



Soon To Ring?

This bell could call four-year-olds to Head Start classes this fall at the old Leland High School if a lease and other details are worked out. Page 3-A.

Changing Of Guard

The South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce begins a new year, installing '92 officers and recognizing members' efforts. For this and other business news see Page 12-C.



Home Sweet Home

Holden Beach VFW Commander Dave Bellamy stands outside the post's new home on Sabbath Home Road. The story's on Page 3-B.

12/31/99 K&PO
HOAG & SONS BOOK BINDERY
P.O. BOX 162
SPRINGPORT MI 49284

Thirtieth Year, Number 15

Shalotte, North Carolina, Thursday, February 13, 1992

50¢ Per Copy

38 Pages, 3 Sections, 1 Insert

Filing Brisk For County Offices

BY THE NEWS STAFF

Filing was brisk at the Brunswick County Board of Elections office Monday, the first day of a filing period that had been delayed from Jan. 6.

Between noon and 3 p.m., nine candidates had filed for local office. Filing had been delayed by the state legislature pending approval of state House and Senate and Congressional redistricting plans by the U.S. Justice Department. That approval came through late last week, clearing the way for filing for all offices to begin.

Filing ends at noon Monday, March 2. Party primaries will be May 5 and the election Nov. 3.

Local seats up for election this year are the Districts 1, 3, and 4 seats on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and Brunswick County Board of Education, county coroner and county register of deeds.

Filing also began for state offices. In addition to governor, lieutenant governor and all Council of State offices, all state House, state Senate and congressional seats are up for election.

County Commissioners

The three incumbent county commissioners have all announced they will not seek re-election to the

board. Frankie Rabon, of District 4, Gene Pinkerton of District 3 and Kelly Holden of District 1 have all said they will not seek the two-year terms.

Five candidates did file for commissioner Monday:

- Steve Foster, of Long Beach, Republican, District 3;
- Tom Simmons, of Boiling Spring Lakes, Democrat, District 4;
- Bob Slockett, of Yaupon Beach, Republican, District 3;
- Don Warren, of Shallotte, Democrat, District 1;
- Tom Yeagle, of Route 1, Bolivia, Republican, District 3.

School Board

Up for election on the board of education are seats held by Bob Slockett, District 3; Doug Baxley, District 1; and Donna Baxter, District 4.

Slockett ended speculation Monday about whether he planned to file for re-election when he tossed his hat into the ring for the District 3 commissioner's race instead.

Others filing for the school board were:

- Sam Fletcher Frink, of Calabash, Democrat, District 1;
- Bill Fairley, of Southport, Republican, District 3;



BRUNSWICK COUNTY Coroner Greg White, who is seeking re-election, was one of the first candidates to file for office Monday. Handling the paperwork above is Supervisor of Elections Lynda Britt.

- Joseph V. Brust, of Ocean Isle Beach, Republican, District 1;
- Carlton L. Sligh, of Caswell Beach, Democrat, District 3.

Register of Deeds

Incumbent Register of Deeds Robert J. Robinson will face a challenge in the primary if he decides to file for re-election. As of Tuesday afternoon, he had not.

Filing for the four-year seat were:

- Edward F. "Porky" Mintz, of Bolivia, Democrat;
- Bill Kirby, of Southport, Republican.

County Coroner

County Coroner Greg White of Supply filed for re-election to office Monday as a Democrat.

Other Offices

As of mid-afternoon Tuesday, no candidates had filed for the state House or Senate from districts that include Brunswick County, for the 7th Congressional District seat.

State Reps. David Redwine, D-Brunswick, and Leo Mercer, D-Columbus are the incumbents for the newly-aligned, two-member 14th District that includes most of

Brunswick as well as portions of Columbus and Robeson counties.

A portion of northern Brunswick County is also part of the 98th District, a new minority district anchored in New Hanover County and including portions of Columbus and Pender counties as well.

R.C. Soles Jr., D-Columbus County represents the 18th Senate District.

That single-member district now includes Columbus and Brunswick counties and all but the northwestern portion of Bladen County.

Ocean Isle Tax Hike Proposed To Fund Inlet Dredging

BY DORI C. GURGANUS

Ocean Isle Beach officials may consider raising property taxes to fund the proposed dredging of Shallotte Inlet, since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers isn't interested in taking on the project.

Odel Williamson, local developer and utilities commissioner for the town, told the board Tuesday morning he believes the inlet needs to be dredged to keep property values and tourism revenue high at Ocean Isle.

He proposed a three-cent increase in property taxes, raising the current rate of 17 cents per \$100 of valuation to 20 cents.

