody."

Another newcomer to the town board, Sid Swarts, said town laws should be enforced, or else changed if they are unfair or unenforceable.

"Ordinances should apply equally to everybody," Swarts added. "If I speed, I should get a ticket."

Mayor Pro Tem Gil Bass said last Thursday that he supports the manager's choice.

"If you look at Robert, he's what we need for public relations on the beach," Bass said. "He's fair, but he does enforce the law."

Parker said he planned to meet with the new chief this week to discuss promoting an officer to the vacant sergeant's position and hiring another patrolman.

## Subdivision Vote Reversed

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ting of service roads and/or turnarounds on subdivision lots that front on streets, to help reduce the possibility of accidents. DOT administrative law also indicates that not more than three driveways should be permitted for a single subdivision.

Ludlum said he did not seek the vote because he is a former county commissioner and that he did not ask for a favor. He contends the turnaround provision isn't a part of the subdivision ordinance and should not have been placed on his plat.

He told commissioners last week that no other subdivision on Oxpen Road has had to meet that requirement and that the sale of two lots in Lakeside was riding on removal of the restriction.

"That road was a dirt road at the time it was placed on there," said Ludlum.

The only other official subdivision on Oxpen Road is Fiddler's Cove, which was filed in 1979, or 13 months before the county's present subdivision ordinance went into effect, according to maps at the Brunswick County Planning Department.

The maps also show that the closest subdivision to Lakeside that has the same turnaround requirement is Wood Duck Retreat on N.C. 130.

As originally proposed in July 1986, Lakeside subdivision would consist of 373 lots when complete, with 77 lots of approximately 50 feet in width fronting Oxpen Road. In December 1986, the subdivision was revised to include 21 lots along Oxpen Road.

The plat filed last Tuesday shows the width of those lots averaging 75 feet.

Requiring the turnarounds on the Lakeside lots sparked discussions between DOT officials and the planning department in 1986.

In September 1986, DOT District Engineer Jim P. Cook and Bill Benton, of DOT's Brunswick

County maintenance department, met with the Planning Board to review state driveway requirements.

Cook said that DOT's administrative law indicates that four or more driveways to a subdivision should not be permitted, according to minutes of that Sept. 17, 1986, Planning Board meeting.

A DOT memo from Cook on file at the Planning Department indicates the Lakeside subdivision needed to be redesigned, as a "property owner is allowed 3 access points on an existing state road," it states.

At time, DOT offered to work with Lakeside's developers on a compromise, noting the three-access limit was low for a development with as much road frontage as Lakeside.

Ludlum said last Wednesday that he had never heard of the turnaround requirement and claims it is not enforced for every developer.

While Tuesday's vote won't matter for the Lakeside subdivision, Clegg said it "should have people thinking that commissioners have not opened the door" for appeals on subdivision regulations.

## Two Killed In Calabash

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\$4,500 to the Stanaland vehicle and \$2,800 to the Bachmann car.

Alcohol use was not involved in the accident, said Ruby Oakley, spokesperson for the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington. She said charges are still pending.

The death total on Brunswick County's highways for the year now stands at 14, said Ms. Oakley.

Last year, 15 people died on the county's highways through Dec. 31.

"So we're still one under if we can just get through the rest of the month safely," said Ms. Oakley.

## SLOCKETT ABSTAINS FROM VOTE

### Baxter Re-Elected Education Chairman

BY SUSAN USHER

Donna Baxter began her second term as chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Education Monday night, telling members they had worked hard but that they have more work ahead of them in 1992.

"I think the more knowledgeable we are the better board we will be," she continued, saying workshops and special meetings would be held as needed, as during the past year.

Ms. Baxter, a Boiling Spring Lakes resident, won the chairmanship under unusual circumstances, with one member asking to be excused from the vote.

Under the board's rules of procedure, member Robert Slockett was not required to give a reason Monday night when he asked to be excused from voting on board reorganization. That request was honored on a motion by Doug Baxter.

"If Mr. Slockett doesn't want to participate, then I move we honor his wish," said Baxter. The vote granting the abstention was 4-1, with Yvonne Bright objecting.

With Slockett absent, Ms. Baxter was elected chairman unanimously. Baxter had nominated Polly Russ for the office, but the nomination was said to have died for lack of a second. However, neither Robert's Rule's of Order nor the board's own rules of procedures requires that a nomination be seconded.



