



Education Activist

A former teacher tries a positive approach to school improvements, Page 7-A

Little Angler

Why is this child smiling? See fishing news and photos, Pages 10-C & 11-C



He's Hooked!

Local youngsters take their first trip to the links. Story and photos, Page 10-B



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Worker Is Hurt In Fall At BCC Site

BY ERIC CARLSON

A worker fell through a hole in the roof of a four-story auditorium under construction at Brunswick Community College Monday, suffering back and arm injuries, according to Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan.

The injured man, Hank Wilson, 38, of Fayetteville, had to be hoisted back onto the roof and lowered to the ground by crane. Stairways have been installed only as far as the second floor, while ladders are used to reach the third floor, Logan said.

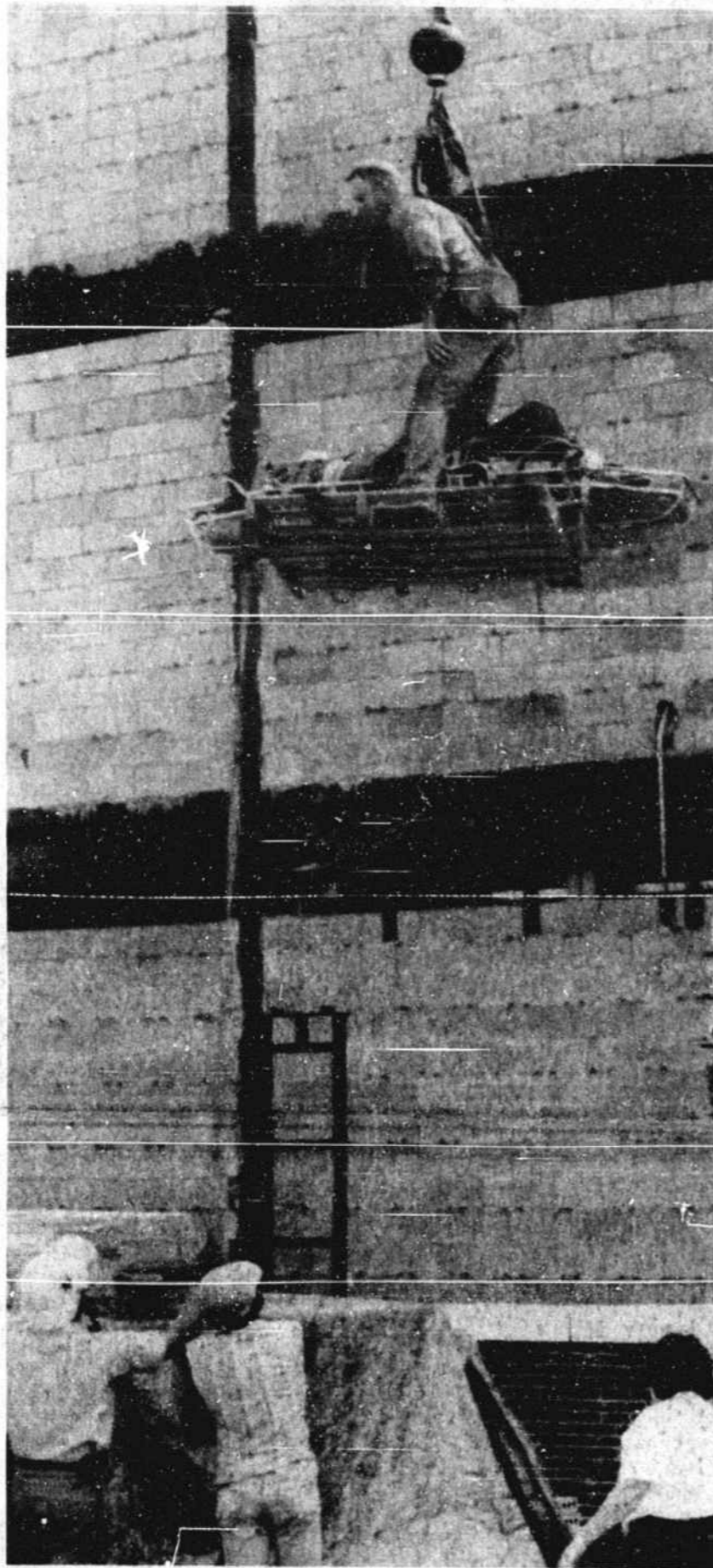
Co-workers said Wilson had been installing smoke vents at about 9:30 a.m. when he suddenly fell about 10 feet to 12 feet to the third floor, landing landed on a metal grating. He did not lose consciousness, but complained of back pain, Logan said.

