

See How They Run

Election Day is this Tuesday, Nov. 3. Sample ballots and profiles of local candidates are on Pages 8A-11A.

Welcome...

...to the N.C. Festival By The Sea at Holden Beach. See Section D for your guide to the festivities and competitions.

Fright Night '92

Looking for safe, fun Halloween activities for the kids? A rundown of carnivals and other events is on Page 5-B.

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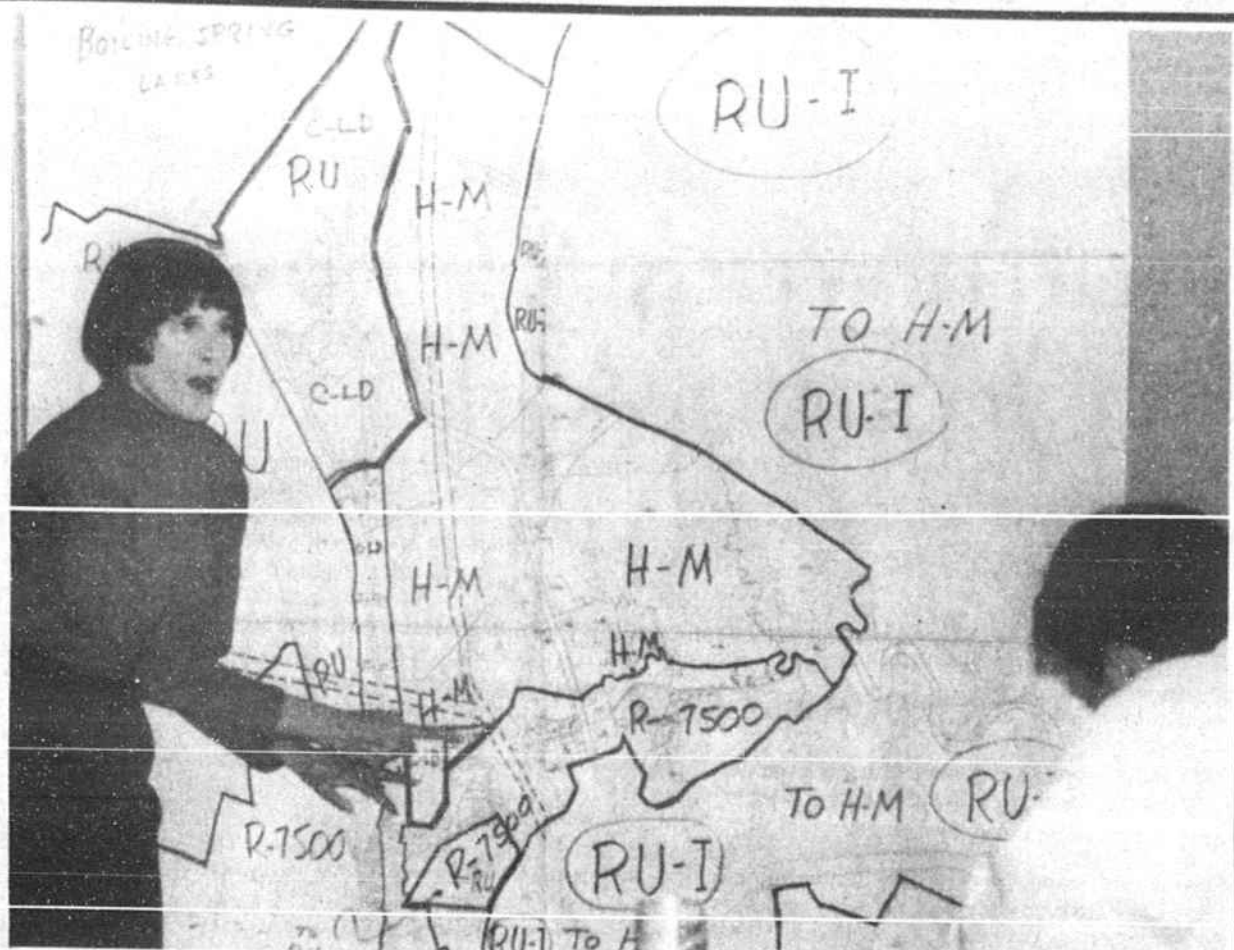
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STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

