

Memories...

A local woman remembers life during wartime in the Army Nursing Corps. Page 13-A.



Committee Of 100 Marks Year

Three directors are re-elected, and the state treasurer encourages industrial growth in Brunswick County. Page 11-C.



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TRAINING COORDINATOR BLAMED FOR DEFICIENCIES

EMS Forced To Suspend Advanced Life Support

BY ERIC CARLSON

Brunswick County Emergency Medical Services Tuesday suspended its fledgling Advanced Life Support program after learning that its training coordinator had failed to keep proper certification records and had "grossly misled" officials about the status of emergency medical technician training.

As a result, county rescue personnel are prohibited from installing breathing tubes, connecting intravenous fluid injections or defibrillating patients en route to the hospital. They will also be prohibited from using expensive equipment purchased especially for the program.

It is a situation that state and local EMS officials admit could result in the unnecessary death of a patient.

The action came after the N.C. Office of Emergency Medical Services discovered that Brunswick EMS Training Coordinator John Davis had failed to keep the proper records to assure that local rescue personnel had completed the necessary course work and field training for advanced EMT-I certification.

In a letter sent to the N.C. Office of Emergency Medical Services Friday, Brunswick County EMS Medical Director Dr. Harry L. Johnson said Davis "will no longer be involved in our program in any way, and I

would hope that he will never be allowed to be a part of any EMS program in North Carolina."

State law requires that every county must provide ambulance service staffed by personnel with at least a basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) rating. With such training, a rescuer can administer basic first aid, do cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), control hemorrhaging and perform other ambulance-related duties.

Brunswick County had only EMT-certified personnel in its rescue squads until March, when it qualified for the Advanced Life Support designation.

Under the ALS program, regulated by the N.C.

Medical Care Commission and supervised by a local medical director, a county EMS system can utilize personnel with the EMT-I (intermediate) rating. After training and certification, EMT-I's can perform more extensive surgical procedures to stabilize a patient.

While training for that certification, an EMT-D rating can be earned, allowing a rescuer to operate a defibrillating unit.

Under the direction of Johnson and county EMS Supervisor Doug Ledgett, a EMT-I certification program was established at Brunswick Community College

(See ADVANCED, Page 2-A)

Robinson Fired From County Post

BY ERIC CARLSON

Ronnie Robinson, director of the Brunswick County Older Adults/Department of Aging, was dismissed from his position Friday.

County Personnel Officer Starie Grissett Monday confirmed that Robinson had been notified of his firing by certified mail. She would give no further details of the action.

A message was left on Robinson's home answering machine Tuesday morning offering him the opportunity to comment on the dismissal. He did not return the call.

County Manager David Clegg Monday said that under the county personnel policy, the dismissal was a confidential matter about which he was not allowed to comment.

Jamie Orrock, director of the Brunswick County Department of Social Services, is temporarily in charge. However, Clegg said it isn't his intent to put the Department of Aging back under the Social Services department.

Two weeks ago, Clegg had been told by members of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners to "do what it takes to correct" recurring budget shortfalls in Robinson's department.

At its final budget workshop June 8, the board was told that the department needed an emergency allocation of \$20,000 to pay for its last month's payroll and operating expenses. Clegg said Robinson had failed to make adjustments in his program spending and had "run out of money" for the fiscal year.

At the July 20 commissioners meeting, Clegg asked for another \$4,400 to pay additional bills incurred by Robinson's department during last year's budget period.

Under the personnel policy, Robinson can appeal his dismissal to the board of commissioners.

If he has reason to believe the action was motivated by discrimination, Robinson can seek relief from the State Personnel Commission.

As of Monday, Robinson had not requested a hearing before the commissioners, according to Board Chairman Kelly Holden.

Robinson has worked for the county since 1987, when he was hired as director of the original Department of Aging. He remained head of the program after it became part of the Department of Social Services and later when it was returned to departmental status.

