

Walton To Address Democrats

Retired Southport attorney Ray H. Walton will be the guest speaker at the Brunswick County Democratic Convention Saturday, April 4, at 1 p.m.

Democrats will meet in the Democratic Headquarters building on U.S. 17 across from Brunswick Community College in Supply.

Walton, a Brunswick County native, makes his home in Southport. He has served as Democratic Party chairman, as a District Court judge and has practiced law in both Shallotte and Southport for a number of years.

"He is well known for his Democratic thoughts," said Brunswick County Democratic Party Chairman Crawford M. Hart of Boiling Spring Lakes, "and is well-versed in political activities of yesterday and the present day activities—locally, state and nationally."

All county Democrats are invited to attend. The party will also delegates to the district and state conventions.

Appeal Goes To State Hearing

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picked up, Ms. Babson said.

"There were several calls other than animal bites to humans and rabies-related reports that were approved to be handled after regular business hours," she testified.

Asked by her attorney, Sheila McLamb of Shallotte, if she could recall ever being discourteous to her employees, Ms. Babson replied, "Not that I'm aware of."

Animal Control Clerk Dee Lee stated that in April 1991 Ms. Babson told employees that Rhodes and Ricky Parker, who was chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Health at the time, were trying to set her up to have her fired.

Ms. Lee said Ms. Babson had used foul language in talking to her employees and had threatened to sue workers if they gave any information to Rhodes.

"She wanted me to be aware that we were being watched," said Ms. Lee.



ELOISE SARVIS of Pffafftown uses a gold star to express support for a 35-foot height limit for island construction that can only be changed by a vote of Sunset Beach residents. She was one of approximately 50 people to participate in a land use plan meeting Thursday.

AT SUNSET BEACH LAND USE PLAN HEARING

Height Limit Top Concern

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participants but not getting at least nine votes related in some way to the issues that did get more stars. The rest of the list included these items: road and traffic patterns; stormwater runoff; adequate fire protection with growth; town appearance; development of a comprehensive plan for the town; annexation of Seaside Station; annexation of the entire extraterritorial area; insuring no conflict of interest for consultants (in relation to the sewer system study in particular); convenient recycling; mandatory recycling; notification of property owners of the mosquito spraying schedule; light pollution; maintaining proper number of beach access areas; providing estuarine and marsh access; providing boat access; and providing parking at the beach for town residents.

Those attending the hearing Thursday represented 14 island households and 17 mainland households, including several within the

town's extraterritorial area. Residents of that area come under the town's zoning ordinances, but do not vote and do not pay taxes.

The hearing was the first of several opportunities Sunset Beach residents will have to tell town officials what they think are the main issues relating to the town's growth and development over the next five years.

This month Ms. Hayes said 200 property owners will be asked to respond to a survey questionnaire being mailed by the town. It covers questions relating to population trends, land use and environmental and economic concerns.

The 200 questionnaires are double the number sent out when the town last updated its land use plan five years ago, said Ms. Hayes. She chose the recipients at random. "I have no idea who I picked. I don't know anything about them or their affiliations."

"There's nothing on here that's

not on the survey," she told the group Thursday, referring to the list of issues developed by participants.

Results of the hearing comments and the survey will be compiled and the results announced at a second public hearing tentatively scheduled 7 p.m. Thursday, May 14. Ms. Hayes and Richard (Dick) Good, planning board chairman, encouraged participants at last week's meeting to return for the second meeting. At that point the town may be ready to begin discussing policy alternatives on how to address the issues identified by townspeople.

Each town and county in North Carolina's 20 coastal counties prepares a land use plan update every five years. Once a plan is approved by the town planning board and town council, it goes to N.C. Office of Coastal Management for review and then to the state Coastal Resources Commission for consideration and approval. Sunset Beach's last plan was completed in 1987.

