

State's Complaint Chronicles Club's Alcohol, Drug, Violence Problems

The state's complaint against Freeman Hankins, Van Andrew Cobb and Lasalle Hankins Jr., doing business as Freeman's Nightclub or Club Mulberry, seeks to "abate a nuisance." The following incidents were listed in the complaint used to obtain a temporary restraining order against the club. Where quotation marks are used, the complaint is being excerpted verbatim.

ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS
May 4, 1988. Yvonne Marie Blue was convicted on two charges of selling alcohol without permits. Freeman Hankins convicted on one charge of selling alcohol without permits.

Feb. 15, 1989. Freeman Hankins convicted on two charges of selling alcohol without permits; a search warrant was executed at the club leading to "the seizure of various controlled substances, including 65 capsules of cocaine and 20 bags of marijuana." Mary Norman pleaded guilty to selling alcohol without permits.

Sept. 20, 1990. Freeman Hankins pleaded guilty to a charge of selling alcohol after hours, and Judge Jerry Jolly ordered that Hankins no participate in, work in or own any establishment selling alcohol for five years.

Aug. 26, 1990. Freeman Hankins charged with several alcohol violations and later pleaded guilty to possession of alcohol without permits and with allowing persons to consume alcohol after hours.
Sept. 5, 1990. Lou Nelle Grissett pleaded guilty to charges of consuming a malt beverage after hours.

Oct. 3, 1990. Prayer for judgment continued on a charge against Lasalle Hankins Jr. of selling alcohol without permits, on the condition that he not violate any ABC regulations for two years. Yvonne Marie Blue pleaded guilty to a charge of selling malt beverages after hours.

Feb. 5, 1992. Yvonne Marie King pleaded no contest to charges of unlawful possession of spirituous liquor. Prayer for judgment was continued when Sarah H. Williamson pleaded no contest to charges of purchasing wine at a retail outlet for resale at Freeman's.

Oct. 7, 1992. Freeman Hankins pleaded guilty to two counts of possession of alcohol for sale and received an 18-month active sentence.

DRUG ARRESTS
March 26, 1990. Osby Hankins convicted of sale and delivery of cocaine to SBI Agent Phil Sweat. "This sale occurred in the bathroom of the club," the complaint states.

Sept. 11, 1990. Godfrey L.

Hankins convicted of resisting a public officer at the club.

Nov. 24, 1990. David Leon Floyd convicted of possession of drug paraphernalia while at the club. Godfrey L. Hankins convicted of possession of cocaine and with intentionally maintaining a motor vehicle for keeping controlled substances at the club.

April 11, 1991. Leverage Brown convicted of sale of cocaine and with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine on the club premises.

Still pending. Cocaine possession charges against Jerome Smith, arrested by Detective Doug Todd as Smith left the club premises.

VIOLENCE
June 24, 1990, 1:49 a.m. Freeman Hankins reported to the sheriff's department a fight in progress at the club. "He reported that one of the subjects fighting was armed with a shotgun. Before officers could arrive...subjects had fled into the woods."
July 1, 1990, 2:56 a.m. Freeman Hankins reported a fight. Officers went to the scene and cleared the call.
July 6, 1990. Sheriff's Department responded to a complaint from Freeman Hankins that shots were being fired on the club premises.
July 7, 1990, 3:16 a.m. Freeman Hankins reported a fight. Officers responded but subjects had fled prior to their arrival.
July 15, 1990. Preston Betha was charged with assaulting an officer with a beer bottle on club premises; later convicted. Lt. David Crockler of the BCS and SBI Agent Kelly Moser "harassed and threatened by a crowd of between 150 and 200 people at Freeman's Nightclub, while these officers were attempting to arrest Godfrey Hankins in the parking lot...for narcotics violations. As the officers were attempting to leave the parking lot...the crowd...began throwing rocks and bottles at the patrol cars resulting in damage to law enforcement vehicles."
July 22, 1990, 3:49 a.m. Officers responded to a call that shots were being fired at the club. Officers cleared the call 30 minutes after arriving at the club by dispersing the crowd.
July 29, 1990. Freeman Hankins called the sheriff's department to report a fight. Five officers responded and found the crowd had dispersed prior to their arrival.
Aug. 5, 1990. Deputies responded to shots being fired at the club. While officers were leaving the club, a bottle was thrown from

the crowd and struck a patrol vehicle.

