

D.A. ASKED TO INVESTIGATE 'CONCERNED CITIZENS'

State Elections Board Orders New Leland Sanitary District Vote

BY SUSAN USHER

A new election must be held to choose the five members of the Leland Sanitary District, and District Attorney Rex Gore will be asked by the N.C. Board of Elections to look into possible campaign improprieties in the Long Beach municipal election.

Results of the Nov. 2 Leland Sanitary District election were thrown out by the state elections board last week because ballots were given to voters at Leland precinct whether they lived in the sanitary district or not.

Of its own initiative, not in response to any inquiry from the local board, the N.C. Board of Elections directed the Brunswick County Board of Elections to hold a hearing to determine the continued employment of Leland precinct registrar Helen Best.

Lynda Britt, supervisor of elections with the Brunswick County Board of Elections, expressed surprise at the state board's directive.

"There's probably enough fault to go around to everybody, including this office," she said.

Britt said the county elections board will wait until it receives official word from the state board to act on

scheduling that hearing or a new sanitary district election. Previously she had said the earliest a vote could probably be scheduled would be February.

Sanitary district residents vote at three different polling places: Woodburn, Leland and Woodburn. In Leland precinct 65 votes were cast in the sanitary district election by people who didn't live in the district.

Only four votes separated two of the six candidates. John Harvey, county planning director, received 398 votes to incumbent Julius Adams' 394 votes. Harvey had offered to withdraw if that would eliminate the need for another election.

During its business session last week the state elections board also directed either its executive secretary or deputy director to "report to the local district attorney the anonymous status of the Concerned Citizens of Long Beach."

The district attorney will be asked to investigate the group to determine what, if any, violations of election law occurred before and during the election. That includes whether the group used money from businesses for political purposes or whether its funds came from in-

dividuals. "We have not been able to find officers or information about the Concerned Citizens," said Deputy Director Yvonne Southerland. "They held meetings, placed ads and even held a raffle."

"We couldn't find individuals," said Southerland. "There's nothing wrong with political activity. The problem is that it cannot be anonymous."

Before the Nov. 2, election Concerned Citizens of Long Beach was allied with four candidates who later lost the election—mayoral candidate Rupert Riley, and commissioner candidates David Drummond, Helen Cashwell and Frances Allen.

In interviewing candidates for town office, Southerland said, not one claimed to have received any money from the Concerned Citizens. Her office asked for financial records for the group, but received a letter from Eileen Kellagher saying that while she had attended meetings of the Concerned Citizens, the group didn't have any officers.

"As far as we know it could be the name of one or more of the candidates themselves, but it didn't show

up," said Southerland. In investigating another complaint stemming from the Long Beach elections, the board found that four property managers had used company resources to raise money for four candidates who won election—Mayor Joan Altman, incumbent commissioners Jeffrie Ensminger and Danny Leonard, and commissioner-elect Kevin Bell.

However, the property managers have all repaid their companies and the violations no longer exist, said Southerland.

Southerland said it would be sometime this week at the earliest before the Brunswick County Board of Elections or the district attorney's office would receive their notification letters from the state board.

Meanwhile, the county elections board has disposed of most of the challenges filed in advance of Nov. 2 against 53 potential voters in the Long Beach municipal elections.

Twenty-eight of the challenges have been withdrawn, eight were overruled and seven have been tabled until the board obtains more information, said Britt. Ten challenges were upheld.

New Inspector Is On Job At Holden Beach

Bill Goodman, a former self-employed architect in Hickory, started his new job as building inspector at Holden Beach Tuesday.

Goodman, president and owner of Goodman & Associates since November 1983, will replace inspector Jim McSwain, who is resigning to go into the construction business.

Town Manager Gus Ulrich said McSwain will continue working on a part-time basis for a short while to help with the transition in the town inspections department.

"Bill was the most qualified candidate," Ulrich said. "He has not worked as a building inspector before, but most architects have to do quite a bit of inspecting."

Goodman will be paid an annual salary of \$25,875, Ulrich said.

Before starting his own architecture firm, Goodman worked as a draftsman and designer for two companies in Hickory. He also was a designer, job captain and estimator for Hickory Construction Company.