That extra money would enable the town to get the project started, Williamson said, and perhaps the Corps would decide to assist the town with cooperative cost sharing later.

The increased property tax, he estimated, would bring an added \$95,000 to \$100,000 into the town coffers.

At a Jan. 28 meeting with several town officials, Corps engineers advised that the project is not financially feasible for the federal agency to undertake. It cited low commercial boat traffic through the inlet.

However, the engineers left open the possibility of the town undertaking the project at its own expense. The cost could be reduced by scheduling the project while dredging equipment is in the area for routine maintenance dredging of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

In his comments Tuesday, Williamson also mentioned digging a deep hole in the inlet, which he speculated would postpone the need for any maintenance dredging for several years.

Commissioner Kendall Suh suggested waiting for help from Congressman Charlie Rose, who he suggested might be able to influence the Corps to change its mind.

Suh said he had recently spoken with a representa-

tive of Rose's office and believes the congressman would support the town's efforts.

Williamson, however, told the board that it needs to act quickly. "We're going to have to help ourselves," he said.

In the long run, he continued, the increased property value and seasonal vacation dollars brought into the town would make such a big expenditure worthwhile.

DeCarol Williamson, sportfisherman and son of the longtime developer of Ocean Isle Beach, spoke passionately to the board about the need to clear the inlet for boat traffic.

He cited the need to keep property values high, instead of letting them drop due to strangled boat navigation through the inlet.

"Tax dollars generated by those canal homes are all directly related to having access to the Atlantic Ocean," he said, supporting his father's argument that the dredging would pay for itself.

Mayor Betty Williamson agreed with the two speakers, saying that the three-year-old dredging proposal will only become more and more expensive if the town waits.

"It is time we moved on," she said. "We need to do whatever we need to get this done."

"The town's intent is to restore navigation to the inlet," the mayor continued, asking for volunteers to organize a research group to look into moving ahead with the project.

She later named herself, Suh, Odel Williamson and Commissioner Debbie Sloane Fox to the panel.

In the meantime, the board voted unanimously to proceed with applying for permits for the project.

Homeowners Warned

Ocean Isle homeowners will be issued a warning notifying them to equip their houses with visible house numbers before the county's 911 emergency response (See TAX HIKE, Page 2-A)



A TRACTOR-TRAILER hit two cars and snapped a pole supporting traffic lights at the intersection of N.C. 130 and the U.S. 17 bypass at Shallotte Friday afternoon. One teen-ager was hospitalized and three others received less serious injuries.

Four Injured When Tractor-Trailer Goes Through Red Light On Bypass

BY SUSAN USHER

A tractor-trailer attempting to stop for a redlight crossed the median at the intersection of the U.S. 17 bypass and N.C. 130 Friday afternoon, hitting two cars and a utility pole and sending traffic signals crashing to the road.

Four persons were injured in the accident, with three treated and released Friday for less serious injuries.

The fourth, Kevin Jason Stanley, 17, of Brickland community and a student at West Brunswick High School, was released Monday from The Brunswick Hospital in Supply, said Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause.

The accident Friday was the third involving a large truck since the bypass opened last May.

Shallotte photographer Steve Smith and West Brunswick High School student Misty Carmichael died following a Nov. 1 accident in which a logging truck ran the stoplight and hit their cars.

No serious injuries were reported in a Dec. 9 accident that also in-

involved a logging truck. The truck ran the red light and struck the front end of a car headed east on N.C. 130.

Other accidents at the intersection have been minor "fender benders" and did not involve trucks, Gause said Monday.

The driver of the truck, Joseph Leon Brooks, 66, of Route 1, Willard, was charged with running a red light and exceeding a safe speed.

In his report, Shallotte Patrolman Keith L. Croom said Brooks was traveling north on the bypass around 2:30 p.m. when he saw the red light at the intersection and slammed on brakes. Brooks was driving a 1989 Ford cab and flatbed trailer owned by Robbins Nursery of Route 1, Willard.

The truck skidded 420 feet forward before veering across the median into the southbound lanes. It continued into the intersection, striking two vehicles stopped in the eastbound lanes of N.C. 130 before the truck jackknifed.

The cab struck a utility pole supporting the stoplights at the intersec-

tion, sending the lights crashing into the roadway, before traveling down an embankment on the west side of the bypass, pushing one of the other vehicles with it. The truck traveled 701 feet, 3 inches, before coming to a rest.

Chief Gause said no vehicles or persons were struck by the falling lights. He said Brooks told him the brakes locked and would not stop the truck, pulling the cab to the left.