Aug. 12, 1990. Det. Gene A. Caison responded to a fight call at the club. Upon arrival, Caison noted that approximately 200 vehicles were partially parked on the highway and blocked local residential driveways a half-mile from the club toward Shallotte. "As Caison attempted to leave the club, approximately 30 people from the crowd attempted to block his path and then began throwing bottles which damaged Caison's patrol car."
Aug. 26, 1990. Officers responded to a disorderly conduct call. "Bottles were thrown at the officers as they entered and exited the premises by a crowd of over 1,000 people." ALE Officer Mike Yates was struck on the ankle by a bottle and required medical treatment. ALE Supervisor Joe Reilly was struck in the chest by a beer bottle inside the establishment "while trying to control the crowd."
Dec. 30, 1990. Officers responded to a fight "when a verbal confrontation ensued between patrons of the club and the responding officers." Upon their arrival, officers found Lorenzo Hill, who was shot in his right side while on the premises and transported him to New Hanover Regional Medical Center for treatment.
Sept. 13, 1992. An officer responding to a shooting call at the club had his car struck by bottles and rocks.
Oct. 4, 1992. The vehicle of a Freeman's patron was struck three times by gunshot, and a 15-year-old in the car was struck by a bullet in the stomach. The same night Freeman Hankins was shot while in the left forearm while standing beside the car. "Officer Mike Speck of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department asked the bouncer of the establishment to close the nightclub at that time, which was approximately three o'clock in the morning, to which the bouncer replied that the crowd would not listen to him."
Dec. 26, 1992, approximately 4 a.m., a man was shot in the arm while on the club premises. "Officers responded...and could not control the crowd. As a result...officers were called in from the day shift. The ambulance responding to the gunshot victim could not get to the scene because of the automobiles of the patrons....As a result, the victim had to be transported by a Brunswick County deputy sheriff." Later in the morning, a fight broke out resulting in three to four women being charged with various types of assault. They were convicted on those charges on Jan. 21, 1993.



DEPUTIES Lynn Todd (left) and Sgt. Larry Jones take inventory during the court-ordered closing of Freeman's Place Friday afternoon. A judge ordered the building padlocked pending a hearing to determine if the popular Shallotte night spot should be closed indefinitely as a "public nuisance."

Freeman's Closing Said 'To Abate Nuisance'

(Continued From Page 1-A)
 from the scene in a detective's car when an ambulance was unable to reach the club because of the crowd. After that incident, the Shallotte Board of Aldermen unanimously agreed to write a letter to Brunswick County Sheriff John Carr Davis, asking that Freeman's be closed.
 As a carpenter installed a hasp and lock over the door to Freeman's Friday afternoon, law enforcement

officers strung yellow crime tape around the property and fastened a copy of the court order to a sign that reads, "Welcome to Freeman's, Metal Detection Security Enforced."
 None of the law enforcement personnel said they were sorry to see it closed. Speck said he felt most residents of the area would agree.
 "There are a lot of decent people around here who are tired of this

sort of nuisance operating in their community," Speck said.
 A hearing on Judge Gore's temporary restraining order was scheduled for Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. in Brunswick County Superior Court. At that time, Bollinger will present evidence asking for a preliminary injunction to keep Freeman's closed until a judge or jury can decide whether to shut the club down for a longer period.

Schools' Safety Is Mission Of Newly Appointed Group

(Continued From Page 1-A)
 found to have possessed a weapon at school.
 But parents, school administrators and school board members aren't certain that is enough.
 "I would agree with you we must be committed and send a clear message that weapons will not be tolerated," said Johnston Monday night. Among other things, he suggested the schools need a plan for responding "pro-actively" to perceived or actual threats to safety on campus.
 Ideally, he said, parents are responsible for their children and should have to be accountable for their actions. "I hope the legislature and Congress will have the courage to take the steps that need to be taken (to that end)."

Following passage of Senate Bill 284, in November 1991 the board began revising its 1983 policy on weapons. S.B. 284 made it a misdemeanor to have a weapon on a school campus and school administrators were looking for appropriate ways to enforce it.
 Sellers noted in a memo that four knives, a box cutter and a cork screw had been confiscated at the high school from students suspected of having weapons.
 While time-consuming, she noted, going through the legal system "tends to have more impact" than in-school or out-of-school suspensions or parent conferences.
 Since then the school system has followed through on several suggestions, hiring an unarmed police offi-

cer to patrol each high school campus, issue warrants and break up fights. The system also purchased at least one metal detector.
 According to Board of Education attorney Glen Peterson, the North Carolina General Assembly will be asked this session to strengthen laws regarding weapons to make possession a felony and to provide for automatic expulsion of students who bring weapons on school grounds even if the original charge is reduced to a lesser offense.
 Johnston said Tuesday that since becoming superintendent here last fall he has only been personally aware of two incidents involving weapons, one at South Brunswick Middle and another at South Brunswick High.

County Jobs Said Under Review

(Continued From Page 1-A)
 sioners' directive, he has been meeting with the personnel officer to determine "exactly who we employ, in what position we employ them and whether or not that position is essential."
 He said the review process has raised some philosophical questions that may have to be addressed by the

county commissioners.
 "If you define essential positions as those needed to provide services specifically required by state law, then Brunswick County has non-essential positions," Clegg said.
 "But if you view it in terms of the county providing services to protect the health and welfare of its citizens and to enhance the environment in

which our citizens function, then essentiality takes on a whole different meaning."
 Clegg said that if the commissioners want him to only fill positions that are truly essential to county operations, "not only will we not be hiring but we will be facing a massive reduction in the work force."