Holden Land Use Plan Clears CRC

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach's land use plan update cleared its final bureaucratic hurdle last week, earning approval after more than two years of revisions and debate.

The N.C. Coastal Resources Commission certified the plan at its meeting last Friday at Wrightsville Beach, ending a tedious update process that began in November 1989.

Holden Beach Mayor Wally Ausley said Tuesday he was happy the plan was finally approved, but disappointed that it took so long.

"I think we have a good land use plan," Ausley said. "I think the intent of most of our citizens to have a family beach and protect the environment comes across in the plan."

The coastal commission had rejected the town's land use plan update in January based on the recommendation of its staff.

Haskell Rhett, planning and access coordinator with the N.C. Division of Coastal Management in Wilmington, had suggested three revisions to the plan early this year which town officials refused to make at the time.

Holden Beach officials later agreed to the changes after their plan was turned down by the CRC.

Revisions included a minor change in the definition of the Conservation land use category and creation of a Conservation-Special Use

class to allow continued building on land near estuaries.

Land use plans, which are required of all local governments in the state's 20 coastal counties, serve as blueprints to help guide growth and development within the communities.

After adopting two earlier versions of the plan last August and December, Holden Beach Commissioners approved the final product on March 18.

Town officials described the land use plan update as "perhaps the most scrutinized and discussed issue ever to be approved by our town" in a letter presented to the CRC in January.

Three separate town boards and four town managers dealt with the plan in one form or another during the update process, which was expected to be completed in mid-1990.

Clarification Needed

CRC member Kent Mitchell, whose family is developing Bald Head Island, is chairing a committee that has been asked to study the definition of marina.

The CRC, which grants permits for coastal construction, presently defines marinas as docking areas with 10 or more slips.

The N.C. Environmental Manage-

ment Commission, which sets rules relating to water quality, says a dock must have 30 or more slips to be a marina.

Some environmentalists fear the CRC may lean toward the EMC's definition and relax its rules on small docking sites.

The committee is expected to meet in April and again before the next CRC meeting in May, said Jeannette Johnson, spokesperson with the Division of Coastal Management.

Rule Changed

Oceanfront condos and other buildings with more than four living units won't necessarily have to comply with the state's setback rules for "large structures" any longer.

Ms. Johnson said the CRC approved a rule change last week which drops the reference to the number of units from its beachfront setback regulations for large structures.

Previously, the state required an extra setback for beachfront buildings with more than four units or more than 5,000 square feet.

With the change, the extra setback will only be required for buildings that are more than 5,000 square feet. Smaller buildings with more than four units won't have to comply with the rules for large structures.

Truck Driver Arrested After High-Speed Chase

BY DOUG RUTTER

A Raleigh man faces 11 charges including assault with a deadly weapon following a high-speed chase Sunday that began on the U.S. 17 bypass in Shallotte and covered parts of two counties.

At least six law enforcement vehicles and five agencies were involved in the chase, which ended when the fleeing truck crashed in a ditch in Columbus County, said Vernon Morton of the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Paul Edward Holton, 21, was released from Brunswick County Jail Monday after posting \$9,800 bond. He allegedly stole a tractor-trailer cab and led officers on a wild ride through sections of Brunswick and Columbus counties.

Sgt. L.D. Bridgers of the DMV, who initiated the chase after trying to stop the truck in Shallotte, was slightly injured during the chase.

Morton said the truck cab rammed Bridgers' vehicle from behind three times during the chase, injuring the officer's back.

Among other things, Holton was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and assault with a deadly weapon on government officers.

"According to the report, the driver assaulted the officers with his vehicle. That's a deadly weapon," said Morton, special assistant to the DMV's commissioner for citizen affairs.

Other charges include felony larceny, felony possession of stolen goods, driving with a revoked license, speeding 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, speeding to elude arrest, failure to stop for police blue lights and siren and running a stop sign.

"We try to avoid pursuing vehicles unless the driver constitutes a threat to the public safety, which in this case he did," Morton said of the chase which started Sunday around 12:15 p.m.