DEBBIE ALDRIDGE of Southport, speaking at a meeting in Bolivia Monday night, asks the Brunswick County Planning Board and Board of Commissioners to expand a residential district proposed in the draft county zoning ordinance. The area along Bethel Church Road borders land that may be used for gravel mining.

Rural Residents Continue Fight Against Zoning Plan

BY ERIC CARLSON

The proposed county zoning ordinance is being forced on people living in rural areas—who don't want to be told how to use their land—by residents of incorporated towns who won't be regulated by it.

That was the message delivered to the Brunswick County Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners by a majority of the 55 people who attended a joint meeting of the two boards in Bolivia Monday night.

Though it was not a public hearing, the boards agreed to take comments from the audience. Twelve people spoke at the meeting. A few asked for specific changes. Most criticized the concept of zoning, often to rousing applause.

"The people who will be affected are the people who voted against it two-to-one, three-to-one, four-to-one," said V.D. Mintz of Leland. "Is that good government, to force it on people who don't want it?"

Mintz was referring to the results of a Nov. 5, 1991 non-binding referendum that asked voters whether the county should have zoning in unincorporated areas. Zoning was supported by an overall margin of about 64 percent to 36 percent, according to figures supplied by County Planner John Harvey.

County Commissioners Chairman Kelly Holden and others have often cited those results in support of their efforts to enact a zoning ordinance.

Mintz noted that zoning was opposed by a majority of voters in many rural precincts, while more populated areas—where zoning already is in effect—supported it.

According to Brunswick County Board of Elections results, 12 of the county's 22 precincts voted in favor of zoning, while 10 opposed it.

Zoning was supported by wide margins in the larger precincts of Boiling Spring Lakes, Oak Island, Southport and Shingletree. The less populated precincts of Longwood, Ash, Freeland, Bolivia, Mosquito, Supply and Leland all voted against zoning.

Mintz said zoning was not needed in rural areas. He

said land-use conflicts could be avoided by enacting nuisance ordinances.

Shallotte Accountant Melba Edwards said she opposed the zoning law and warned that "there are a lot of traps in it." She said that although she has 300 acres of rural land, the zoning law would prohibit her son from building a welding shop on the property.

"That's pretty restrictive," Edwards said. She said the law unfairly targets mobile homes for excessive regulation. A mobile-home owner herself, she said such housing is "very practical" and an "economic necessity" for many people.

According to Harvey, the proposed ordinance is "extremely lenient" and one of only a few in the country that permits manufactured housing in all residential districts.

Edwards also felt the ordinance was too strict in its regulation of junkyards, which she called "the working man's parts and equipment place."

Cindy Evans of Supply echoed Edwards' remark, saying the ordinance would unfairly penalize "old car buffs" who rely on junkyards as their only source for parts.

"People ought to be able to use their land without getting permits for everything," Evans said.

Also speaking in general opposition to the zoning ordinance were Jeff Sellers of Supply, Lloyd Klutz of Leland and Patty Young and Sandi Beasley of Winnabow.

Bob Quinn of Southport repeated his request that the boards re-think their support for allowing animal slaughtering operations, incineration facilities for human and animal forms, above- and below-ground storage tanks and hazardous material treatment facilities in certain zones. Such uses could be allowed by special permission of the zoning board of adjustment.

Harvey has said the county cannot prohibit such uses outright and must provide areas where such operations could locate.

"My position was and is, we must seek to accommodate at home, when man has a need to use land, (See ZONING, Page 2-A)

Man Charged In Evans Murder Was Paroled, Had Weapons Charges

BY ERIC CARLSON

One of the two men arrested last week in the abduction and murder of Ronald Everett Evans was out on parole at the time of the killing and has twice been charged with firearms assaults since his early release from prison last spring.