BAXTER

"It didn't matter," Baxter said later when questioned. "The votes weren't there anyway."

When Slockett later wanted to participate in selection of the vice chairman, the board reminded him he had asked to be excused from voting on board reorganization, not just the chairmanship.

Mrs. Bright, who had started to nominate Slockett for vice chairman, was unanimously elected to that office in his absence. She succeeds Baxter in that post.

Baxter, a former chairman of the board, said he nominated Mrs. Russ for chairman because of the board's decision nearly two years ago that it would be stronger if more members shared responsibilities and held office.

"It seems somewhat hypocritical of the board not to follow its own policy," he said.

Baxter resigned as chairman in January 1990 under pressure from a coalition of board members who wanted a change of leadership. Previously the board had elected new officers every two years, after newly-elected members took office. Last year the board voted to change to annual elections each December, in order to give more members an opportunity to hold office. Ms. Baxter was the first chairman elected under that change of procedure.

Asked later why he abstained from voting, Slockett said he supported each candidate for chairman "equally" and did not feel he was under any obligation to constituents to vote.

He said he feared that "choosing sides" might influence one or the other candidate to not support his proposals regarding a proposed math/science education center.

## IN SUPERIOR COURT

### Lakes Teen Awaits Sentencing

A Boiling Spring Lakes teen-ager who pleaded guilty to killing his mother will be sentenced Monday in a Brunswick County Superior Court session with Judge William C. Gore Jr. presiding.

In an unrelated court case last week, a Columbus County teen avoided the death penalty after a jury found him guilty of first-degree murder in the shooting death of a Columbus County sheriff's deputy.

That case had been moved to Brunswick County because of pre-trial publicity in the Whiteville community.

**Lakes Murder**  
James Vickery, 15, pleaded guilty last week to second-degree murder in the May shooting death of his mother, Virginia Anderson, 44.

The victim had been shot once in the back of the head seven days before police found her body locked in a bedroom where the teen-ager had apparently continued to live on Pierce Road.

Fellow employees at Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport became suspicious when Ms. Anderson failed to report to work.

In Superior Court last Thursday, Dec. 5, Vickery's attorney, Michael Ramos of Shallotte, entered a guilty plea to second-degree murder.

Judge Narley Cashwell delayed sentencing until Monday's session of Superior Court and ordered that the youth be held at the Juvenile Services Center in New

Hanover County until then.

Second-degree murder carries a maximum sentence of 50 years to life in prison and a minimum of 15 years in prison.

#### Columbus Slaying

Michael Thomas Brown, 18, was sentenced to life in prison plus 70 years after a Brunswick County jury found him guilty of first-degree murder, armed robbery and two counts of conspiracy in the June 18 ambush of Columbus County Sheriff's Deputy Bob Hinson.

Following two days of arguments, the jury declined to hand down the death penalty against Brown last Wednesday, Dec. 4, recommending life in prison instead.

An accomplice, Aquino Lee Williams, 16, faces trial in Brunswick County Superior Court in February on the same charges. He is being held in the Brunswick County Jail under \$500,000 bond.

Williams is accused of shooting Hinson three times in the head at close range as the officer sat in his patrol car. The deputy was found dead in his car near the Brunswick community about an hour after answering a take-break-in call placed by Brown.

Since he was only 16 when the crime allegedly occurred, Williams cannot receive the death penalty. District Attorney Rex Gore plans to seek life in prison without parole for Williams.

## New Yaupon Beach Election Ordered

BY SUSAN USHER

Voters in Yaupon Beach will be returning to the polls in the near future to elect three town council members, as if the November 5 election never took place.

Meeting last week, the State Board of Elections ordered a new municipal election for Yaupon Beach as a result of a ballot error that affected the outcome of the election.

"It's as if the election had never happened," said Johnnie McLean, administrative secretary in the state office. "If the error was simply a typo or something that would not have caused the results to be difference, we would not have ordered a new election."

She said the date and day of the election will be set by the Brunswick County Board of Elections, subject to approval of the state board's executive director. "It won't be done that quickly, probably a minimum of 50 or 60 days."

As of Friday, the county elections board had not received its notification of the decision of the state board.

At Yaupon Beach the council selects a mayor from among the board. Six candidates were on the ballot, with three seats open.