Sgt. Bridgers started pursuing the southbound truck after trying to pull it over for an expired license plate violation on the U.S. 17 Shallotte bypass near N.C. 130.

Morton said the truck pulled onto the shoulder of the highway, shifted into a low gear and continued south on U.S. 17—ignoring the officer's signal to pull over.

With Bridgers in pursuit, the tractor-trailer cab traveled across the South Carolina state line before making a U-turn and heading north on U.S. 17.

Patrol cars from the Sunset Beach Police and Brunswick County Sheriff's departments joined the chase near the state line, Morton said.

After a few miles on U.S. 17, Morton said the truck turned left onto Shingletree Road and then ran a stop sign while making another left turn onto Hickman Road.

Sgt. Bridgers passed the truck on the shoulder of the road in an attempt to slow it down as it approached a church that was letting out near Hickman's Crossroads.

Morton said the truck rammed the back of Bridgers patrol car twice and then pushed it along the rural road until turning right on the Ash-Little River Road.

The chase continued through the Regan's Crossroads and Ash communities. The truck crossed N.C. 130 and later took Project and Kingtown roads into Columbus County.

After forcing a highway patrolman off the road and avoiding a roadblock set up by the Columbus County Sheriff's Department, the truck crossed N.C. 130 again and followed two rural roads to N.C. 905.

Morton said the truck went into a ditch while trying to make a right turn. Sgt. Bridgers captured the driver, who fled into nearby woods following the crash.

Bird Island Zoning Hearing Monday Night At Sunset Beach

A public hearing will be held by the Sunset Beach Town Council next Monday, April 6, on the proposed zoning of Bird Island as agriculture and forestry.

The hearing is one of two set at 7 p.m. at the town hall. The other hearing concerns the annexation of the U.S. Postal Service property on N.C. 904 at Seaside, site of the new Seaside branch office.

The owner of Bird Island, a small, undeveloped barrier island between Sunset Beach and Little River, S.C., has filed a request with the N.C. Office of Coastal Management for a CAMA major development permit. Janie Page Price says in her application that she wants to build a concrete bridge to re-establish vehicular access to the island from the Price property on 40th Street. In addition to the bridge, the application indicates she also is seeking to replace a causeway and water access pier to support "future residential development of Bird Island." An accompanying map subdivides a portion of the island into 15 four-acre residential lots.

The island, part of the town's extraterritorial area since 1990, has never been zoned and is not addressed in the town's five-year-old land use plan, which is being routinely updated now.

The agriculture/forestry zoning category recommended by the Sunset Beach Planning Board would allow single-family residences with a one-acre minimum lot size.

Less Rain Is Local Forecast

Temperatures may range a little below average over the next few days, while rainfall drops to near normal.

Jackson Canady, a Shallotte Point meteorologist, said he expects temperatures to range on the average from the upper 40s at night into the mid-60s during the daytime, with around a half-inch of rainfall.

For the period March 24 through

30, he recorded a maximum high of 74 degrees on the 27th and a nightly low of 32 degrees on the 24th.

A daily average high of 67 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 41 degrees for a daily average temperature of 54 degrees, which is about five degrees below average for this time of year.

He recorded 1.6 inches of rainfall.

Leland Area Theft Ring Suspects Indicted

Indictments were handed down Monday against three men accused of leading a northern area theft ring involving thousands of dollars in stolen goods from the Leland community.

A Brunswick County grand jury indicted George Aaron Bannerman, 33, of Route 1, Leland (Dogwood Road); Larry Darnell Hooper, 28, of Route 2, Riegelwood; and Gregory Ballard, 22, of Route 5, Leland.

They will face various breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen goods charges in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Brunswick County sheriff's detectives also charged a fourth man in February, Bobby Davis, 25, of Wilmington in the break-ins but no indictments were handed down against the suspect Monday.