William Earl Hill, 18, of Hale Swamp Road (formerly Blueberry Farm Road) was arrested by Brunswick County Sheriff's Detectives Friday. He was charged with first degree murder and kidnapping along with Bradley Tyrone King, 17, who lives on U.S. 17, Route 1, Shallotte.

King was arrested Thursday evening, according to Sheriff John Carr Davis. He said the two men were arrested "at the south end of the county."

Both are being held without bond in the Brunswick County Jail.

Police say Hill and King have admitted their involvement in the shooting, with each one claiming that the other pulled the trigger. The 9mm semi-automatic handgun used in the murder also has been recovered, according to Sheriff John Carr Davis.

The pistol, a hat worn by Evans when he was shot, and other physical evidence has been sent to SBI laboratories in Raleigh for analysis, Davis said. Detectives continue to interview persons who might provide information regarding the events leading to Evans' death.

"We still don't have a motive and we are still looking for witnesses," Davis said Monday.

Numerous theories have been advanced and several motives suggested for why Evans might have been murdered. Each is being investigated, Davis said. He would not confirm a report that another suspect may be charged in the killing.

In announcing the arrests Friday afternoon, Davis had said there "might be other arrests" in the case.

So far there has been no evidence linking Evans with illegal drugs sales or use, Davis said. Chemical analysis of the body has not been completed, he said.

Davis confirmed that Evans was acquainted with Hill and King, but would not say how.

"I just don't want to give out any information that would damage our case or prevent them from getting a fair trial. This thing is going to take some time," the sheriff said.

He commended the efforts of detectives and deputies "who've worked a lot of hours on this case." Davis also praised the cooperation and assistance of Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause and agents of the State Bureau of Investigation.

Evans, 20, was reported missing by family members when he failed to return to his home in Ash after driving to a Shallotte fast-food restaurant on the night of Oct. 12.

His car was found the next day in a swampy area of the Bricklanding Plantation property, not far from Hale Swamp Road. The food he had purchased was still in the car.

A passing horseback rider discovered Evans' body Oct. 18 beside a dirt road off N.C. 130, north of Shallotte. He had been shot at least once in the back and once in the leg.

Before the body was found, when the Evans case was still being investigated as a missing person, a sheriff's detective received a tip that Hill and King might be involved in his disappearance.

Court records show that Detective Tom Hunter had a

(See SHALLOTTE MEN, Page 2-A)



HILL



KING

47 Offices On Local Ballots

When Brunswick County polls open Tuesday morning, 32,769 residents will be eligible to cast votes in the general election, the most to date.

They will be voting in races for 47 seats at the county, state and national level, including the president of the United States and the governor of North Carolina.

While some local and judiciary candidates are unopposed, in some races candidates have more choices than usual. This year the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian parties have fielded candidates at the state and national level. Independent Ross Perot is also on the presidential ballot in North Carolina.

The Brunswick County Board of Elections will be displaying unofficial results of the returns as they come in Tuesday at the Public Assembly Building at the Government Center in Bolivia. Official results won't be available until Thursday, after the canvass.

Again this year both the Brunswick County Democratic and Republican parties are planning election night events at their headquarters buildings north of Supply on U.S. 17 Business.

W.A. Stanley Jr., county chairman of the Democratic Party, said a 46-inch wide screen television will

be set up at its headquarters for viewing the state and national returns. At press time, arrangements for posting local returns had not been completed. Democratic women will be providing refreshments.

Details of the Republican Party's plans were not available at press time.

