

## Rain, Sunshine In Forecast

Weather conditions for the next week call for more of the same in late winter conditions, with periods of rain and sunshine to be expected.

Local meteorologist Jackson Canady of Shallotte Point predicts a "not very bad pattern" of weather throughout the South Brunswick Islands, featuring "no large swings from warm to cool."

Temperatures will be in the mid 50s during the day, Canady said, while evening temperatures will be in the mid 30s.

He expects about one-half inch of rain to fall in the next week, he said,

which is "right at normal" for late winter.

For the period of Feb. 4 through Feb. 11, Canady recorded a maximum daytime high temperature of 65 degrees on Feb. 7 and the minimum evening low temperature of 27 degrees on Feb. 9.

The daytime average temperature was 57 degrees, and the evening average was 36 degrees, which brought a daily average of 46 degrees to the region. That reading is normal, he said.

Canady measured .15 of an inch of rain at his home.

## Tax Hike Proposed

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system starts operation.

Town Attorney Elva Jess told the board that a zoning regulation has been in effect since 1983 that requires visible address numbers on houses.

She has been asked by the board to write a "firm but pleasant" letter giving them a deadline to put the numbers on their houses. That deadline is still to be determined.

Police officers will make a list of houses without numbers, and those homeowners will be warned of possible misdemeanor charges that could be brought against them, Mayor Williamson said.

**Other Business**

In other business:

■In a board of adjustment meeting earlier, commissioners voted unanimously to deny a variance requested by Stanton and Cynthia Singletary. They wanted to place a 60-by-100-foot mobile home on their lot, which is zoned R-2. However, Building Inspector Druied Roberson said the lot would not accommodate the trailer due to setback regulations in that district.

■Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad

member Danni Moore presented a request to the commissioners for a donation to the squad. Increased funds are needed, she said, so the squad can update its Advanced Life Support system before the 911 emergency system goes into effect April 1.

Mayor Williamson said that the board would have to consider the town's finances, since the town already donates \$5,000 annually to the squad.

■Mayor Williamson reported that the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway is still being dredged and that Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation is currently placing electrical lines underground. The Department of Transportation will also begin repaving First Street shortly, she said.

■Commissioners set a public hearing for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, on the Council of Governments' suggested adoption of a Vested Rights Ordinance.

■Commissioners tabled until their March 10 meeting two appointments to the planning board. The board needs to replace Terry Barbee, who has resigned, but may reappoint Bill Bullington, whose term has expired.

## Four Are Injured In Wreck On By-Pass

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Road, Ash. The car was stopped at the intersection preparing to cross U.S. 17 when it was struck by the truck.

Another car, a 1976 Mercedes sedan operated by Danny Joe Tyler, 33, of Loris, S.C., was stopped at the intersection, preparing to turn left into the northbound lanes of U.S. 17.

Damages were estimated at \$3,000 to the truck, \$9,000 to Tyler's Mercedes and \$5,000 to Evans' Ford.

A second accident was narrowly avoided Friday night, as officers assisted state Department of Transportation workers in installing new signal lights overhead.

Gause said five squad cars with blue lights on were arrayed across the intersection and Patrolman Croom was helping run the lights across when a gas truck approached the intersection.

Even with the lights, said Gause, "The driver of the truck did not see us. He slammed on brakes and started skidding. Keith dropped the lights and ran and the DOT people got out of the way. If he hadn't dropped the lights the truck would have taken about four people."

As it was, the truck hit one of the signal units lying on the roadbed.

"The only thing we can do is stay on it," said Chief Gause, while waiting to hear whether the N.C.

Department of Transportation will build an overpass at the intersection. "We're writing tickets and we're considering road blocks to check for seatbelts. What we're trying to do is prevent accidents."

"I still think the overpass is going to be the answer," he said.

Officers have issued 75 or more citations for spotlight violations since the double-fatality accident, Gause said, the Division of Motor Vehicles has blitzed the bypass twice in a safety crackdown on trucks.

The N.C. Department of Transportation has begun a design study that will help decide if an overpass is needed at the intersection.