Personnel from the Coastline and Town Creek rescue squads determined that Wilson could not be taken down the ladders because of his apparent back injury.

Instead they secured him to a backboard, which was then fastened to a Stokes basket, a protective metal cradle frequently used in mountain rescues. Wilson was then hoisted back to the roof.

The basket was secured to a wooden shipping pallet, which was lowered to the ground using the roofing company's crane. Wilson was taken by ambulance to The Brunswick Hospital, where he was listed in satisfactory condition.

Wilson is employed by Tar Heel Roofing, Inc., of Fayetteville, a subcontractor on the construction project.



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS help rescuers use a crane to lower an injured fellow employee from the roof of the new Odell Williamson Auditorium at Brunswick Community College Monday morning.

'Showdown' Predicted Over LUP

BY ERIC CARLSON

Brunswick County is "headed for a showdown" with the N.C. Office of Coastal Management over the state's insistence that the county include Bald Head Island and Varnamtown in its nearly completed land use plan update.

If forced to comply with the state's requirement, the county would have to spend an estimated \$30,000 in additional planning fees and would not be able to meet the deadline for the county plan, County Manager David Clegg told the Board of Commissioners Monday night.

To comply, the county would have to contract with a planning consultant and "start from scratch" the lengthy process of research, workshops and public hearings required to complete a land use plan for the two areas, Clegg said.

"Both Varnamtown and Bald Head Island have their own unique problems," Clegg told the board. "I think it's inappropriate for Brunswick County, which has no jurisdiction and no zoning of its own, to purport to establish land use classifications in those municipalities."

Bald Head Island and Varnamtown have told the state they want to do their own land use planning and have applied for grants to do so. Those applications have been denied.

"I think it's an outrageous situation," said County Planning Director John Harvey. "The state approved planning grants for Belville and Calabash and Bolivia, and they're miles from any sensitive coastlines or estuaries."

Bald Head Island has unique maritime forest areas and miles of beachfront property and has made strict land use planning a primary goal, Harvey noted. Varnamtown is located on the Lockwood Folly River, which is under heightened environmental scrutiny, he said.

Clegg said he had written several letters to the state in an effort to reach a compromise on the matter.

(See SHOWDOWN, Page 2-A)

Schools Ask \$1.25 Million To 'Enter Computer World'

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN AND ERIC CARLSON

With such pleas as, "It's a computer world. They must be available to our children," and "We've got to bite the bullet," the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners was asked Monday to enter into a lease-purchase agreement on behalf of the school system, to equip every county school with computers.

School systems are not permitted to enter into such agreements.

The \$1.25 million cost would be repaid over five or six years, at \$250,000 per year, out of the half-cent sales tax allocated to schools for construction and equipment. School Finance Director Rudena Fallon said Brunswick County schools receive about \$1.5 million in sales tax money annually. Already in the new budget is \$250,000 designated for computers.

Fallon, Management Information Systems Coordinator Liz Locus, Superintendent of Schools P.R. Hankins, Supply Elementary Principal Carolyn Williams School Board Chairperson Donna Baxter and Member Polly Russ, were all vocal in pleading for a crash program in computer literacy for the school system.

