



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Marsh Stalker

A blue heron stalks the marsh of Lockwood Folly River at Varnamtown Saturday. He was searching for food, oblivious to fishermen who were working on their boats nearby.

IN SUPERIOR COURT

Local Nightclub Owner Found Not Guilty Of Assaulting Female

BY TERRY POPE

A Holden Beach area nightclub owner accused of assaulting a female at the club was acquitted by a Brunswick County Superior Court jury last week.

It took a jury just 14 minutes to decide Demetrios Mpatjakis, of Whispering Heights, Shallotte, was not guilty of breaking a Supply woman's jaw at the Mirage nightclub on July 6.

He was accused of hitting Vickie Cumbee, of Route 2, Supply, in the face with his fist, of breaking her jaw in two places and knocking her teeth out.

Defense attorney James Payne of Shallotte introduced eight witnesses at the trial last Thursday, April 2, who testified that someone else had hit Ms. Cumbee instead.

"Mr. Mpatjakis is an honest, hard-working man who would not hurt anyone," said Payne. "The Almighty took care to see that justice prevailed."

Witnesses stated that Mpatjakis was not near the alleged victim and that Ms. Cumbee and her husband, Jimmy Dean Cumbee, attacked another individual at the club after she had allegedly received her injuries.

The victim was hospitalized with medical bills in excess of \$7,800, according to documents on file at the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office.

Payne introduced evidence indicating Cumbee had been convicted of assaulting his wife in 1989, that she had also filed civil papers and obtained a protective order against him.

She obtained a warrant against Mpatjakis six days after the incident and did not seek medical treatment until two days had passed, Payne argued. He asserted that Cumbee had broken his wife's jaw and had tried to get money by filing charges against Mpatjakis.

Judge Joe Freeman Britt also heard the following cases for the period March 30-April 2:

■Curtis Lee Epps, of Route 3, Supply, pleaded guilty to seven counts of forgery and uttering, possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and sale of cocaine, sentenced to nine years in prison, ordered to pay court cost, \$367 to United Carolina Bank and \$375 attorney fees.

■Robert Williams, 39, of U.S. 17 South, Shallotte, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor breaking and entering, sentenced to two years in prison, suspended four years, placed on supervised probation four years and 120 days electronic house arrest beginning immediately, ordered to

serve 80 hours community service within eight months, pay court cost and \$150 in attorney fees.

■Rick Ortega, 32, of Marshview Drive, Calabash, pleaded guilty to breaking and entering, sentenced to two years in jail beginning 5:30 p.m. April 3, not recommended for work release, ordered to pay court cost and \$150 attorney fees.

■Michael Kevin Hayes, 22, of Route 2, Shallotte, found in violation of probation, sentenced to three years in prison, ordered not to benefit as a committed youthful offender and not recommended for work release.

■George Rankin, 27, of Shallotte, pleaded guilty to accessory after the fact of rape, received a prayer for judgment continued until April 20.

■James Gore, 40, of Pinecrest subdivision, Shallotte, pleaded guilty to one count of misdemeanor breaking and entering and one count of misdemeanor larceny, sentenced to two years in prison on the first count and 12 months on the second count—to run at the expiration of the first—not recommended for work release, ordered to pay court cost and attorney fees.

■Frederick Allen Clemmons, 35, of Chappell Avenue, Wilmington, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor breaking and entering and misdemeanor larceny, sentenced to two years for breaking and entering and two years for larceny—to run at the

expiration of the first count, not recommended for work release, ordered to pay \$840 in restitution to William R. Rivenbark of Leland and \$150 attorney fees.

■Gerald Lee Fisher, 29, of Seashore Estates, Shallotte, pleaded guilty to manufacturing marijuana, sentenced to two years in prison, suspended four years and placed on supervised probation four years, ordered to spend five weekends in the Brunswick County Jail beginning April 11, ordered to serve 100 hours of community service within eight months, to follow all special conditions on drug cases, pay court cost and a \$100 community service fee.

■Alberto Perez, 22, of Route 1, Currie, pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine and possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, charges consolidated, sentenced to two years in prison, ordered not to benefit as a committed youthful offender, not recommended for work release and ordered to pay court cost.

■David Leon Floyd, 25, of West 11th Street, Southport, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, sentenced to six months in prison, suspended for two years and placed on unsupervised probation for two years, ordered to serve 24 hours community service within six months, to pay court cost and \$150 in attorney fees.

■Calvin Kemith Gause, 27, of Route 9, Shallotte, pleaded guilty to second-degree rape, sentenced to 15 years in prison, ordered to pay court cost and \$395 in restitution to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply and \$265 attorney fees.