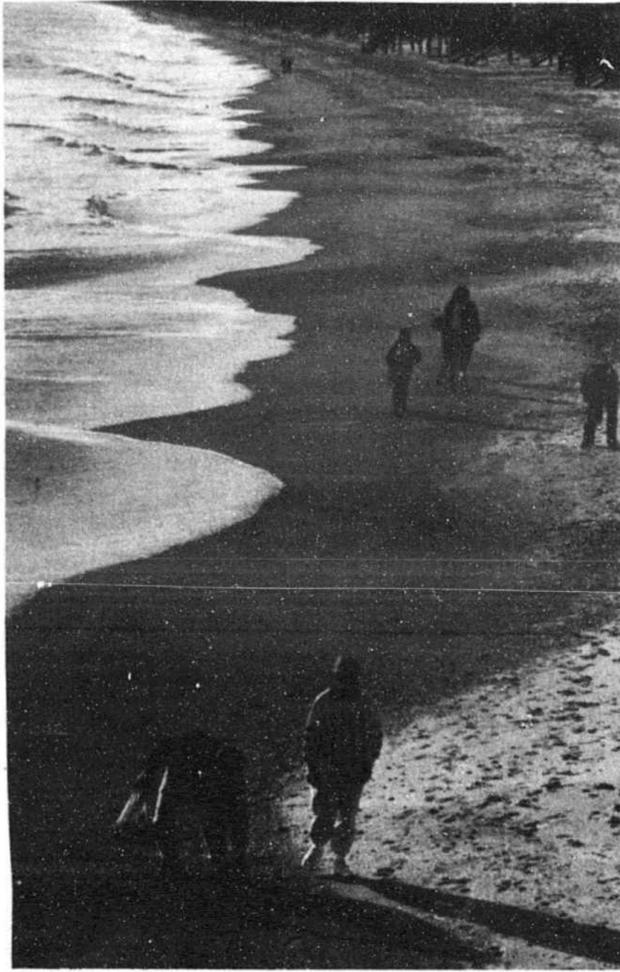
Goodman said he received "a little taste of coastal development" several years ago when he worked for a developer who built condominiums in the Carolinas and Virginia.

Goodman received a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Lenoir Rhyne College in 1971 and a bachelor of science degree in architecture from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1976.

He also received training as a wastewater treatment plant operator, planner and inspector at the University of North Carolina.

Goodman said he applied for the building inspector's position at Holden Beach for a change of pace. He and his wife, Sherry, have four children.

"My wife and I both love the coast," Goodman said. "We had been wanting to move to the coast and this was a good time to do it."



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Shell-Seekers' Delight

Something about cooler weather seems to bring out the shell-seeker in South Brunswick Islands visitors and residents. Bundled up against a cool north wind, these strollers hunted for treasures on a recent Sunday afternoon.

Murder Charges Filed Against 3 Bolivia Men; More Arrests Possible

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dismissed by the state when evidence indicated that he may have acted in self defense.

Smith was scheduled to appear in court Wednesday (Dec. 1) on a charge of bringing a seven-inch folding "hawk bill" knife to South Brunswick High School Nov. 12.

Ford is currently on two years' probation imposed after a March 26, 1992, conviction for carrying a semi-automatic handgun into the G.F.B. Club in Ash. An assault charge brought against Ford in that incident was dismissed after the alleged victim, Aldridge Reed, did not show up to testify.

In July, a warrant was issued for Ford's arrest on a charge of selling a rock of crack cocaine to an undercover police officer last February. The warrant was not served and the charge was dismissed when the district attorney's office learned that the officer was no longer available to testify.

In May 1990, Davis also had a brush with the law over drugs. He pleaded guilty to misdemeanor possession of marijuana and was given a 30-day suspended sentence and probation.

None of which explains what happened Sunday night, when Davis was allegedly shot at least once outside his home with a .380-caliber semi-automatic handgun.

A neighbor told investigators he heard two gunshots at about 9 p.m., but Perry said the noise may have been caused by hunters.

At about 6:30 Monday morning, the victim's brother-in-law was driving by and found Davis' car partially blocking the roadway. The

glass had been broken out of the driver's side window.

The brother-in-law told police he found the body lying face-up in the driveway about 15 feet away. He went to the nearby home of the victim's father, who called 911.

Investigators feel that Davis had been dead for several hours when his body was discovered. They found no sign of forced entry to the victim's home, Perry said.

Davis' body was sent to Jacksonville for an autopsy. The results of the examination had not been released Tuesday night. The three suspects were scheduled to make a first appearance in District Court Wednesday morning.

Cooler Weather Is In Forecast

Unseasonably mild weather on Thanksgiving and throughout the holiday weekend has given way to cooler temperatures this week.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said residents can expect temperatures ranging from 40 degrees at night to the lower 60s during the day for the next week. He expects about one-half inch of rain.

"In the long haul we may yet continue to have temperatures above average," Canady said. Both the 30- and 90-day outlooks call for warmer weather than normal.

For the period Nov. 23-29, Canady said the daily average temperature was 59 degrees, which is 8 degrees above normal.

The maximum high temperature during the period was 75 degrees on Nov. 24 and the minimum low was 35 degrees on the 29th. Canady recorded 1.42 inches of rain during the period.

New Test Grades 'No Surprise'

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above the state mean average percentile: In reading, grades 4 and 5 at Southport Elementary, grade 6 at Shallotte Middle, grade seven at Waccamaw and grade 8 at Leland and to a lesser extent, eighth grade students countywide. No schools scored above the state average percentile in grade 3 for reading.

In math, grades 3 and 5 at Bolivia, grades 3 and 4 at Southport, grade seven at Waccamaw and grade 8 at Leland and to a lesser extent, county eighth graders in general. No schools scored above the state average percentile for grade 6 in math.