Locus told commissioners that state guidelines now require a skill level by the year 2,000 that would mean this year's fifth graders will need to pass a computer literacy test in order to graduate. "I strongly urge you to think where you want Brunswick County students to be compared with other counties," she said. "Right now,

we're not sitting very pretty."

Currently, there are 301 functioning computers in 11 schools, with approximately 29 students per computer, Locus reported. They are located as follows: Bolivia Elementary, 15; Leland Middle, 25; Lincoln Primary, 9; North Brunswick High, 28; Shallotte Middle, 34; South Brunswick High, 46; South Brunswick Middle, 26; Southport Primary, 25; Union Primary, 8; Waccamaw Elementary, 35; and West Brunswick High, 50.

She is asking for labs in each school, with a network of 25-30 stations in every lab and a school wide network. Supply Elementary would be the model school, with five computers per classroom and a 15-station computer lab.

Establishing these labs and equipping classrooms would require \$70,000 per school. In addition to purchase of computers, the program would require the hiring of a countywide staff to implement it, Locus said. This would include a K-12 coordinator, who would establish software for the curriculum area and help establish model classrooms, and three regional computer specialists, one in each district, to recommend software and do troubleshooting. Their salaries would not come from the \$1.25 million requested.

Staff development would also be necessary, something Locus said the K-12 coordinator could plan.

Hankins pointed out that in a society "riddled" with computers, the county system is falling behind, doing computer work in piecemeal fashion.

(See COMPUTERS, Page 2-A)

Police Bust Two Theft Rings Blamed For 39 Break-Ins

BY ERIC CARLSON

Six men have been arrested on multiple felony charges and tons of stolen goods have been recovered in two continuing investigations that police believe will clear up at least 39 recent household burglaries in Brunswick County.

Brunswick County Sheriff's detectives have been gathering evidence for several months in hopes of arresting members of these two theft rings, Chief Detective Capt. Phil Perry said Monday.

One group of three men struck homes mostly in the Winnabow area, while the other three stole from homes around Holden Beach, Sunset Harbor and in the town of Long Beach, he said.

"It's just a coincidence that both these cases came together at the same time," said Sheriff's Department Chief Detective Phil Perry. "It was a very busy couple of days."

Charged in the Winnabow break-ins were Tracy Lee Simmons, 24, Michael Aaron Russell, 20, and Victor Lamar Simmons, 20, all of Winnabow.

In the other break-ins, police have charged Timothy Lynn Barnes, 24, of Supply, Jesse Lee Tipton, 33, of Shallotte and William Chesney

Payne, 20, of Shallotte.

At around 7:30 a.m. Sunday detectives executed a search warrant at a home on Caison Loop Road in Winnabow, Perry said. There they found what was believed to be a large amount of stolen goods including nine guns, a stereo with speakers, a neon sign, a videocassette recorder, a microwave oven, an air conditioner and a water pump.

Many of the items were installed for use in the home, including the front door, said investigating Detective Charles Miller.

"We were pulling stuff out of there until two o'clock in the afternoon," said Miller. "We took everything from the bathroom sink to the carpet on the floor."

Also seized in the search were two marijuana plants, several types of prescription drugs and various items of drug paraphernalia, said narcotics Detective Kevin Holden.

Police believe most of the items were stolen during break-ins at a florist shop, the local VFW post and three homes in the Winnabow area.

Other items are thought to have been taken during two break-ins in West Virginia, Miller said.

Also confiscated in the Winnabow search was an interstate traffic

control light from Huntington, W.Va.

Authorities in West Virginia are considering charges against at least one of the men arrested here Sunday, he said.

Russell has been charged with four counts of felonious breaking and entering, two counts of possessing stolen goods, possession of burglary tools, and several drug charges. He is being held in the Brunswick County Jail in lieu of a \$30,000 secured bond.

Tracy Simmons was charged with five counts of felonious breaking and entering and larceny and several drug charges. He has been jailed in lieu of a \$101,000 secured bond.

Victor Simmons was charged with two counts of felonious breaking entering. He was released on a \$10,000 bond.