Relatives of one of the Nov. 1 accident victims, Smith, are circulating a petition calling for construction of an overpass.

Rep. David Redwine said Monday he has agreed to present the petition to the state Board of Transportation, which is scheduled to meet at Sunset Beach in May, if the family still wishes him to do so.

Also, he is asking DOT to consider overpasses not only for N.C. 130, but for the intersections of U.S. 17 with N.C. 904 and N.C. 211 as well.

"They don't have a school nearby, but they do have a lot of tourist traffic trying to get across a four-lane highway nine months out of the year," he said. "I'm hoping we don't end up with three bad intersections."

## CHILD DIED FROM ALCOHOL POISONING

# Leland Couple Indicted On Murder Charges

BY TERRY POPE

A Leland couple whose 20-month-old son died from alcohol poisoning was indicted Monday by a Brunswick County grand jury on first-degree murder charges.

Oscar Carl Gore, 28, and Shelia Herring Gore, both of Pineview Mobile Home Park, had been charged with felony child abuse by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department since Jan. 10.

But District Attorney Rex Gore presented evidence to the grand jury Monday that resulted in murder charges instead.

Sheriff's Detective Nancy Simpson investigated the Nov. 15 death of Thomas Otha Gore. According to a toxicology report from the office of the chief medical examiner, the child died from alcohol poisoning.

Ms. Simpson said the report indicated the child could not have accidentally ingested the alcohol and had to be fed the toxic amount.

The indictments state the couple feloniously and "of malice aforethought did kill and murder" the child.

The grand jury also handed down the following indictments Monday:

■Olaf Dale Varnam, of Supply, on five counts of second-degree burglary involving homes on Holden Beach. He was indicted Jan. 14 on seven counts of breaking and entering, felonious larceny and possession of stolen goods.

Monday's indictments accused him of breaking into three homes between Jan. 25, 1990, and April 4, 1990, on Ocean Boulevard West and two homes on Tuna Street.

■Irving Coleman III, 30, of Rutledge Drive, Wilmington, on charges of first-degree rape and robbery with a dangerous weapon. He is accused of robbing \$63 from the victim on June 28.

■Calvin K. Gause, 27, of Route 9, Shallotte, on a charge of first-degree rape stemming from an alleged incident Nov. 16.

■James Gore, 40, of the Pinecrest Subdivision, Shallotte, on four counts of breaking and entering, four counts of felonious larceny and four counts of possession of stolen goods.

Gore is accused of breaking into home on Calabash Drive, in the Sea Village subdivision near Shallotte and on Old Georgetown Road.

■Larry Thomas Noe, 42, of Holly Drive, Leland, on two charges of taking indecent liberties with children. The incidents allegedly involved a girl under 16 on Oct. 1 and Nov. 25.

■Rick Ortega, of Marshview Drive, Calabash, on charges of breaking and entering, felonious larceny and possession of stolen goods. He is accused of breaking into a home in Carolina Cove, Calabash, on Dec. 30.

■Alberto Perez, 22, of Route 1, Currie, on charges of possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and maintaining a dwelling or

motor vehicle to keep or sell drugs.

Charges were filed by Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Doug Todd stemming from a Jan. 4 incident. Four pounds of marijuana were seized, the warrant states.

■George Rankin, 27, of Shallotte, on a charge of first-degree rape stemming from an alleged incident Nov. 16.

■Marion J. Smith, 19, of Yaupon Beach, on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury.

He is accused of hitting the victim about the head and face with his fists on Sept. 19, even after the victim was rendered unconscious, the indictment states, resulting in three fractures to the victim's jaw bone.

■Douglas Mark Soles, 32, of Tabor City, on two counts of forgery and two counts of uttering a forged instrument.

He is accused of forging two checks for \$100 and \$180 from Complete Cleaning Service on Aug. 2 and Aug. 31 by placing a forged signature on the checks.

■Rob Williams, of U.S. 17 south, Shallotte, on charges of larceny of a firearm and two counts each of breaking and entering, felonious larceny and possession of stolen goods.

