

Redwine To Offer Alternative To Two-Member House District

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick and Columbus counties would be combined to form a two-member state House district under a redistricting plan that goes to public hearing Friday.

Redistricting proposals for Congressional and N.C. Senate districts are also before the General Assembly now, with Brunswick County scheduled to remain in slightly revamped 7th and 18th districts respectively.

Rep. E. David Redwine said Tuesday that he wants to hear from his constituents what they think of the House redistricting proposal and an alternate plan he may introduce as an amendment.

"I want to know what they would like me to do," he said.

The public hearing starts at 9:30 a.m. Friday in the Legislative Building auditorium in Raleigh.

Both Redwine and Rep. Leo Mercer of Columbus have indicated they feel the change to a two-member district would be a step backward, though if the plan is approved they see no problems with serving together.

"The two counties have worked together before and I assume we can again," said Redwine. "I feel good about running there (Columbus County) if the plan is approved."

The committee plan released last Thursday would create a two-member district that includes all of Columbus and Brunswick counties, plus Cape Fear Precincts 1 and 2 in the Castle Hayne section of New Hanover County.

"That is certainly an option if we

don't have any other choice, but I still have some concerns," said Redwine. "Both Rep. Mercer and I are used to single-member districts."

"The time and costs of campaigning would double for us," he continued. "I have a family and a business and I can't possibly spend all my time running for office."

Also, he has political concerns about the odds of someone from Brunswick County getting elected from the district. Both counties have Democratic majorities, though Brunswick has far more Republican voters than Columbus.

Columbus County has 25,000 registered Democrats compared to Brunswick County's approximately 17,000. To secure a Democratic primary win might be difficult, he suggested, unless Brunswick County Democratic voters got behind a single candidate in the primaries who also garnered some support in Columbus County.

Redwine said he plans to introduce an amendment at some point during debate that "really doesn't hurt anybody around with in terms of numbers."

His plan would redraw the existing 14th District to include all of Brunswick County and just Cape Fear 1 (Wrightsboro) precinct in New Hanover County.

Cape Fear No. 3 would stay with New Hanover, while Columbus County would anchor a district that included rural Canetuck and Grady precincts in Pender County and Cape Fear 2 (Castle Hayne) in New Hanover County.

A main obstacle this plan would

"That is certainly an option if we don't have any other choice."

—Rep. David Redwine
On two-member district

have to overcome is objections of one of the redistricting committee co-chairmen, Ed Bowen. Bowen has drawn a three-county, two-member district made up of Sampson, Bladen and Pender counties in their entirety.

Both Brunswick and Columbus counties came under the 55,239 population needed for single-seat districts of their own.

The existing 14th District as constituted, had too many people—about 75,000. It included Cape Fear 1,2 and 3 precincts in the Castle Hayne-Wrightsboro area of New Hanover County and Topsail Township in coastal Pender County, as well as all of Brunswick County.

The House committee at first proposed cutting off three western Brunswick precincts—Longwood, Ash and Freeland, and putting them in District 15 with Columbus County.

"I objected strenuously to that," said Redwine, "though there were those who thought I should not have for obvious reasons."

"But I didn't think it was fair for Brunswick County to be cut up, especially since we didn't enough population to make a district of our own. And I felt there were people in that area who want to be in the

same district with the rest of Brunswick County."

18th Adds SPA

Under the state plan for redistricting Senate districts, Brunswick County would remain in the 18th Senate District, now represented by Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. of Tabor City.

A hearing on the Senate plan was to be held 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, also in the Legislative Building auditorium in Raleigh.

The bulk of the district would remain intact—Columbus, Bladen and Brunswick counties. However, instead of Beaver Dam Township in Cumberland County, the district would include a U.S. Census block in New Hanover County. Wilmington No. 5 is the block in the southern part of the city that includes the North Carolina State Ports Authority.

The area is considered contiguous to Brunswick County since both border the Cape Fear River.

The target population for a single-senator district under the one-man, one-vote concept is 132,573 persons. The revamped 18th District would have a population of 134,506, well within the 10 percent variation allowed under federal rules.

Base populations are Brunswick, 50,985; Bladen, 28,663; Columbus,

49,587; and Wilmington No. 5, 5,271.

Racial composition would include 71.29 percent white and 26.80 percent black; and 1.56 percent American Indian, with a scattering of other racial groups.