The men are accused of breaking into more than 20 homes and businesses in Leland, Winnabow and Bolivia. Property loss from the thefts is estimated at more than \$100,000, said Detective Ken Messer.

Bannerman was indicted on 19 counts of felonious breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen goods; one count of first-degree burglary; and one count of auto larceny.

Hooper was indicted on five counts of felonious breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen goods and one count of auto larceny. An indictment accuses Ballard of one count of felonious breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen goods.

According to the indictments, both Bannerman and Hooper were connected to the following 1991 break-ins:

- Jan. 15, a home on Lanvale Road, Leland, where \$11,115 in goods was taken, including a

- video recorder, guns, jewelry, clothing and \$2,000 in cash.
- June 23, a home on Goodman Road, Leland, where \$5,625 in goods was stolen, including a silverware set, keyboard, printer and screen, television, satellite receiver and jewelry box.
- June 25, a home on Mt. Misery Road, Leland, where \$1,409 in goods was taken, including a compact disk player, coins, two guns, a microwave oven, Nintendo game and tapes and a jewelry box.
- June 25, a home on Mt. Misery Road where \$1,345 in goods was taken, including jewelry, four guns, clothing and \$100 in cash.
- July 27, a home on Mt. Misery Road where a television valued at \$280 was stolen.
- Jan. 15, a 1984 Chevrolet truck valued at \$15,000 from a home on Lanvale Road.

In addition, Bannerman was accused of the following incidents, according to the indictments obtained by Detectives Messer and Gary Shay:

- March 6, a home on Mt. Misery Road where two guns, a Mother's Day ring, \$10 in cash and jewelry, all valued at \$1,935, were taken.
- March 8, a home on Mt. Misery Road where \$1,925 in goods was taken, including a video recorder, telephone, Nintendo game and tapes, change and jewelry box.
- July 10, a home in Eagles Nest, Leland, where \$475 in goods was taken, including a television, video recorder and jewelry.
- Aug. 28, a home on Mt. Misery Road where \$3,120 in goods was taken, including a video recorder, jewelry, \$1,000 in cash and a ceramic jar.
- Oct. 14, a home at Route 5, Leland, where \$578 in goods was taken, including a television, 20 baseball caps, jewelry, pillow case and a bottle

- with change inside.
- Oct. 16, a home in Red Oak Estates, Leland, where six sweaters, a stereo and playing cards, all worth \$520, were taken.
- Oct. 16, a Route 1, Winnabow, home where television worth \$100 was taken.
- Oct. 28, a home on Galloway Road, Bolivia, where three guns worth \$705 were stolen.
- Nov. 19, a site on Village Road, Leland, where \$9,920 in goods, including a security box, television, Nintendo tapes and jewelry were taken.
- Nov. 27, a home in Maco where a video recorder, jewelry box and six video tapes, worth \$1,100, were stolen.
- Dec. 12, a home on Parkway Drive, Leland, where \$4,282 in goods was stolen, including a video recorder, television, \$1,600 in cash, jewelry and 11 wrapped Christmas presents and three rented video tapes.
- Dec. 17, a Route 1, Leland, home where \$2,417 in goods, including a video recorder, television, video recorder, stereo and jewelry box were stolen.

They were also indicted on a Jan. 10 break-in of a Rea Oak Estates home where \$1,459 in goods was stolen, including a saw, video recorder, guns and jewelry.

Both Bannerman and Ballard were also indicted for breaking into the Kicking Mule Beverage Barn on Village Road in Leland on Nov. 6, 1991. They are accused of taking 250 cartons of cigarettes, a flashlight and pack of batteries, all worth \$2,756, from the store.

Bannerman's indictment on a first-degree burglary charge accuses him of breaking into a Route 1, Leland, home on Feb. 8, 1992, between 12:30 a.m. and 1 a.m. The home was occupied at the time, it states.

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