

Juvenile Confesses To Miller Shooting

A 15-year old Maribel boy confessed Monday morning to Pamlico County law enforcement officials to the shooting of Eric Miller, 16, also of Maribel.

Because the boy is a juvenile, Sheriff Leland Brinson said he could not release his name. The boy was scheduled to be charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and firing into an occupied dwelling on Tuesday, Brinson said.

The juvenile was not in custody as of Monday night but was with his parents. Brinson said that after he is formally charged, the

juvenile court officer may request that he be held in a regional juvenile center.

Brinson said that the weapon used in the shooting, a .22 caliber pistol, was recovered at the boy's home in Maribel. It belonged to his parents. The boy, commented the sheriff, had been a suspect during the investigation.

Brinson added that, to his knowledge, there has been no change in Miller's condition. He has not regained consciousness nor is he responsive. He is in Craven County Hospital.



Joe Thomas, left, state senator, presented a \$10,000 check to Randy Beeman, captain of the Pamlico County Rescue Squad, on Thursday

night, August 16. The \$10,000 was a special appropriation by the Legislature to assist the squad with the purchase of a new vehicle.



Last week, Kershaw Road was made nearly impassable for some cars by the mud and large balls of dirt, the result of logging, that covered parts of the road. By Thursday afternoon, however, most of the large clumps of mud had been cleared away.

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Several Employees Receive Large Raises

Pamlico Budget Shows Increases

Pamlico County will be operating during the 1984-85 fiscal year with a budget of \$2,785,953. This reflects a 15 percent increase over last year's.

The board of commissioners chose not to raise taxes this year; ad valorem taxes remain at 74 cents per \$100 valuation of property. Total gross valuation—real and personal property and utilities—is \$213,516,938. The figure of taxable property is reduced \$5,221,163 by the senior citizens' exemption; \$3,098,681, land use value reductions; and \$917,246, personal exclusions. The estimated collection rate is 90 percent.

All county employees received at least a five percent salary increase this year. A number of the clerical positions were upgraded, explained Bill Rice, county manager, because, according to a state survey, the employees were receiving below average pay. Other employees received in-

creases because they added qualifications, assumed more job responsibility or the job was reclassified. In all, 31 employees received additional increases. Many employees also received loyalty and experience pay, figured at .001 x annual salary at November 30 x whole years of service through November 30. It is distributed in the December payroll.

Three department heads received rather large increases. Dot Avent, finance officer, Randy Beeman, tax collector/supervisor, and water superintendent Allen Propst were raised to grade 22, step 5, increasing their salaries to \$19,632 a year each. Avent's salary went from \$15,504 to \$19,632; Beeman's from \$15,816 to \$19,632; Propst's from \$16,212 to \$19,632. Rice explained that these increases were necessary and were approved by the commissioners so that in the future, if

necessary, the positions could be filled with employees with similar education and qualifications.

Those in trainee positions and employees in the recreation, inspections and landfill departments, the register of deeds office and the Agricultural Extension Service received only the five percent across-the-board increase and loyalty and experience pay where applicable.

The governing body's budget for 1984-85 is \$73,620. This includes the commissioners' salaries, \$2,172 for the chairman and \$1,812 for the other board members, auditing expenses, travel for the commissioners, advertising for job vacancies and dues and subscriptions for various memberships and publications. Under miscellaneous, \$43,150 has been set aside; some funds used to match grants that become available throughout the year come from this fund.

Salaries for the two employees (the county manager and a secretary/bookkeeper) in the county manager's office account for \$35,699 of the \$41,251 budgeted for that department. County manager Rice received a five percent increase over the across-the-board raise, bringing his salary to \$24,876 from \$22,548.

The board of elections has \$26,923 budgeted for operations with \$2,000 to be used to replace worn-out voting booths, ballot

boxes and precinct books.

The finance office is budgeted at \$45,972 with \$42,622 being salaries for the three employees.

Salaries in the tax supervisor's office represent \$36,684 of the \$56,210 budget. In addition, \$5,850 has been appropriated to computerize the valuing of motor vehicles using the ADPS system.

In the tax collector's office, with a budget of \$87,445, \$21,550 will go to salaries and \$50,000 to upgrade the computer system so that it can

also handle tax collection for the municipalities in the county interested in such a service.

Out of the \$113,157 budget for public buildings, \$29,277 will go to salaries and \$33,159 will be used for renovation and insulation. Renovations of the upstairs offices in the old part of the courthouse are estimated to cost \$5,558. This includes the installation of a suspended ceiling, carpeting and

(See BUDGET, Page 11)

Pamlico School Board Releases Answers To Grievances

On Monday, August 20, the Pamlico County Board of Education released its responses to grievances submitted by two citizens' groups. The first group of 27 was presented to the board in February by William Gibbs, Joseph Ollison, Harry Riche and Edward Jenette. The second, a list of 5, was submitted to the board in May by Candace Young.

In February, George Brinson, superintendent, and Gerald Saunders, principal of Pamlico Junior High School, responded to the grievances. Apparently, the answers they gave at that time were not satisfactory as there have been repeated requests for solutions to the alleged problems.

In the preface to the responses, the board of education states that they have divided the grievances into two categories, one category consisting of grievances "deleted due to the lack of sufficient, specific information." Individual responses were prepared for each of the others.