Specifically, Brunswick County voters will be voting for the following offices:

- County commissioners and school board members from Districts 1, 3 and 4;
- County register of deeds;
- County coroner (Greg White is unopposed);
- Either two state representatives (residents of District 14) or one state representative (residents of District 98, where Thomas Wright of Wilmington is unopposed);
- State senator (District 18);
- Governor and lieutenant governor;
- Eight other members of the North Carolina Council of State: secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, superintendent of public instruction, attorney general, and the commissioners of agriculture, labor and insurance;
- 23 state judges, including three (all unopposed) 13th District Court

judges, three Supreme Court associates justices, seven Court of Appeals judges, and 10 Superior Court judges;

- President and vice president of the United States;
- A U.S. senator and a U.S. representative (7th District); and
- One Brunswick County Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor, the only non-partisan race on the ballot.

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Burroff Children Placed In N.C.; Parents Waive Extradition

BY ERIC CARLSON

Accused child molester Robert Burroff Jr. and his wife Gail have waived extradition from Nevada and will be returned to Brunswick County within a week to face trial, Sheriff's Detective Nancy Simpson said Tuesday.

The Supply couple is being held by the Reno Police Department on felony warrants.

Their children Sarah, 12, Melody, 11, Michael, 8, and Sammy, 2, are back in North Carolina and have been placed in foster care with family members in another county. They are living together and adjusting well, Simpson said. The three older children have been enrolled in school.

"They looked great, a little tired, but glad to be home," Simpson said. "We all rode back together from Charlotte Friday. They talked all the way home and we stopped and ate pizza. They were tickled to death to see me."

Department of Social Services workers had arranged to pick up the children at Charlotte International Airport, Simpson said. The four remembered Simpson from her earlier investigation and asked if she could be there to meet them.

Story To Air Friday

At 8 p.m. Friday, the Fox Television Network program "America's Most Wanted" will broadcast a story about the arrest of Robert and Gail Burroff and the recovery of their four children, according to Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Nancy Simpson.

Acting on information received after an earlier segment was broadcast about the Burroff case, Simpson last week tracked the Supply family to a Reno, Nev., homeless shelter where they were apprehended Oct. 20.

The family disappeared from Brunswick County Sept. 4 after Burroff was indicted on one charge of first degree rape and two counts of indecent liberties with minor children.

"I spent 17 hours on the road Friday between here and Raleigh and Charlotte. But it was worth it to see them back safe," Simpson said.

Simpson has learned that during their six-week disap-

pearance, the Burroff's had stayed in South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas and California before their arrest in Reno. The Burroffs eventually planned to flee to Alaska, she said.

Monday, Simpson spent three hours with a producer and camera crew from the Fox Television Network program "America's Most Wanted," who were in Brunswick County to film an update of the Oct. 16 story the show ran about the Burroff case.

Calls responding to the first broadcast helped Simpson track the family from a homeless shelter in Houston, Texas, to another in Reno, Nev., where the parents were arrested and the children recovered.

The new program is scheduled to air Friday at 8 p.m., Simpson said.

The Burroffs are believed to have left with their children Sept. 4 after Robert was indicted on one charge of rape and two counts of taking indecent liberties with children.

Simpson had no leads in the case until a story about the Burroffs clipped from *The Brunswick Beacon* was found on a gasoline pump in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 6. The article asked anyone with information on the case

to contact the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

The man who found the clipping contacted Simpson, who feared the Burroffs might be headed for the Mexican border.

Wednesday, Oct. 14, she contacted the producers of "America's Most Wanted," who quickly put together a segment on the case. They got the show on the air in two days, Simpson said.

By Monday she had answered scores of calls from all over the country. Then she got a message to contact the director of the Star of Hope shelter in Houston. He told her the Burroffs had checked into the shelter Sept. 6 and left Oct. 8.

Last Tuesday, working with a Houston Police detective, Simpson found that the Burroffs had checked into the Reno shelter after school officials there contacted Houston schools to request the children's records. The Burroffs were arrested that night.

Still, one mystery remains. Who left *The Brunswick Beacon* clipping at that San Antonio gasoline station?

"I still don't know," Simpson said. "The kids say they didn't do it. But they may still be a little scared. Maybe Gail did it. I'm sure it will come out eventually."