Detectives Miller and Ken Messer are continuing their investigation into the case and may file additional charges against all three men, Perry said.

In the other investigation, Barnes, Tipton and Payne have been charged with numerous counts of felonious breaking and entering, according to investigating Detective Gene A.

(See GOODS, Page 2-A)

Holden Loses Power Sunday

The Holden Beach area lost power for approximately 2 1/2 hours Sunday morning because of a faulty relay.

"Everything in the immediate Holden Beach area, including the island, was affected," said Bobby Gore, operations manager with Brunswick Electric Membership Corp.

Between 2,500 and 3,000 customers lost electricity at Holden Beach, Windy Point and Oxpen and along Seashore Road and part of Holden Beach Road.

"That's probably a conservative figure," Gore said of the estimated number of affected customers. "That's an approximate."

Power went out around 8:30 a.m. Sunday and was restored about 2 hours, 35 minutes later.

Gore blamed the outage on a faulty relay. Relays are used to protect transformers.

It took time to restore service because tests had to be done before the transformer could be re-energized, Gore said.

BCC Buildings Going Smoke-Free With Fall Term

BY SUSAN USHER

When faculty, students and staff arrive at Brunswick Community College Sept. 2 for fall quarter registration, they'll be returning to smoke-free buildings at all three campuses.

Complaints about smoke probably account for the largest number of comments the school receives in its suggestion boxes, President Michael Reaves told trustees last week.

A smoking area will be designated outside each building in a covered area under the policy adopted last Wednesday that was first introduced about six months ago.

Citing faculty and student concerns about health hazards associated with secondary smoke, he said the new policy is especially appropriate since the college expects to begin offering a respiratory therapy program in 1993.

In conjunction with the new policy, he said BCC also hopes to offer

wellness-related assistance, such as smoking cessation and weight control programs, working with local health educators.

In moving to smoke-free buildings, BCC won't be alone among the state's 58 community college campuses, he said. Some campuses have adopted designated smoking areas, while others will be looking to see how BCC's approach works.

BCC currently has designated smoking areas within each building on campus, but that hasn't eliminated problems with secondary smoke.

In the student center, for instance, one area is designated non-smoking and another smoking. However, because of the shared ventilation system, said Reaves, "If you smoke in that student center, you're just going to have smoke."

Because smoke travels, there will be no smoking in the buildings whatsoever. "If you smoke in the



"This (a smoke-free environment) is the workplace a lot of our graduates are going into."

—David Kelly, Chairman BCC Board of Trustees

hall or foyer it doesn't just stay there," he said. "It goes everywhere."

Most of the buildings already have an outside site suitable for designation as a smoking area, but Reaves said a gazebo or some other covered area will probably be constructed for the classroom building.

While noting that smokers need to be treated as fairly as possible, Chairman David Kelly agreed with the change in policy. Citing an example at CP&L's headquarters

building in downtown Raleigh, he said, "This (a smoke-free environment) is the workplace a lot of our graduates are going into."

The policy recommended by Reaves was adopted with only one "no" vote from Charles (Chuck) Lanier. Supporting Jamie Milliken's motion were David Kelly, James Rabon, Al Wooten, Malcolm Grissett, Donna Baxter, Jimmy Hobbs and SGA President Cindy LeVasseur, an ex-officio board member.

While a survey conducted earlier

in the year noted that a significant number of BCC students do smoke, LeVasseur of Jacksonville doesn't anticipate problems with the new policy.

"I feel like as long as the students are given a place to smoke that keeps them out of the weather that would make them happy," she said.

BCC's main campus is located on U.S. 17 north of Supply. It also has satellite campuses in Southport and Leland.

BCC isn't the first public facility in the county to move to a smoke-free building environment. The Brunswick County Public Schools system no longer allow smoking in its buildings. The first to adopt no-smoking policies were the county's two hospitals. The Brunswick County Health Department has adopted a no-smoking policy, and is encouraging the rest of county government to do the same.