

**Parents In Action**  
A State Department of Public Instruction employee discusses a "comprehensive concept management system" with county residents Monday. See Page 7-A.

**Watch Expands**  
Brunswick Ave. residents' successful Community Watch program is spawning additional watches throughout Holden Beach following a rash of break-ins. Page 12-A.

**We Did It!**  
Trojans Anthony Moody (24) and Lonnie Mitchell (40) celebrate West Brunswick's wild 59-58 conference victory at North Brunswick Friday night. The story's on Page 8-B.

# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Thirtieth Year, Number 17      12/31/99      HOAG & SONS BOOK BINDERY      P. O. BOX 162      SPRINGPORT      NT 49284      Shallotte, North Carolina, Thursday, February 27, 1992      50¢ Per Copy      36 Pages, 3 Sections, 3 Inserts

## Court Date Set For Two Held In Murder

Two people charged in the shooting death of a Bolivia woman will appear in New Hanover County District Court March 6 on murder and auto larceny charges.

Stephanie Bowling, 22, of Green Lewis Road, was found dead off of River Road in New Hanover County north of Wilmington last Thursday, Feb. 20.

According to an autopsy report, the practical nursing student at Brunswick Community College in Supply had been shot in the head and neck with four bullets from a .22-caliber pistol.

Two suspects, David Wayne Botsko, 23, and Stephanie Ayers, 22, both of the Monterey Heights subdivision in Wilmington, made a first appearance in New Hanover County District Court Monday morning, said Detective C.B. Floyd of the New Hanover County Sheriff's Department.

Both were ordered held without bond, said Floyd.

The suspects were charged last Friday after officers found them driving Ms. Bowling's car. Deputies also found a .22-caliber pistol believed to be the murder weapon.

The victim had reportedly been dating Botsko for about a week. So far, officers have not determined a motive for the killing.

"There is none, whatsoever," said Floyd. "That's still being investigated."

A transient couple looking for work in Wilmington pulled their van off of River Road and found Ms. Bowling.

(See COURT, Page 2-A)



**Saving The Day**

A loon suffering bite wounds most likely inflicted by a bluefish, was rescued at Sunset Beach Monday by Fred Taylor, N.C. Wildlife Resources enforcement officer. Rehabilitative specialist Jill Caison tended the injured bird at Brunswick Animal Hospital, but reported Tuesday that the bird was put to sleep because of the extent of its injuries and inability to swim. The other solution, amputation, would have left the loon unable to defend itself or find food, she said.

## Detectives Charge Four In Northern Theft Ring

**BY TERRY POPE**

Detectives say they have uncovered a second theft ring in operation, this time in northern Brunswick County.

Four people have been charged with breaking into more than 20 homes and businesses in the Leland and Bolivia communities, Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Ken Messer said Monday.

The news comes prior to a public hearing for Leland area residents Thursday, March 5, at 7 p.m. at the North Brunswick High School library to discuss the need for a Leland area police force. The Leland Town Council will attend.

Charged last week were George Bannerman, 30, of Dogwood Lane, Leland; Gregory Ballard, 22, of Route 5, Leland; Larry Hooper, of the Hooper Hill community in Leland; and Bobby Davis, 25, of Wilmington, Messer said.

Charges are still pending against other suspects. Property loss from the break-ins exceeds \$100,000.

"These cases go back for almost a year," said Messer.

In January, detectives uncovered a Holden Beach area theft ring allegedly involving convicted drug trafficker Olaf Dale Varnam, 40, of Supply.

Varnam was indicted by a Brunswick County grand jury last month on various breaking and entering charges stemming from thefts at a number of homes on the island and mainland at Holden Beach.

Detectives seized truckloads of stolen goods from Varnam's home on Stone Chimney Road near Supply. His trial is still pending in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Officers do not think the two theft rings are related.

Three detectives working the Leland area case—Messer, Gary

Shay and Larry Joyner—got a break last week that led to warrants being filed against the four suspects.

"We hit a pretty good lick," said Messer, "if we can now get convictions."

Bannerman was charged with 20 counts of breaking and entering and larceny of homes, mostly in the Leland and Phoenix communities. Homes were also broken into in the Bolivia and Northwest communities, said Messer.

Both Bannerman and Ballard were being held in the Brunswick County Jail Monday, Bannerman under \$75,000 bond and Ballard under \$50,000 bond.

Ballard has also been charged with a break-in at the Kicking Mule Beverage Barn on Lanvale Road in Leland, said Messer.

(See DETECTIVES, Page 2-A)

## Court Ruling Keeps Candidate In Primary

**BY TERRY POPE**

When Southport's Bill Kirby filed for the Brunswick County Register of Deeds office Feb. 10, he wasn't sure how the 1991 "resign-to-run" law would affect his status on the J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees.

Now it looks like he doesn't have to worry.

The N.C. Supreme Court struck down the law Monday, saying it was unconstitutional. Had the court ruled otherwise, Kirby, a Republican, would have been forced to resign from the hospital board.