7th District Lines Squiggle

The 7th U.S. Congressional District would reflect the most drastic changes, with two plans now under consideration.

Both plans retain Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune in the 7th District. Base Plan No. 1 includes a chunk of Cumberland County, coastal Pender County and all of Onslow County except a narrow strip along the coast.

Under the House Committee proposal, Base Plan No. 2, the district would take a small "V" portion of Harnett County and divides Onslow County among three districts, instead of only two.

In both plans, the Cumberland area is made up of Beaver Dam; Black River Linden; Long Hill; Westare; Cedar Creek; Judson; Stedman; Eastover; Vander; Wade; Alderman; Sherwood; Manchester; Spring Lake;

Cross Creek Nos. 1-23; Pearce's Mill Nos. 2, 3, and 4; Cumberland 1 and 2; Hope Mills 1; Montclair; and Seventy First Nos. 2 and 3.

Included in Plan 1 from Pender are Lower and Upper Topsail, Scott's Hill and Surf City. From Onslow, the precincts are Harris Creek, Folkstone, Haws Run, Holly Ridge, Sneads Ferry, Verona, Bear Creek, Hubert, Swansboro and Camp Lejeune Military Base 1, 4, and 7-14.

In Plan 2, the district would add the Harnett precincts of Averasboro 1 and 2 and Duke 1-3; Middle Holly in Pender County. It would exclude the Onslow precincts of Harris Creek, Haws Run, Bear Creek, Hubert and Camp Lejeune 7, 9 and 11, but would add Morton's.

Statistics Compared

The "ideal" population for a congressional district would be 552,386.

Under Plan 1, the 7th District would have 552,381 residents of which 246,591 are registered to vote. Of those, 181,610 or 73.65 percent are registered as Democrats and 55,979 or 22.7 percent as Republicans. More than two-thirds, 68.39 percent, are white, while blacks account for 23.46 percent of total voters.

Under Plan 2, the 7th District would also be only a few persons off, at 552,391. It would include 64.79 percent whites, 25.26 percent blacks and 8.32 percent American Indians. Of its 249,794 voters, 73.75 percent are registered as Democrats and 22.66 percent are registered as Republicans. Also, 68.31 percent are white and 23.65 percent are black.

Holden Beach Ready To Adopt Budget

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach Commissioners appear ready to adopt a 1991-92 budget with no change in the tax rate following a relatively uneventful public hearing Monday night.

Turnout was light and questions and comments were few and far between on the proposed \$1.47 million budget. Town officials plan to keep the tax rate at 18 cents per \$100 of property but increase water charges.

Mayor John Tandy said commissioners will adopt a spending plan for next fiscal year at a special meeting Monday, June 24, at 7 p.m. in town hall. The new budget year starts July 1.

Among the dozen residents who attended the budget hearing, there were a few who objected to a proposed \$2,000 donation to the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.

Mack Foster asked why the town is giving money to the chamber to help real estate companies while residents have waited several years for sidewalks.

Foster's neighbor, Jim Fournier, questioned why the town board

wants to invite more tourists when rental units already are overcrowded.

"I believe in good business, but I don't believe in destroying ourselves for the sake of a few," Fournier said.

Responding to the complaints, Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Barrett said some residents told her the town should give more money to the chamber. The original budget included \$14,000 to promote tourism.

Commissioner Kenner Amos, a former president of the Holden Beach Property Owners Association, said 75 percent of the town's taxpayers are non-residents.

Many of them rent their homes in the summer, which creates occupancy tax revenue for the town. Holden Beach officials expect \$195,000 in occupancy tax during the coming fiscal year.

Proposed expenses in that fund include \$60,000 for police, \$50,000 for sanitation and \$40,000 for administration.

Holden Beach resident Harold Steorts, an auditor, suggested the town use specific line items instead of general departments when showing occupancy tax expenses in the

budget.

In addition to occupancy tax, other major revenue sources in the proposed budget include \$371,502 in property taxes, \$108,000 in funds carried over from this year and \$45,000 in utility franchise tax.

Some of the major expenses include \$194,806 for the police department, \$157,484 for public buildings, \$152,743 for administration, \$96,500 for streets and \$90,014 for sanitation.

Commissioners have set aside \$100,000 for a new garage and renovation of the existing garage so it can accommodate the police department.