As director of the Older Adults/Department of Aging, Robinson supervised seven full-time employees and coordinated the county's senior centers, the congregate meals program, the home-delivered meals program and a senior citizens transportation program.

Robinson's annual salary was \$26,486. As of Tuesday, the county had not begun advertising for a new director for the department.



ROBINSON

EDUCATION BOARD'S BUDGET SAID ADEQUATE

Schools Request For Computer Funds Nixed

BY ERIC CARLSON

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday denied a board of education request to fund a \$1.25 million computer education program, saying the school board already had the money in its budget to fund the program.

Pointing to "amazing discoveries" he had uncovered in the school budget, Chairman Kelly Holden said that the schools had \$500,000 in unappropriated funds to spend on the proposed computer program.

"They have the money to do it with a little shifting of priorities," Holden said.

At the last commissioners' meeting, a delegation of school teachers, administrators and board of education members asked the county board to enter into a lease-purchase agreement on behalf of the school system to fund \$1.25 million worth of additional computers, software and instructors. The school board proposed to repay the loan with \$250,000 a year from its half-cent sales tax revenues.

County Finance Officer Lithia Hahn told commissioners Monday that in examining the school

board budget she found that the board had been too conservative in estimating the amount of money it would receive from the state. She said she had also found available money in other areas of the budget.

"It appears to me that they will have enough money for their computer needs," she said.

Holden likened the situation to an earlier request from the school board to add \$600,000 to its 1989-90 budget. The board of education claimed the money was needed to avoid severe cutbacks and teacher layoffs, yet at the end of the year there was \$1.2 million left in the school fund balance, he said.

"We have tried to demand accountability from the board of education," Holden said.

Commissioner Gene Pinkerton said he had received numerous calls about the schools' computer funding request. He defended the commissioners' commitment to education, noting that the board had approved \$2.28 million in school budget increases since 1987. He also pointing to the board's recent appropriation of \$1.5 million to upgrade the county library system.

"It's not our decision whether or not they buy computers or not. They have the money to do that," Pinkerton said. "I think they can put this program together without our help."

In other business the board:

■Held the first in a planned series of workshops with the county planning board to discuss the proposed ordinance to establish zoning in unincorporated areas of the county. County Planner John Harvey reviewed sections of the ordinance describing the functions of the planning board, zoning board, zoning board of adjustment and zoning officer. He also gave both boards their first look at a proposed zoning map.

■Considered the renaming of Spring Branch Road. One group of residents said the name should remain the same while another asked that it be renamed Hughes Road. The board told both groups to return with petitions from property owners expressing their preference for the road name.

■Heard a request from several residents asking that the county adopt a leash law to prohibit dogs from running wild.

OPPOSITION MOUNTING

Holden Plans Hearings On Septic Tank Rules

BY DOUG RUTTER

The people will be heard.

Holden Beach homeowners will have not one, but two chances to tell town officials what they think of proposed rules aimed at stopping the abuse of septic systems on the island.

Although public hearings aren't required, town commissioners will conduct two of them Aug. 19 and Sept. 5 so everyone who may be affected by the rules has a chance to give their opinion.

Commissioners agreed to hold the hearings after eight people, including three involved in the real estate business, spoke on the proposal at Monday night's meeting.

Holden Beach's wastewater management committee drafted the ordinance in an effort to keep people from overusing septic tanks and advertising homes to sleep more people than they are intended to accommodate.

For years, some beach houses have been overloaded during the summer with more people than their septic systems were designed to accommodate. Four-bedroom homes designed to sleep eight people are sometimes inhabited by a dozen or more.

The ordinance would make it illegal to exceed the sleeping capacity of two people per bedroom and would allow the town building inspector to inspect houses if there is evidence or probable cause that the rules are being violated.

Violations would be reported to the Brunswick County Health Department for enforcement. Penalties could include a civil fine of \$50 per day as long as the violation continues.

Alan Holden, who operates the largest rental

"I see a razor blade here that's going to divide this beach."