Assistant Superintendent Lewis Named Acting Head Of South Middle School

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mose Lewis, a former principal of South Brunswick High School, was named acting principal of South Brunswick Middle School

Monday night. Superintendent Ralph Johnston said Lewis was chosen for the interim post because of his background as a principal and his familiarity

with the South district through his former assignment at South Brunswick High and membership in the Southport Rotary Club.



LEWIS

"As a curriculum person he is strong and can go in there and work with (Assistant Principal) Tom Simmons," said Johnston. "They can get in focus toward the end-of-course, end-of-school tests and on school safety, of course."
 Les Tubbs, principal of the middle school, left on military leave of absence Feb. 1 and is not due back until July 29. A high-ranking officer in the N.C. National Guard, he was asked to revamp some of its instructional materials and programming for the organization.

In his absence, Assistant Principal Tom Simmons had served as acting principal during a week of unrest at the school.
 While Lewis is "on loan" as acting principal, said Johnston, his central office responsibilities for curriculum and instruction will be shared by curriculum coordinators on the staff.

"The important thing right now is to try to keep things running smoothly on the end-of-course, end-of-year tests," said Johnston. To that end, he said, coordinators will continue working with goals and directives already in place.

School Board Adopts Johnston's Goals For District Improvement

BY SUSAN USHER
 Brunswick County school board members approved as its own Monday night Superintendent Ralph Johnston's goals for school district improvement.

The plan calls for a push toward excellence by adopting a clear vision of excellence; organizing the central office staff to support the work of individual schools in meeting goals; setting high standards and expectations for staff, students and curriculum; focusing more closely on equipping staff through in-service education; and increased accountability at all levels.
 After the vote, board member Bill Fairley told *The Brunswick Beacon*, "I want you to make it clear that this is it. This is not lip service; this is a firm commitment by this board."

In related items, the board adopted a pledge it will recite at every regular meeting and adopted a new logo (BCS-Believing Children Succeed) and mission statement for the school system.
Other Business
 In other business, the school

"I want you to make it clear that this is it. This is not lip service; this is a firm commitment by this board."
 —Bill Fairley

board:
 ■Adopted a resolution supporting efforts by parents of students in Shingletree subdivision and other areas in the county to have their unimproved roads taken over and maintained by the state to improve access by school buses. Shingletree parents had asked for the resolution, which was amended on a motion by Bill Fairley to include other areas of concern as well.
 The resolution will be sent to the governor, N.C. Department of Transportation, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and the area's legislative delegation.

■Heard from Idena Hendricks of the South Brunswick district, who voiced her support, identified communication as a key problem in the school system, and pointed out that children's education is a responsibility shared by the entire community.
 ■Named an advisory panel to review performance based accountability plans developed by the school system and individual schools.
 ■Voted unanimously, on first reading, to revise the board agenda policy.
 ■Delayed action on bids for new high school gym floors.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE BRUNSWICK BEACON
 POST OFFICE BOX 2558
 SHALLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28459

NOTICE: Reliable or consistent delivery cannot be guaranteed since this newspaper must rely on the U.S. Postal Service for delivery. We can only guarantee that your newspaper will be submitted to the post office in Shallotte on Wednesday of the week of publication, in time for dispatch to out-of-town addresses that day.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL:		Sr. Citizen
In Brunswick County		
N.C. Sales Tax	06.30	05.30
Postage Charge	3.68	3.68
TOTAL	10.36	9.30
Elsewhere in North Carolina		
N.C. Sales Tax	06.30	05.30
Postage Charge	8.18	8.18
TOTAL	14.86	13.80
Outside North Carolina		
N.C. Sales Tax	06.30	05.30
Postage Charge	9.65	9.65
TOTAL	15.95	14.95

Complete And Return To Above Address

Name.....
 Address.....
 City, State.....
 Zip.....

More Rainfall Is In Forecast

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady is calling for above-average rainfall over the next few days to go along with normal temperatures.
 Canady expects about three-quarters of an inch of rain with temperatures ranging from the mid-30s at night to the mid-50s during the day.
 For the period Feb. 2-8, Canady

measured 1.07 inches of rainfall. The daily average temperature was 45 degrees, which is 1 degree below normal.
 The maximum high during the period was 67 degrees on Feb. 4, while the minimum low was 20 degrees on the third. The daily average high was 56 degrees and the nightly average low was 34 degrees.

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON
 Established Nov. 1, 1962
 Telephone 754-6890
 Published Every Thursday
 At 4709 Main Street
 Shallotte, N.C. 28459

SUBSCRIPTION RATES IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY
 One Year.....\$10.36
 Six Months.....\$5.55

ELSEWHERE IN NORTH CAROLINA
 One Year.....\$14.86
 Six Months.....\$7.90

ELSEWHERE IN U.S.A.
 One Year.....\$15.95
 Six Months.....\$8.35

Second class postage paid at Shallotte, N.C. 28459. USPS 777-780. Postmaster, send address changes to:
 P.O. Box 2558,
 Shallotte, N.C. 28459-2558