He is accused of breaking into a home at Route 1, Shallotte, on Sept. 11 where \$2,915 in items were taken, including a 16-gauge shotgun.

## PLAN EYES FUTURE CENTER-WIDE BAN

# Health Board Approves No Smoking Policy

BY TERRY POPE

A plan to end smoking in the Brunswick County Health Department within two years breezed past the Board of Health Monday night.

The policy also asks that Brunswick County Commissioners end smoking in all county offices at the government center in Bolivia within three years.

"It eliminates a lot of the smoking now," said Brad Williams, health board member, "but it also gives employees two years and eight chances to quit smoking."

Williams chaired a committee that drafted the plan, which passed unanimously. Also serving were a number of health department employees, one allergic to cigarette smoke and a highly-addicted smoker, all with a goal of working out a compromise.

It will take two months before renovations are complete at the health department and for the policy to take effect, said Health Director Michael Rhodes.

The plan will:

- End smoking in patient clinic areas and common staff areas;
- End smoking in front of clients;
- Allow smoking in private offices and a designated ventilated break area;
- Make smoking cessation programs available every three months to employees;
- Eliminate all smoking in the health department building within two years; and
- Establish a non-smoking policy for all Brunswick County offices within three years.

"One of the things I like about

"It gives employees two years and eight chances to quit smoking."

—Brad Williams  
Board Of Health

this is that it gives flexibility," said board member Maliston "Mo" Stanley.

Williams said he sees the policy as a pilot program for county government. He argued for keeping the board's new conference room smoke-free. Monday's meeting was the first in the room that is part of the newly-renovated wing at the government center.

Bill Rabon questioned if the board should eliminate smoking in a room where other boards may be invited in to discuss the health department's budget.

"In common areas, I feel that I should have the right not to breathe in second-hand smoke," Williams noted.

Rabon responded, "But it may be a funding board," in reference to county commissioners.

Commissioner Frankie Rabon, who represents the commissioners on the health board, did not attend the meeting Monday.

The number of health employees who do smoke is a small percentage, around 10, said Rhodes.

Board member Pat Nutter, a nurse, said employees at The Brunswick Hospital were given a six-month notice that smoking would end inside the hospital. Employees adopted that policy.

"It was interesting how many have stopped over that period of time," she said. "It has had an amazingly positive impact. I think it can be done because I've seen it done. I don't think there will be that many problems."

**Project ASSIST**

The board wasn't as eager to join New Hanover County in applying for Project ASSIST grants. ASSIST stands for American Stop Smoking Intervention Study for Cancer Prevention.

Project ASSIST will award \$8.2 million in grants to North Carolina counties, \$114 million nationwide, that want to help residents stop smoking.

New Hanover County Health Director Robert Parker asked the board Monday to join his county's application for grant money. Three of the board members verbally voted to join the project while the rest abstained, making it unanimous.

When Chairman H.J. "Skip" Davis called for a vote of those opposed, there was a long silence.

"I'm having mixed emotions," said board member Arthur Knox.

The program would use existing organizations and health departments to assist in the elimination of tobacco use by bringing effective prevention and cessation interven-

tion to those who participate voluntarily.

Its focus would be on children and adolescents, pregnant women and tobacco users who want to quit.

The goal is to reduce the number of people who smoke from 30 percent today to 15 percent by the year 2000. The funds would pay for media messages and in-school promotions.

"The tobacco industry is behind not letting young people smoke," said Parker. "I know that smoking is a very controversial issue. I do want to emphasize that we're not against anyone's right to smoke."

Funds would go through the local health departments. Brunswick County can withdraw from the project at any time, said Parker. Decisions would be made by a 24-member panel, one a Brunswick County Health Department appointee.

Rabon questioned why New Hanover County made a last-minute appeal for Brunswick County to join the cause. The deadline for filing the grant application is Feb. 14.

"Sometimes the lion comes to you in lamb's clothing," said Rabon. "I haven't even read this thing. I don't want someone saying to me two years from now, 'Well, you voted for it.'"

Rhodes said he had questioned if the project would take his employees from their routine jobs.

