

Most County Candidates Face Opposition In Upcoming Primary

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Union Primary School, now Union Elementary School. She joins retired music educator and former school board member George F. Wilson, 66, also of Supply, on the ballot.

The winner of that three-way contest will face Republican Eugene Hewett in November. Hewett, 71, is a member of the Brunswick Community College Board of Trustees and one of two minority candidates seeking election to the school board.

The other is District 1 incumbent Thurman Gause, 50, of Grissetown, who faces a primary challenge from juvenile service officer Olaf (Bud) Thorsen, 36, of Shallotte. The winner of that contest will face Republican Rozell Hewett, a former commercial fisherman, former West Brunswick High School aquaculture teacher and former Brunswick County commissioner. Hewett, 75, also served as chairman of the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority.

In District 3, incumbent Bill Fairley, 40, a Southport attorney, faces a Republican primary contest with Eric S. Pfeiffer, 34, of Yaupon Beach, who filed Monday. The winner of that primary will face Democrat William D. (Billy) Carter of Yaupon Beach. Carter, 54, a former Brunswick County manager, is making his second bid for the school board. He lost a Democratic primary race two years ago.

School board Chairman Donna Baxter, 45, seeking a

third term on the board, faces Democratic primary opposition from retired sheriff's civil officer Liston Hawes, 57. The winner will be challenged in November by Republican Pat Purvis Brown of Ash, a retired California educator and Ash native.

District 5 school board member Yvonne Bright, 50, will face Democrat Glenda C. Browning of Leland, a PTA leader and community activist, in the Nov. election.

Democratic and Republican primaries are set among those seeking the District 1 seat on the board of commissioners, with the two winners on the November ballot. Incumbent Don Warren of Ocean Isle faces a primary contest with Randy Stanley of Shallotte. Douglas Simmons, a former long-time mayor of Calabash, filed Monday on the Republican ticket, creating a primary with Frances Ludlum Babson of Shallotte.

In District 2, neither Democrat W.A. (Alfonza) Roach of Supply nor incumbent Commissioner Jerry Jones of Supply, a Republican, have primary contests.

Successful primary candidates will also square off in November for the District 3 seat. Incumbent Wayland Vereen faces a Democratic party challenge from Louis A. Lewis of Supply, while the two Republican contenders are former school board member Robert D. Slockett of Yaupon Beach and Leslie Collier of Long Beach.

The winner of a District 4 Democratic primary between incumbent Tom B. Rabon Sr. of Winnabow and

repeat challenger Tom Simmons of Boiling Spring Lakes will face Republican Pete Barnette of Leland in November.

Both Democrats and Republicans face primaries in District 5. Incumbent Donald Shaw's Republican primary opponent is former Leland mayor S.L. Doty. Contending for the Democratic nomination are Michael A. Ballard of Leland, former school board member W.M. (Bill) Sue of Leland and Dan Davis of Winnabow.

The field of nominees to replace retiring Brunswick County Sheriff John Carr Davis was set the first day of filing and hasn't changed. The winner of a four-way Democratic primary will face second-time Republican candidate James Brown of Southport.

Filing for the two seats available on 13th District Superior Court bench has been extended until noon Tuesday, Feb. 18. The incumbents, both Democrats, have filed for re-election. As of Tuesday, no Republican candidates had filed, according to Johnnie McLean of the State Board of Elections office.

The change was part of a recent federal judge's ruling that Superior Court judges are to be elected from their home districts, rather than statewide, to give Republicans a better chance for winning office.

Of the four-member state legislative delegation, only Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. of Tabor City faces a challenge. He is one of three hopefuls seeking the Democratic Party nomination for the 18th District seat, with no

Republican opponent.

In what may be the least conspicuous race of the 1994 election year, no candidates have filed for two at-large seats on the Brunswick County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors.

The seats are currently held by long-term members Harold Robinson of Supply and James D. Bellamy of Shallotte. Filing remains open in that special non-partisan election.

A complete list of the candidates for state office follows: Clerk of Superior Court: incumbent Diana Morgan, Democrat;

District Judge, 13th Judicial District (one seat): G. Phillip David, Whiteville, Tom Aldridge, Whiteville, and Wayne Long, Shallotte, Democrats;

Superior Court Judge, 13th Judicial District (two seats): incumbents Chief Judge William C. Gore Jr. and D. Jack Hooks Jr., Democrats. Filing remains open until noon Feb. 18.