The results released so far are those for answers to multiple choice questions; scores for open-ended questions won't be released until some time in December.

Even the multiple-choice questions aren't like those students have seen on previous standardized tests,

said Jan Calhoun, assistant superintendent for instruction.

"These are not concrete simple recall multiple choice test items," he said. "They require a lot of thinking and problem solving to answer."

Student performance on end-of-grade tests will gradually become a part of future "report cards" for the school system issued by the state, with scores for three-year periods averaged and school systems expected to meet a minimum standard and show steady improvement.

The school system plans to use state-provided test data to begin identifying students' strengths and weaknesses. While schools are generally set up more along a "factory" model for mass education, Calhoun said teachers are going to have to take such information into account in make appropriate decisions in their classrooms. They also must look at why students perform poorly try to

address those concerns as well.

"It's never just one thing for everybody," he said. "It may be one thing for one child and something else for another. Usually it's a combination—the quality of teaching, the support the student receives at home, the experiences the child brings to school or doesn't bring to school. It's our job to meet those individual needs—whether it's providing support, offering new experiences or whatever."

"Not to make excuses, but every day we face children in varying levels of crisis. Our teachers are working on it and our principals were working on it."

While recognizing those problems and not being insensitive to students, Calhoun said the one thing the school system needs to do countywide is "raise expectations, demand more, expect more."

Senator, Representatives Voice Opposition To Quarry Proposal

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of Martin Marietta's plan to pump 10 million gallons of water per day from a limestone pit into the Cape Fear River.

Legrand said the removal of that much ground water is "almost certain" to cause saltwater contamination of the Castle Hayne aquifer as brackish river water flows in to replace the fresh water.

"Such contamination is almost always permanent," Legrand said.

Depletion of the ground water may also dry up wetland ponds and form sinkholes that could endanger natural gas lines and railroad shipments of hazardous materials to and from the Brunswick Nuclear Plant and the giant military ammunition terminal at Sunny Point, he said.

Other statements were read into the record from geologists who claimed that the mine de-watering plan could lower the level of groundwater by up to 10 feet in a circular area extending several miles from the center of the quarry, including land surrounding the nuclear plant and the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point.

Robert Quinn, a leader of the Brunswick Mining Awareness Committee, read excerpts from studies by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other government agencies regarding groundwater depletion and the formation of sinkholes.

"The single most important factor for preventing or greatly reducing the undesirable occurrence of sinkhole development and subsidence is management and maintenance of the existing groundwater table," Quinn read from a study by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Quinn and others also warned against the possible impact of fresh water and limestone dust on the nearby Walden Creek estuary, a nursery area for fish and crabs.

Fritz Rohde of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries called Walden Creek and its tributaries "a fragile estuarine system" and said his agency is currently studying the potential effects of dewatering and limestone dust, which he said could alter the salinity and acidity of the estuary.

Chuck Roof and Dwayne Price raised new concerns about potentially hazardous chemicals left behind on a portion of the proposed mine site by the old Pfizer fertilizer plant. The company used land applications to dispose of waste products. The material was said to be "very high in nitrates and also contains some heavy metal products" including arsenic.

"We recommend that permits not be issued to Martin Marietta," Price said in a prepared statement. "Their de-watering process will allow the solid waste material and associated

chemicals applied by Pfizer to enter the aquifer. As a result, the drinking water used by multiple municipalities would be contaminated."

State Mining Specialist Beth Chesson said the Land Quality Section will review the comments

made at the public hearing for 30 days before considering whether or not to issue a mining permit. Agency representative Steve Reeve said another public hearing will be scheduled before a final determination is made.

Former MM Executive Scorns Opponents' Tactics, Arguments

A Holden Beach official with 30 years' experience working with Martin Marietta quarries says he believes opponents' arguments against the proposed Brunswick County facility are not justified.

"Whether they put (the quarry) in means nothing to me financially," Commissioner Jim Fournier said in a telephone interview following Tuesday's hearing. "But I'm violently opposed to the kind of scare tactics that have been used against it."

Fournier, who opened numerous quarries as a Martin Marietta division manager, said, "Their so-called facts are not facts. The experts arguing against this are the same experts you hire when you go to court—ones you can count on to say what you want them to say."

Though Fournier resigned from Martin Marietta before he retired, he

says he "never lost my high opinion of the company. They're the class act of the industry nationwide."

He called alarm about drawdown of the freshwater aquifer, the development of sinkholes and blasting in the vicinity of the Brunswick Nuclear Plant and Sunny Point munitions terminal "a good scare program based on opinion and very little fact. I've seen these quarries all over the country, with no disastrous results."

Fournier says the quarry would be "a good economic opportunity for Brunswick County, which desperately needs more industry" and criticized local legislators who "showed up at the hearing campaigning."

He said he did not express his views in the hearing because "didn't think the climate was appropriate."

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