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles was inspecting the truck and its equipment Monday, but that report was not available at press time.

By Gause's estimation the truck was traveling "at approximately, at least" 70 miles per hour. Based on the marks on the pavement, Brooks hit his brakes 579 feet south of the stop line at the intersection. The speed limit at the intersection is 55 mph, with a suggested speed of 45 mph.

Stanley was a passenger in a 1990 Ford hatchback operated by Ronald Everett Evans, 19, of Big Neck (See FOUR, Page 2-A)

SERVED FOUR YEARS OF 35-YEAR SENTENCE Willis Released Under Intensive Parole

BY THE NEWS STAFF

A Shallotte businessman who received the longest prison term of a group of more than 30 drug defendants indicted by an investigative grand jury in 1987 is out of jail.

Alvin Bryan Willis III was paroled Feb. 4, after approximately four years, two months in the state correctional system. He spent portions of that time at Central Prison in Raleigh, the Brunswick Center in Columbus County, and most recently, the state correctional facility in New Hanover County.

He has returned home to Shallotte under the intensive parole supervision program, according to Norman Holden, district supervisor of adult probation and parole. "That means he is under closer surveillance than we do with some of our other clients," said Holden.

If Willis successfully completes six months of intensive supervision, he can be recommended for transfer to regular parole, said Joel Dove, the county's intensive supervision officer and one-half of the county's intensive parole/probation team. Danny Holland is the surveillance officer.

"Between the team, a client can expect to see one or the other of us

three to five times a week," said Dove.

Under current parole regulations he would remain under some kind of parole supervision for a minimum of three years since his original sentence was for more than 20 years.

He must abide by the usual parole provisions, including those set for drug offenders. Among other provisions, he is to provide at least 672 hours of community service, but if he serves the first 336 on schedule, the balance could be remitted. Other provisions include a curfew, no out-of-state travel except in an emergency and no out-of-county travel without permission, submission to warrantless searches and drug testing.

Willis was sentenced in December 1987 to a 35-year prison term and fined \$250,000 after admitting to having been "a major cocaine dealer in Brunswick County."

Willis was one of 37 defendants indicted on drug charges by an investigative grand jury in June 1987. He was indicted on 12 counts each of conspiracy to traffic and trafficking by possession of more than 400 grams of cocaine.

In November 1987 he pleaded guilty to a single count of conspiracy to traffic under a plea bargain

agreement dated Dec. 18, 1986.

Following a two-day sentencing hearing in Columbus County Superior Court, Willis received the statutory minimum sentence, with special Assistant District Attorney William Wolak saying the defendant had not "substantially cooperated" with investigators.

Wolak said at the time that Willis would have to serve a minimum of 14 years without benefit of parole.

Of the 37 defendants indicted, 35 were eventually tried. One defendant died before his case could go to court, and another was a federal fugitive. Of the 35 tried and sentenced, Willis received the lengthiest sentence.

The defendant who faced the most counts, 46, was Olaf Dale Varnam of Supply. After cooperating with investigators for 1 1/2 years, he received a 15-year suspended sentence and five years of probation.

In January Varnam was accused by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department of leading a Holden Beach area theft ring. He is charged specifically with six counts of second-degree burglary and six counts of larceny after breaking and entering.

Four Charged In Marijuana Operation

BY TERRY POPE

Four people were arrested after undercover officers investigating an alleged drug deal seized more than 25 pounds of Columbian-grown marijuana last week.

Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective David Crocker of the narcotics division said confidential information helped lead to the arrests and what he labels a "significant" drug bust for February. The marijuana had a street value of \$175 per ounce, or close to \$70,000.

Charged are Joseph Carson Brooks III of Seaside; Marion Jensen Reis and Martin Eugene Reis, both of Robbins Trailer Park, Leland; and Ellis Cordell Bordeaux, of the Delco community in Columbus County.

Sheriff's detectives and SBI agents set up surveillance along Mt. Misery Road in Leland last Tuesday, Feb. 4,

said Crocker, where about a pound of marijuana was seized from Marion and Martin Reis.

Martin Reis was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Ms. Reis was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to sell and deliver. They have been released from the Brunswick County Jail under \$2,500 bond each.

An investigation led to the Bordeaux residence in Columbus County, where an additional 20 pounds of marijuana was confiscated, said Crocker.

"A large portion of that was individually bagged for selling," he noted.

Bordeaux, 68, was charged with two counts of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and two counts of maintaining a vehicle for the purpose of keep-

(See UNDERCOVER, Page 2-A)