N.C. House of Representatives:

14th District (2 seats): incumbents E. David Redwine, Ocean Isle, and Dewey Hill, Lake Waccamaw, Democrats;

98th District (one seat): incumbent Thomas E. Wright Jr., Wilmington.

N.C. Senate, 18th District (one seat): incumbent R.C. Soles Jr. and Claude Spivey, Tabor City, and Ron Taylor, Elizabethtown, Democrats.

Sunset Sewer Referendum To Proceed; Ocean Isle Balks At Stormwater Study

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officials weren't biting. Commissioner Debbie Fox pointed out that the area proposed for stormwater management was primarily on the mainland. "I'm all for the best interests of the county," she said, "but the municipalities would be funding a big part of this and they are a small part of the area proposed."

Building Inspector Druid Roberston noted Ocean Isle does have stormwater management concerns, but said "I hate to buy a pig in a poke."

Utilities Supervisor Odell Wil-

liamson told commissioners that if they committed to the scoping study, it would encourage county commissioners to spend money on the project.

"You people can encourage this kind of thing, but in the long run, on July 1 when the tax bills arrive, you're going to wish you hadn't done anything to encourage them."

He said he "can't see" how the stormwater problem on the mainland can get across the waterway, while on the islands "the solution (to managing stormwater) would be to spend millions" that people can't afford to pay.

"So study, study and give some environmental engineers a job. The rainwater has to go somewhere, but I'm not sure the taxpayers could bear the cost of stormwater management."

Engineer Finley Boney said each community has its own stormwater management problem and that each ought to solve its own.

"If the county is going into basin management, it should do it with county money—if they do it."

Debate Rages On At Sunset

Back at Sunset Beach, at a Monday night public hearing on the sewer bond authorization, some citizens

claimed the town council reneged on its earlier vote to have the sewer and stormwater issues on the ballot together.

However, council members said the wording of the April 5 ballot was dictated by the Bond Council and the State Treasurer's office. "This is the only legal way we could hold a legally binding referendum," said Town Attorney Mike Isenberg.

"Your obligation to us has been neglected," said island resident Judy Van Winkle. "You approved a motion that you would not proceed without a referendum for both a sewer system and stormwater man-

agement."

Her husband Charles added, "This referendum is not going to mean a thing either way."

Councilman Herb Klinker said, "If the referendum fails, it would probably influence some votes on the sewer system."

Council members said they haven't discussed what they will do if the referendum fails, but admitted that a failure would not legally prohibit them from continuing to pursue the sewer system.

Council member Julia Thomas said she was surprised to learn that

there would be no separate yes-or-no vote on whether voters want a sewer system and spoke in favor of a recommendation by Klinker to send residents a letter explaining the system's estimated costs, revenue sources and timetable. "This is very confusing to lay people. It is to me," she said.

Council member Cheri Cheek said, "We were elected to vote the way we think the people of the community want us to vote. I feel confident council will do what we feel is best."

The vote to proceed with the referendum was unanimous.

Superintendent 'Grateful' For Funds

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ed and he was "grateful to receive some funding." He said he does not expect anyone to question the commissioners' legal authority to specify precisely how the money will be spent.

"We'll take it," he said. "Any time you lose \$308,000 and then get it back, that's great."

The majority of the allocation will go toward the purchase of science laboratory equipment such as microscopes, teacher demonstration tables, models, scales, measuring instruments, safety equipment, televisions, videocassette players and computer interface equipment. Other departments will receive projectors, other audio-visual aids, computer software, calculators, wall maps, art supplies and shop tools.

Individual school allocations include: West Brunswick High School, \$44,619; South Brunswick High School, \$44,419; Leland Elementary, \$30,482; Union Primary, \$27,151; Shallotte Middle, \$24,000; Lincoln Primary, \$21,634; Southport

Elementary, \$16,008; Bolivia Elementary, \$11,532; North Brunswick High School, \$9,965; Waccamaw Elementary, \$9,790; Supply Elementary, \$7,620; and South Middle, \$7,729.

In other business the board:

■ Agreed to have County Attorney Mike Ramos research the best method of donating, selling or leasing the old Leland Library building to the Leland Dixie Youth Baseball organization. Group President Bobby Child appeared at the meeting to make the request and assured the board that the building would also be made available to other local groups.