Passed by the N.C. General Assembly last year, the law required that persons holding an elective office who wish to file for a different office to resign the seat they currently hold.

Republicans criticized the law, saying it was aimed at protecting incumbents and should be struck down.

In the opinion written by Justice Willis Whichard, the state Supreme Court said the resign-to-run law was unconstitutional because it imposed new requirements for elective office. The statute is not "comparable to other reasonable regulations designed to assure the faithful discharge of official duties," the ruling noted.

Monday's ruling keeps Kirby eligible for seeking the Register of Deeds office while he remains a hospital trustee. There had been some question as to whether hospital trustees were affected by the law.

Kirby, who could not be reached for comment

Tuesday, had earlier sought a ruling on his status from Attorney General Lacy Thornburg, who forwarded a copy of his reply to the Brunswick County Board of Elections office in Bolivia.

According to Thornburg's opinion, Kirby would have been forced to resign as a hospital trustee before the filing period closes noon, March 2, if he remained a candidate for Register of Deeds in the May 5 primary.

If a trustee of a hospital board wants to qualify for another elective public office, "and the terms of the offices overlap, he or she must resign as a trustee" under the old law, Thornburg noted.

It is clear, Thornburg noted, that the legislation attempted to "include all elective public offices of whatever type."

No other candidates who have filed for local offices would have been affected by the resign-to-run law.

Three Brunswick County Commissioners—Kelly Holden of Shallotte, Gene Pinkerton of Long Beach and Frankie Rabon of Town Creek—have all announced they will not seek re-election to the board. As of Tuesday, neither had filed for other local seats.

However, their status would not have been affected by the resign-to-run law since their terms do not expire until December.

The law had called for resignations from offices when conflicting terms overlapped by more than 40 days.

## Races Shape As Monday Filing Deadline Nears

With the deadline for filing quickly approaching, several political races began to take shape this week.

The filing period officially closes for both state and local offices Monday, March 2, at noon. Local candidates can file at the Brunswick County Board of Elections office in Bolivia.

Three more candidates will run for one of two seats available in the restructured 14th State House district, including incumbent Democrat E. David Redwine of Ocean Isle, who announced his candidacy Monday. He will be seeking a fifth term in office.

Redwine is co-chairman of the House Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety Committee and serves on the Legislative Research Committee. He is also chairman of the Seafood and Agriculture Commission.

Also filing as Democrats are Dewey Hill of Whiteville, a businessman and former supermarket owner; Rep. Leo Mercer, previously elected to represent the 15th District; and Shirley T. Greene of Robeson County, a semi-retired farmer and businessman from Barnesville.

Former Brunswick County District Attorney Michael Easley of Southport announced Monday he will run for attorney general. Easley ran for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in 1990, but was defeated in a runoff primary by former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt.

More candidates have also filed for both the Brunswick County Board of Education and Board of Commissioners races.

Two more Democrats, William D.

(Billy) Carter of Yaupon Beach and Stephanna Tewey of Long Beach, filed for the District 3 school board seat. Carter is a former Brunswick County Manager and Ms. Tewey is a former school employee.

As of Tuesday afternoon, no additional candidates had filed for the District 1 and 4 school board races.

In the commissioners' race, eight candidates are vying for the District 3 seat now held by Gene Pinkerton, who says he will not seek re-election.

Joining the field this week as Democrats are William R. (Bob) Thorsen of Southport; M.E. (Mark) Sharpe of Long Beach; and former county commissioner Wayland Vereen of Yaupon Beach. Republican William (Bill) Sisk of Long Beach filed as a Republican in District 3.

Two more Democrats have filed for the District 4 commissioners' race, Jo Ann Bellamy Simmons of Ash, a local businesswoman, and Tom B. Rabon Sr. of Winnabow, a retired postmaster and local businessman. They will try for the seat now held by Frankie Rabon, who announced he will not run for re-election.

No new candidates filed for the District 1 commissioner's seat. Democrat Don Warren is currently the only candidate seeking the seat now held by Republican Kelly Holden, who says he will not seek re-election.

Democrat incumbent Register of Deeds Robert J. Robinson of Supply has filed for his seat. He will face Edward F. Mintz of Bolivia in the May 5 primary.