Thirty-six people had voted at Yaupon Beach before a poll worker noticed the error, which stated that

persons could only vote for two candidates when they should have been voting for three. After the error was found, voters were told to ignore the directions on the ballot and to vote for three candidates. Poll workers counted those ballots by hand.

Of the 36 who had voted before the error was discovered, nine had voted for three candidates anyway. Four persons had voted for just one candidate and 23 had voted for two.

Not counting those 23 ballots, candidates received votes as follows: Rhett Blackmon, 53; Joseph W. Broyles, 127; May W. Moore, 123; James L. Poole Sr., 94; Darrell D. Posey, 97; and J.M. Warren, 67. Incumbents are Broyles, Mrs. Moore and Poole.

Calling the election "flawed," the Brunswick County Board of Elections asked the state board to render a decision. The local board has no authority to call for a new election.

"I know people want it taken care of right away," said Ms. McLean of the new election date. "But it will probably be a minimum of 50 or 60 days."

She said the same regulations and procedures will apply to the new election as to any other municipal election. Among other details, that means ballots must be prepared at least 30 days in advance of the election.

At Wednesday's meeting the state board ordered three new municipal elections be held, with two of those decisions related directly to ballot error.

While the ideal would be to not have any new elections required, she said, having to redo three out of the more than 500 elections held Nov. 5 "is probably not bad."

In her six years with the board, she said, this is the third election ordered because an error in ballot voting instructions could affect the outcome of the election.

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## Pleasant Weekend Forecast

Temperatures and precipitation should remain unseasonably mild through the weekend, and will probably bring a "cool down" to the area by next week, said South Brunswick Islands meteorologist Jackson Canady.

He predicted that temperatures should stay in the upper 30s at night and in the upper 50s during the day, and that no more than a half-inch of rain would fall. "It'll make for a nice, mild weekend to plan activities outdoors," Canady said of the forecast. "But that will probably change by next week," he added.

For the period of Dec. 3-9, Canady reported a maximum daytime high of 74 degrees on Dec. 3 and a minimum evening low of 27 degrees on Dec. 5.

The average daytime high was 62 degrees and the average evening low was 39 degrees, which made for an average daily temperature of 50 degrees.

Only .63 of an inch of rainfall was recorded at his Shallotte Point home, Canady said.

## Community Fired Up

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just know they can do it." Greg Smith was just one of hundreds of West Brunswick fans who made the drive to Elizabethtown last Friday for the eastern final.

But it's likely that Smith, who graduated from West Brunswick in 1982, traveled farther than anyone else to see the East Bladen game.

He drove 300 miles from his home in Pembroke, Va.—a trip that took six hours. "I specifically drove down just for this one game," said the former Trojan junior varsity football and varsity baseball player.

"I took a chance hoping they'd beat Whiteville," Smith said. "If they win tonight, I'm going to Chapel Hill."

#### 'Success Breeds Success'

Williamson said the football team's success this year should carry over to the school's other athletic teams.

"Success breeds success," he said. "We would certainly hope to parlay this success and enthusiasm into the other sports."

He said the football team has proven that West Brunswick athletics are on par with other 2-A schools in North Carolina.

"We have proven to ourselves that we have the potential to be as good as anyone," Williamson said.

Tickets to the state championship game cost \$6 in advance and \$7 at the gate, and are available at West Brunswick.

#### Getting There

If you're going to the game, take U.S. 17 north to Wilmington. From there take Interstate 40 west and then N.C. 54 west to Chapel Hill. The trip takes about 3 1/2 hours from Shallotte.

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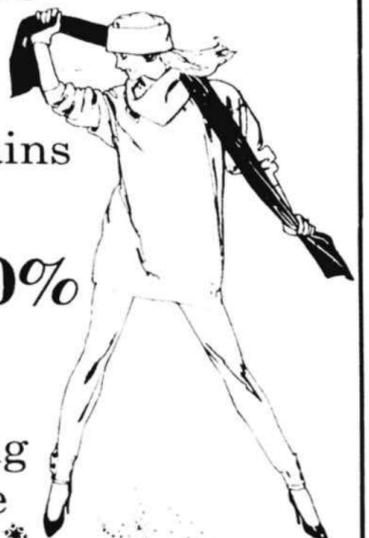
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