"I can't foresee that being an overburden," said Rhodes. "Our staff now is to the breaking point. We don't need any more stress or additional work."

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## Charcoal Grill Sparks Carolina Shores Blaze

BY DOUG RUTTER

An unattended charcoal grill was blamed for a fire that demolished one Calabash home and seriously damaged another last Wednesday night.

The blaze destroyed the Clute residence at 37 Gate 6 in Carolina Shores, and caused extensive damage to the Beaver home next door, said Calabash Fire Chief Jerry Prince.

Nobody was injured in the blaze, but damage to the two homes and a vehicle was estimated at between \$195,000 and \$230,000.

The fire started late Wednesday night from a cast-iron charcoal grill that had been left at the edge of the Clute's garage.

"They were charcoaling and it started raining so they went inside and thought the rain would put it out," Prince said. "I don't know if the wind blew it over or what."

The fire apparently started in the garage at the Clute residence, destroying a vehicle parked inside as well as the home.

Prince said pine straw near the grill caught fire, and the wind blew it to a wooden fence between the two homes.

From the fence, the fire jumped to a side wall and the roof of the Beaver residence.

The fire chief estimated the value of the Clute vehicle and home at between \$120,000 and \$150,000.

Prince said the Beaver home sus-

tained about an 80 percent loss. He estimated damage at \$75,000 to \$80,000.

A Brunswick County Sheriff's Department deputy reported the fire at 11:44 p.m. last Wednesday and got the residents out of their homes, Prince said.

Approximately 40 firefighters from Calabash, Sunset Beach, Waccamaw and Little River, S.C., departments responded to the scene with eight tankers and pumps.

Prince said it took about 20 minutes to get the fire under control. Firefighters stayed on the scene until 4 a.m. and returned twice on Thursday to put out small fires that flared up.

Prince said firefighters couldn't

remove a 4 1/2-inch cap from a nearby fire hydrant that had been closed too tightly and painted over.

The chief said the fire departments had enough water and couldn't have saved either home even if they could have removed the hydrant cap.

"We had water on the house as soon as we got there but it slowed us up," Prince said. "We lost time hooking up lines."

Prince said the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department at one time checked fire hydrants in Carolina Shores every three months.

Prince said Carolina-Blythe Utilities, which provides water and sewer service to the golf course community, now checks the hydrants.

## Undercover Officers Arrest Four

(Continued From Page 1-A)

ing or storing drugs. In 1989, he was convicted in Brunswick County Superior Court on a trafficking cocaine charge.

The Columbus County Sheriff's Department also filed additional charges against Bordeaux stemming from last week's case, said Crocker.

He was still being held in the Columbus County Jail under \$50,000 bond Monday.

The case then led officers to the Brooks residence at Seaside, where officers seized nearly a pound of marijuana, said Crocker.

Brooks was charged with two counts of possession with intent to sell and deliver more than 22 pounds of marijuana and two counts of maintaining a vehicle to keep or to store drugs.

Two vehicles and a boat registered to Brooks were also seized,

said Crocker. He was still being held in the Brunswick County Jail Monday under \$50,000 bond.

At least 25 pounds of marijuana were involved in the alleged drug deal, said Crocker. All has been confiscated except for about a pound.

"We're still investigating that," said Crocker.

SBI agents expect more arrests stemming from "the Joseph Brooks connection," he added.

Detectives also charged the four suspects with possessing drugs without N.C. Department of Revenue drug tax stamps. By law, persons caught in possession of drugs are subject to penalties if they have not previously purchased tax stamps based on the value of the drugs.

The penalty in this case is \$34,927, said Crocker. That amount

automatically doubles within 48 hours if left unpaid, as in this case.

Approximately 75 percent of the tax proceeds return to the counties to help law officers battle drugs and 25 percent goes to the Department of Revenue.

"We were able to take 25 pounds of marijuana off the streets," said Crocker. "In this case, important information came from a confidential source. We encourage people to call us if they suspect something."

The marijuana was a high quality of Columbian trade and not locally grown, he said.

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