## Who's Filed

COMMISSIONER	
District 1	
■ Don Warren, Dem.	
District 3	
■ Steve Foster, Rep.	
■ Joseph Tyler Lenins, Rep.	
■ Bob Slockett, Rep.	
■ Tom Yeagle, Rep.	
■ William R. (Bob) Thorsen, Dem.	
■ M.E. (Mark) Sharpe, Dem.	
■ Wayland Vereen, Dem.	
District 4	
■ Tom B. Rabon Sr., Dem.	
■ Jo Ann Bellamy Simmons, Dem.	
■ Gene Sellers, Rep.	
■ Tom Simmons, Dem.	
SCHOOL BOARD	
District 1	
■ Joseph V. Brust, Rep.	
■ Janet Pope, Rep.	
■ Sam Fletcher Frink, Dem.	
District 3	
■ William D. (Billy) Carter, Dem.	
■ William F. Fought, Dem.	
■ Carlton L. Sligh, Dem.	
■ Stephanna Tewey, Dem.	
■ Bill Fairley, Rep.	
District 4	
■ Pete Barneue, Rep.	
■ Donna Baxter, Dem. (I)	
REGISTER OF DEEDS	
■ Edward F. Mintz, Dem.	
■ Robert J. Robinson, Dem. (I)	
■ Bill Kirby, Rep.	
CORONER	
■ Greg White, Dem. (I)	
STATE HOUSE	
14th District (2 seats)	
■ Shirley T. Green, Dem.	
■ Dewey Hill, Dem.	
■ Leo Mercer, Dem. (I)	
■ E. David Redwine, Dem. (I)	
STATE SENATE	
18th District	
■ R.C. Soles Jr., Dem. (I)	
CONSERVATION DISTRICT	
■ Charles L. (Chip) Carroll	

## Brunswick County Grads Fare Below Average At UNC Schools

**BY SUSAN USHER**

Seventy-four 1989-90 Brunswick County high school graduates enrolled as freshmen at a University of North Carolina campus in fall 1990.

Four out of five of them returned the following year, nearly two-thirds with a C average or better, but only one-third of them on track to graduate within the traditional four-year period.

More than a third of the students had taken at least one remedial course as a freshman and only one-third of them returned the second year with both the C average and 30 credit hours required of those planning to graduate on a four-year schedule.

These figures are part of a freshmen performance report prepared by the University system, the first of its kind. Its purpose is to help schools and school districts, to let them know how their students do when they attend college and to help them do a better job of preparing students for college.

In general the performance of freshmen from Brunswick County high schools was below the state average in most areas, but compared more favorably with that of freshmen from other southeastern North Carolina counties.

"It indicates the universities and the public schools need to communicate more with each other," Gloria Yount, public information officer for the Brunswick

County Schools, said of the results.

Superintendent P.R. Hankins did not return the Beacon's phone calls.

The report is an analysis of 1989-90 high school graduates who attended one of the UNC member institutions in the fall semester of 1990. It summarizes their first-year grades, initial course placement and performance, and end-of-year academic status for the first summer session of 1990 through spring semester 1991.

By looking at scores in academic areas such as English, math, physical and biological sciences, foreign language and social studies, schools can track weaknesses and work to better prepare students for college-level work.

C.D. Spangler Jr., UNC system president, wrote in the cover letter for the report, that the data is not intended to be another "report card" on the public schools.

He continues, "We do believe, however, that the data will be helpful to all of us as we seek ways to enhance the academic preparation of high school graduates."

Specifically, of Brunswick County's 74 freshmen, 17.6 percent had a GPA of 3.0 or better during their last semester, compared to 25.1 percent statewide.

Of the 74, 82.4 percent returned for a second year, compared to a statewide average of 82.7 percent. Of the returning second-year students, 60.8 percent from

Brunswick County, had a 2.0 GPA or better, compared to a state average of 65.4 percent.

Of the freshmen, 37.8 percent took one or more remedial courses, compared to 18.7 percent of all freshmen statewide. Systemwide, 28.4 percent of the local freshmen took remedial courses in math and 2.7 percent took remedial courses in English.

Their average GPA was 2.3 on a 4.0 scale, compared to a statewide average of 2.5. At the end of the last semester attended, 66.2 percent had a grade point average (GPA) of a 2.0 (C) or better and 17.6 had a GPA of 3.0 (B) or better.

Of the freshmen from Brunswick County, 1.4 percent were accepted in freshman honors programs.

Of the total 74 freshmen, 9.5 percent received advanced placement in English and 87.3 percent were placed in regular freshman English, earning a C average or better. For all English coursework, they earned an average GPA of 2.7.

In math 17.6 percent were placed in calculus or higher, 50 percent in college algebra and 4.1 percent. Only in algebra did the freshmen average a 2.0 or better. For all freshman math coursework the students earned an average GPA of 2.0 or C.

The report notes that students did not always take the courses in which they were initially recommended or

(See COUNTY, Page 2-A)

**How Area Freshmen Fared, 1990-91**

Category	From all high schools	Bladen	Brunswick	Columbus	W'ville	New Hanover
Total freshmen	19,188	70	74	65	40	369
% with grade ave. of 3.0 or better	25.1%	17.1	17.6	26.2	25	18.2
% returning for second year	82.7%	65.7	82.4	92.3	90	81.8
% returning with GPA of 2.0 or better	65.4%	38.6	60.8	78.5	62.5	59.3
% who took remedial course(s)	18.7%	46	37.8	27.7	30	17.6
Grade average	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.3