—Alan Holden

agency on the island, was the most vocal speaker Monday night. He urged the town board to give homeowners an opportunity to comment on the proposed rules.

"It bothers me that this thing is on the agenda tonight," Holden said. "I'm scared to death you're going to vote on it."

Commissioners didn't vote on the rules Monday, and agreed to postpone a vote until after both public hearings. The first will be held as part of a regular meeting Wednesday, Aug. 19, at 7 p.m.

To give more non-resident homeowners an opportunity to speak, the town will hold a second hearing Saturday, Sept. 5, at 11 a.m. following the Holden Beach Property Owners Association meeting.

All of the people who spoke Monday night agreed that overcrowding needs to be controlled, but most of them said the proposed ordinance isn't the way to get it done.

Jim Shafor, a permanent resident, said the ordinance would prevent him from inviting his daughter's family to stay at his beach house.

Jimmy Hobbs took it one step further, saying the rules would indirectly control how many chil-

dren he's allowed to have.

Holden said the 400 homeowners his real estate agency represents are more worried about the ordinance than any other town issue in recent years.

They're concerned for the environment, unity on the beach and the speed with which the board seems to be moving toward adopting the rules, he said.

Holden said the rules would affect the island's 800 or so rental houses more than the other homes. "I see a razor blade here that's going to divide this beach."

Johnny Craig of Craig Realty agreed with Holden that the rules came up quickly without giving homeowners a chance to comment.

He said the proposed ordinance discriminates against some homeowners and is neither practical nor enforceable.

"I'm against gross overcrowding, but I just don't think this is going to do it," Craig said.

Holden and others involved in the house rental business said the timing of the proposal is bad because they're preparing to have new rental brochures printed.

Shafor also said he doesn't see how the town's building inspector will have time to enforce the proposed rules.

John Holden, the town's first mayor, agreed with Shafor's assessment of the extra burden the rules would place on Building Inspector Dwight Carroll.

"If he thinks he's got a job now, if you folks tell him to police he'll have a double job," Holden said.

Sullivan, Hill In House Race

Randy Sullivan of Shallotte will take Kelly Holden's place on the Republican ballot for the 14th District seat in the N.C. House of Representatives, while the State Board of Elections says another candidate, Democrat Dewey Hill, can remain on the ballot.

James Payne, chairman of the Brunswick County Republican Party, said Monday that Sullivan has received the unanimous approval of the Republican Party chairman in each of the counties in the district, plus the endorsement of the 7th Congressional District Committee.

"His nomination has been accepted by the State Republican Headquarters as the candidate," said Payne. Sullivan will face Rep. David Redwine, D-Brunswick, and Dewey Hill of Columbus County, whose candidacy was upheld Friday by the State Board of Elections.

Sullivan, 41, is a self-employed carpenter and single. He has a bachelor of arts degree in health education from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and has taught school. This is his third bid for a state office.

He challenged Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. twice. In 1986, Sullivan drew 47 percent of the vote to Soles' 53 percent, while in 1988 he drew 36 percent of the vote compared to Soles' 64 percent.

Sullivan could not be reached for comment Monday. Holden withdrew from the House race last month, saying he couldn't afford to be away from his business while the General Assembly was in session.

Meeting Friday in Raleigh, the board upheld the 2-1 decision of the Columbus County Board of Elections that Hill had lived in the 14th District long enough to qualify as a candidate.

The board threw out an "appeal" by Shirley T. Greene of Barnesville. Greene, who finished fourth in the field of four in the primary, was one of two people who challenged Hill's residency. State law says a candidate must have lived in the district for a least a year prior to the general election in November. Greene said Hill spent more time at a residence in Whiteville than at his home at Lake Waccamaw, which is in the 14th District.

Lake Waccamaw resident Erma McNeill has dropped her challenge. The N.C. Board of Elections said Friday that Greene could still take his case to court—the original point of appeal designated by the board.