The board states that they will review any grievance "deleted or otherwise," if specific information is submitted through the proper channels.

Following are the grievances and their answers, printed as they were submitted and released, respectively.

List of 27

"1. Gene Dudley - P.E. major now in charge of (Alternative) Learning Center. Can he move to full time P.E. teacher? If not can he replace Hubert Monk?"

"Response: Yes. Mr. Dudley's eligibility for P.E. teacher was made clear at the June 7th board meeting."

"2. Poor and unfair evaluations at Pamlico Junior High School."

"The Board is unaware of any unfair evaluations. We strongly encourage the use of our grievance procedures, without fear of reprisal."

"5. Why do most black teachers get the low level students?"

"Considering that each teacher's qualifications are equal, the levels of student assignment are and will be rotated on a fair and equal basis. If a teacher feels that he or she has received an unfair assignment, the Board encourages him or her to express their feeling to the principal, superintendent, and finally the Board."

"7. Black kids being suspended when white kids are placed in ALC (Alternative Learning Center) for more severe offenses."

"The Board has an established policy which addresses disciplinary action. All employees of this school are expected to be guided by those policies when disciplinary action is required."

"11. Teacher (last year) told student that she was prejudiced when asked the question by the

student. She admitted this to his mother in front of a staff member, but blacks are reprimanded for lesser offenses."

"The Board has an established policy which addresses disciplinary action. All employees of this school system are expected to be guided by those policies when disciplinary action is required."

"15. Scheduling is done at the high school by guidance counselor. At Pamlico Junior High by assistant principal and others."

"Scheduling is done at the high school by the principal and guidance counselor with the help of other supporting personnel such as exceptional children's director, occupational director, and central office supervisor. Guidance personnel should serve a vital role in the scheduling of students. Much knowledge is needed about students, levels program, teacher methods, etc. before a student is scheduled. It is very essential that

(See SCHOOL, Page 11)

Ponds Sentenced On State, Federal Charges

A former Pamlico County magistrate and deputy sheriff was sentenced in federal court last week and instate superior court Monday for his part in a drug smuggling operation.

On Wednesday, August 15, Larry Ponds pled guilty in federal court to two counts of unlawful transfer of firearms. He received a 10 year sentence which will be served in a federal penitentiary.

On Monday, August 20, Ponds, according to David McFadyen, district attorney, pled no contest in Craven County Superior Court to a charge of conspiracy to traffic in marijuana. McFadyen said that Ponds had been hired to provide information on law enforcement activities. He was sentenced to ten years in prison, to run concurrently with the sentence imposed last week in federal court.



The school buses will soon be rolling again...followed by motorists frustrated with the

frequent stops and slow speeds. School begins in Pamlico County on Monday,

August 27, and in Beaufort County on Wednesday, August 29.

Area Schools Open Next Week

Schools in the area will be opening next week—Pamlico County's on Monday, August 27, and on Wednesday, August 29, the schools in Beaufort County will open for the students' first day.

Orientation for Pamlico County High School freshmen will be held Wednesday, August 22, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Upperclassmen will have their orientation on Thursday, also from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Students enrolling at Pamlico Junior High School for the first

time should register before August 27. This does not include students who attended Fred A. Anderson Elementary last year.

The parents of new PJHS students should bring all available information with them when they register their child. This includes the school previously attended and grades, immunization records and test scores. The PJHS office is open from 8 am to 4 pm.

The first day of school will be a full day in both the Aurora and

Pamlico County Schools. Students at Aurora High School will pick up their schedules on the first day while PCHS students should have already received theirs during orientation.

Students who were eligible last year for the free or reduced price lunches will be able to get them at the beginning of this school year, including the first day. Applications for free and reduced price lunches will be reviewed within the first 10 days of school.

Sweepstakes Fraud Operation In Area

Residents and businesses in the area should be wary; it appears that a sweepstakes fraud operation is at work in the area.

Late last week an Arapahoe resident received a telephone call from a person identifying herself as Linda Rogers, a representative of the Central Clearing House, Los Angeles. When Teresa Hardison of

Arapahoe answered the phone, Rogers informed her, said Hardison, that by paying \$79.95 for "shipping and handling" a package that would arrive C.O.D., she could learn which one of five prizes she had already won. The prizes, said Hardison, were allegedly a trip for two to the Greek islands or \$5,000 cash, a 10-

minute supermarket shopping spree or \$750 cash, a 25-inch RCA remote control console television, a sauna/hot tub, or a Black and Decker home workshop.

Hardison gathered what information she could from the caller, including a telephone

(See FRAUD, Page 12)

Beaufort County Teacher Transferred

A Chocowinity High School math teacher was transferred to Aurora last week because of his "dissatisfaction" with the working relationship he had with the Chocowinity school's principal, according to Beaufort County school officials.

Some in Chocowinity contend that he was transferred because

he publicly expressed his opinions about the principal's administration of the school to the board and in a letter to a local newspaper.

Following a lengthy executive session at the regular meeting of the Beaufort County Board of Education on Tuesday, August 14, it was announced that that Otis

Cox, a Chocowinity High math teacher, would be transferred to Aurora High School with Lela Herring being moved to Chocowinity from Aurora.

Clifton Toler, superintendent, said Monday that the change was made Cox and Jim Henderson,

(See TRANSFER, Page 11)