

## Coastal County Commissioner Arrested in Avery

Written by Steve Frank

Wednesday, 11 June 2014 09:30

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A New Hanover County Commissioner was arrested yesterday in Avery County and is charged with a number of drug counts and a probation violation. Brian Berger was arrested on a probation violation, according to Avery County Sheriff Kevin Frye, with jail records showing Berger charged with possession of schedule II narcotics, a probation violation with his bond set at \$300,000. Sheriff Frye said he was arrested by North Carolina Probation officers Star News in Wilmington said that Berger made his last appearance in New Hanover County at a May 1 board of commissioners meeting. At the time, Berger said he had left the state to seek medical treatment. The website reports that appearance was Berger's first since a Dec. 6 arrest that resulted in driving while impaired and drug possession charges. Berger was said to have entered a guilty plea in February and was given a 120-day suspended jail sentence for the DWI charge and a 45-day suspended sentence for the drug possession charge. He was placed on probation for a year. According to the terms of that probation, Berger could leave the area and look for employment so long as his attorney asked for permission first. It was not immediately clear Tuesday if that permission had been obtained.