■Robert W. Pollock Jr., 28, of Tara Drive, Raleigh, pleaded guilty to death by motor vehicle, no operator's license and failure to reduce speed involving a Jan. 18 accident near Maco. Pollock's car struck the rear of a farm tractor, killing a passenger in his car.

He was sentenced to two years in prison on the death by vehicle charge and six months on the other charges, to run at the expiration of the two years, suspended for four years and placed on supervised probation for four years, ordered to pay court cost, \$150 in attorney fees and serve 80 hours community service.

■Steven Lee Steele, 44, pleaded no contest to misdemeanor breaking and entering and misdemeanor larceny, charges consolidated, sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for five years and placed on five years' supervised probation, ordered to serve 120 days under house arrest, 100 hours of community service, pay court cost, community service fee and \$600 in attorney fees.

Steele appeared in court on April 1 to ask that he serve a two-year active sentence instead. Motion allowed by Judge Britt.

Accused Rapist Gets Life Sentence In Plea Bargain

A Calabash man accused of raping a woman in December was sentenced in Brunswick County Superior Court last week to life in prison plus 30 years.

Louis Harm Ash, 23, of Pinecrest Mobile Home Park, Route 4, pleaded guilty to second-degree rape and first-degree burglary stemming from the Dec. 14 incident in Calabash.

Jury selection began last Tuesday, March 31, after Ash entered not guilty pleas to first-degree rape and first-degree burglary, charges filed following an investigation by Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Nancy Simpson.

His attorney, David Ford of Long Beach, later accepted a plea agreement with Assistant District Attorney Lee Bollinger before a jury was chosen.

Judge Joe Freeman Britt sentenced Ash to life in prison for the burglary charge and 30 years in prison on the rape charge, to run at the expiration of the life sentence.

maximum sentence of up to 50 years in prison or life and a minimum of 14 years in prison. Second-degree rape carries a maximum of 40 years and a minimum of 12 years in prison.

Judge Britt also ordered that Ash not benefit as a committed youthful offender, recommended that he not receive work release and ordered that he pay court cost and \$325 in attorney fees.

According to the indictments, Ash was accused of forcing his way into a home occupied by a female, who he allegedly forced to have sex against her will. First-degree burglary is charged when someone breaks into an occupied home with intent to commit a crime.

The defendant allegedly told the woman that his car was on fire and asked if he could come inside her home to use the telephone. When she refused, he forced his way into the home, hit the victim and raped her, a deputy's report stated.

Let's Put A Businessman in Office...

ELECT EDWARD F. (PORKY) MINTZ

Register of Deeds For Brunswick County



SOUTH WIND SIGNS
CUSTOM PAINTED SIGNS ANY SIZE
SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOM ELECTRIC SIGNS AND INSTALLATION & REPAIR
754-8439
HOLDEN BEACH ROAD

Dissatisfied with CD or IRA rates? Call me today!
Richard C. Glenn
PO Box 2865
Shallotte, NC 28459
(919)754-6771
SECURITIES AMERICA, INC.
Suite 1, Promenade Office Park
Shallotte
Member NASD/SIPC

LAND SALE
Lakewood Estates
Ocean Isle Beach Road

GRAND OPENING PHASE II
DEEDED HOMESITES DEEDED
From **\$7,900**
EXCELLENT FINANCING AVAILABLE

"TURN-KEY" HOME/LOT PACKAGES
1040 SQ. FT. - 3 BR, 2 BATHS
From **\$39,900**

Super location only minutes from Ocean Isle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, numerous golf courses medical complex.

FREE! ZEBCO ROD & REEL
Attendance at a sales presentation is required. Read eligibility requirements below!

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Present this invitation at Lakewood office
- If married, both must attend
- Must be 23 years of age or older
- 1 gift per car or group
- Equal opportunity sales

CALL NOW! 1-800-852-9040 • LOCAL (919)579-7988
EAGLE MARKETING & MANAGEMENT • ASK FOR SALES DIVISION

RAISE YOUR HAND

5% =

Knowing the answer to a teacher's question is part of the excitement of learning; seeing a student's face light up is one of a teacher's greatest rewards. An answer in the Brunswick County Schools is "Teaching for Learning."

Brunswick EMC, your cooperative, is excited to bring you "Service Beyond Power." The answer to your energy conservation needs, utilizing a **5% Weatherization Loan**, is a new **High Efficiency Heat Pump (The Comfort Machine)**. Now you know the answer, so give **Brunswick EMC** a call.

BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

THE COMFORT MACHINE
HIGH EFFICIENCY HEAT PUMP