A new part-time secretary in the inspections department is included in the proposed budget. Town officials also plan to upgrade one of the police officer positions to sergeant.

The proposed budget also includes \$40,000 to continue the underground wiring project and \$40,000 for sidewalks.

Commissioners are considering several options to traditional concrete sidewalks, which they say wouldn't last under the weight of construction equipment.

Town officials have discussed

marl and grass walkways. A wooden walkway along the side of the road was suggested as another alternative Monday night.

Other Business

In other business Monday, commissioners:

Met in executive session for 35 minutes to discuss legal and personnel matters, but took no action. Mayor John Tandy said the closed session related to the search for a new town manager.

Appointed Sid Swarts to coordinate the town's wastewater management entity program, which could include requirements for routine inspection and pumping of septic tanks. Swarts had worked on the program as a member of the planning and zoning board, but his term expires in July.

Discussed different ways of publicizing the town's leash law, which prohibits pets on the strand between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. May 20 through Sept. 10. Pets must be on a leash at all other times. Commissioner Gay Atkins said a lot of people who take pets on the beach don't know they're breaking the law until they get a ticket.

Boats Blamed For Dead Fish

Shrimp boats working in the Atlantic Ocean were blamed for killing small fish that washed up on the Holden Beach strand Tuesday.

Holden Beach Police Officer Bill Jordan said he saw dead fish at several locations on the beach, mostly near the east end of the island.

"We generally get them every year when the shrimpers start up," Jordan said. "I've just seen them here and there."

Shrimpers usually catch fish in their nets while they are harvesting shrimp. Baby fish that can't be used are commonly dumped overboard.

Jordan said Tuesday was the first day this year that he has noticed dead fish on the beach. There were at least three or four shrimp boats working in the ocean off Holden Beach Tuesday, he said.

The officer said he didn't see any large groups of dead fish. But Jeep Streeter, a Holden Beach developer, said he saw "thousands" of dead fish on the strand west of Surfside Pavilion Tuesday afternoon.

Most of the fish were three or four inches long. "They look like little spots as far as I know," Streeter said.

Longwood Man Charged In Shooting

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Marlowe said two pellets from the shotgun hit a third man in the leg.

No charges had been filed as of Monday in connection with that incident, but it was still under investigation.

The 30-year-old victim told authorities that he had just gotten off work last Wednesday and was standing around with three friends on a vacant piece of land on Little Prong Road.

A white male in an older model Chevrolet pickup pulled up and started talking about beer. The

shooting victim said he told the man the group was leaving to go home, according to the sheriff's department report.

The subject left in the direction of Exum Crossroads but later returned with his high beams on. He reportedly got out of the truck and said, "Y'all are gonna die tonight," and started firing.

Marlowe said the younger shooting victim knows the suspect and lives near him. "We don't know the motive yet," Marlowe said of the shooting.

Holden Beach To Pay For Sea Rescue Class

BY DOUG RUTTER

Reacting to a recent boating accident that claimed the life of three men, Holden Beach officials have agreed to foot the bill so three police officers can take a water rescue course.

A number of island residents have become interested in the formation of a sea rescue unit since the tragic accident May 28, Mayor John Tandy said at a special meeting Monday.

Three Greensboro men drowned after their boat sank off Shallotte Inlet. The three bodies and the only survivor of the accident were picked up off Holden Beach.

With the drowning less than three weeks old, town commissioners learned Monday night about a water rescue course designed specifically

for coastal communities.

Keith Sawyer, an officer with Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department which serves Holden Beach, said the department is co-sponsoring the class with Brunswick Community College.

The course is scheduled July 19-21 at Ocean Isle Beach, which formed a water rescue team after hosting the county's first water rescue class about two years ago.

"We can't prevent the accidents, but we might be able to mitigate some of the deaths," Sawyer told Holden Beach officials.

The fee for the class is \$48 per person, meaning it will cost the town \$144 for three officers. Commissioner Judy Bryan said 25 people will be accepted into the class.

Based on discussion Monday

night, town leaders envision the water rescue team as a unit that could respond while U.S. Coast Guard boats are dispatched from their base at Caswell Beach.

Senior Chief J.D. Arndt, commanding officer of the Oak Island Coast Guard station, said a local water rescue team could be on the scene much quicker than the Coast Guard.

With its 41- and 44-foot boats, Arndt said it takes the Coast Guard up to 45 minutes to get to Holden Beach. He also said the large boats weren't designed to operate close to the beach.

Sawyer said special rescue boats designed to be launched from the beach and stay upright in the surf cost at least \$10,000. With equipment added, a surf boat like the one

Ocean Isle Beach uses can cost up to \$20,000.

"Having this eight miles (of beach) is a problem," Tandy said. "I've seen the Coast Guard making valiant efforts, but they can't fly those boats."

Arndt said the nearest water rescue helicopter is a Marine Corps chopper from New River. It takes at least 30 minutes for the helicopter to fly from its base to Holden Beach.

Responding to questions from the town board, Sawyer said the town could be held liable if somebody dies in the arms of a police officer who is trained as a rescuer.

However, Arndt said rescue squads such as Southport's which have a water rescue team have purchased liability insurance.

Solid Waste Parcel Fee Running Into Opposition

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County Commissioners expressed frustration Monday night at the slow progress of a solid waste disposal fee bill through the state's General Assembly.

Several members didn't hesitate to blame Rep. E. David Redwine's lack of support. "It's because there are five Republicans on this board," said Commissioner Gene Pinkerton to a murmur of approval.

The board is delaying adoption of next year's budget until hearing the fate of the bill, which would allow it to charge a parcel fee for solid waste

disposal. The fee is being eyed as a way to come up with \$1.037 million needed for the solid waste (landfill/recycling) department, the equivalent of a 2 1/2-cent tax rate increase.

"If we don't get it passed, I don't know where we're going to get the money," said Chairman Kelly Holden. He strongly opposes any increase in property taxes though several fellow members aren't so adamant.

Redwine said Tuesday its broad permissiveness has prompted objections to the bill from constituents. The bill passed second reading without his support because it gives counties the right to charge

the fee not only to owners of improved tracts but unimproved as well.

"They can charge someone who has a house on a lot \$20, someone who has a 200-acre farm tract \$20 and a developer who has 100 one-acre lots with no houses 100 times \$20," he said. "I think that's what has got some people upset in Brunswick County."

The \$1.03 million figure is roughly the sum that would be collected if the county charged a \$17 fee for each of 80,000 parcels of land. If only the 29,000 improved tracts were charged, the fee would run a less attractive \$50 to \$60 to raise the same sum.

BOONE'S COVE
CUSTOM FRAMING & MATTING
We professionally preserve your prints • original art • photos • needlework • mementos
Acid-Free Conservation Our Specialty
Also Available: Original Art—Prints
Cross Stitching Supplies

We can now vacuum mount your posters and photos up to 44"x34".
BOONE'S COVE CUSTOM FRAMING & MATTING
Resort Plaza, Bus. 17 S., Shallotte • 754-6199 • Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 9-1

Here Are Two Big Reasons To Choose A Pioneer CD:

Term	Yield	Rate
12 Month	6.56%	6.40%
18 Month	6.71%	6.55%

Pioneer offers Certificates of Deposit with sound rates and sound yields.

The above rates apply to deposits of \$10,000.00 or more and are subject to change. Annualized yield based upon reinvestment of funds at same rate. High rates for other CD terms are available. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal from all deposits. Call our branch today for complete details.



"Pioneer Makes It Possible"

Shallotte
Main Street
Phone 754-8151

Member FDIC

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\$10.30

Six Months.....\$5.50

ELSEWHERE IN NORTH CAROLINA

One Year\$14.80

Six Months.....\$7.85

ELSEWHERE IN U.S.A.

One Year\$15.95

Six Months.....\$8.35

Second class postage paid at the

Post Office in Shallotte, N.C.

28459. USPS 777-780.

Rainfall In Local Forecast

Above average rainfall may be in the outlook for the South Brunswick Islands area over the next few days, along with normal temperatures.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said he expects temperatures to average in the upper 80s during the day and in the 70s at night, with three quarters of an inch of rain.

For the period of June 11 through

17, he recorded a maximum high of 93 degrees on June 13 and a minimum low of 62 degrees on June 11.

A daily average high of 89 degrees combined with a nightly low of 70 degrees for a daily average temperature of 79 degrees, which Canady said was 2 degrees above normal. He recorded .02 inches of rain.