■ Contracted with the county cafeteria to provide meals for the department of aging nutrition sites and its Meals-On-Wheels program.

■ Voted to amend the zoning ordinance to allow pre-1976 mobile homes to be moved to new locations within the county as long as they were here and connected to utilities as of Jan. 1, 1994. (See related story.)

■ Re-appointed John Thompson,

H.G. Simmons and Chris Chappell to the board of equalization and review.

■ Approved the allocation of a \$50,000 cash match and \$15,000 worth of in-kind service as its local share of the total project costs for planning services for a Town of Belville public access.

■ Heard a request from Personnel Officer Starrie Grissett that the board consider adopting official policies for employees regarding sexual harassment, drug and alcohol abuse and certification requirements. No action was taken on the proposals.

■ Appointed a nine-member committee of county emergency workers, local fire and rescue personnel and area communications dealers to finalize plans and draft specifications for an upgrade of the county's emergency communications system. The board may seek advice from an outside consultant before approving a plan.

■ Agreed to contract with the town of Northwest for building inspections.

Fired Chamber Exec Plans New Lawsuit

BY ERIC CARLSON

Hollis B. (Holly) Richards, the former executive vice president of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce who filed and later dropped a sexual harassment lawsuit against the chamber and two former board members, plans to bring a new complaint before the court this month.

Richards' attorney, William Shell of Wilmington, filed an application and order extending time to file a complaint with the Brunswick County Clerk of Superior Court last week. Like the first suit, the new action names the chamber and board members Terry Barbee and Annette Odom as defendants.

Shell was out of his office Tuesday and could not be reached for comment on the details of the planned lawsuit.

According to the application, the action will seek damages in excess of \$10,000 for "wrongful discharge, breach of contract, malicious interference with contract, intentional infliction of emotional distress, negligent infliction of emotional distress and fraud and misrepresentation arising out of (Richards') termination of employment on April 17, 1992."

In September, 1992, Richards filed a lawsuit alleging that she was fired "on account of her sex" and was "subjected to sexual innuendo, suggestions, advances and harassment" by Odom and Barbee. The 20-page complaint claimed Richards was dismissed after she refused sexual advances by the defendants and declined invitations to participate in "nude hot-tubbing"

parties with chamber members.

The charges were denied in a response to the suit that claimed Richards was fired for failing to fulfill her job duties and which alleged that she "engaged in excessive drinking during times she was supposed to be working" at the 1991 North Carolina Oyster Festival, a chamber-sponsored event.

On Feb. 1, 1993, Richards dropped her lawsuit. In filing the withdrawal, Shell said his workload made it impossible to carry the case forward at that time, "but more importantly that information had developed which would indicate additional causes of actions which might be brought against the defendants."

Shell said it was Richards' intention to reinstate the lawsuit "within the appropriate time." The request for an extension of time to file the suit was submitted one day short of the one-year deadline for re-opening the case.

In the meantime, Odom and Barbee last June asked the court to order Richards to repay their defense costs for what their attorney called her "frivolous" lawsuit against them. Calling her allegations "scandalous and without merit factually or legally," Winston-Salem attorney Michael Greeson Jr. said his clients had incurred "a substantial amount of costs" defending against the action.

Greeson's motion for sanctions against Richards has yet to be heard in court. Shell has indicated that Richards' new complaint will be filed on or before Feb. 21.

Mild, Wet Weather Expected

South Brunswick Islands residents can expect above-average temperatures and precipitation over the next few days, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Canady says temperatures will range from around 40 degrees at night to 60 degrees during the day. He expects about three-quarters of an inch of rain within the next week.

For the period Feb. 1-7, Canady measured .13 inches of rain at Shallotte Point.

The daily average temperature during the period was 45 degrees, which is about 1 degree below normal, Canady said.

The maximum high reading was 67 degrees on Feb. 7 and the minimum low was 21 degrees on the third. The daily average high was 57 degrees and the average nightly low was 34 degrees.

Recruitment Panel To Present Recommendations

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board members, a number of school system employees and surprise attendee Don Warren, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

In his remarks, Stanley called for fundamental changes in support of the plan and of overall improvement of the schools.

"We believe the plan is a viable solution to begin addressing what we consider a very serious problem, but not too serious a problem to solve. We believe it will not only help minority individuals but will

help all individuals in our system," he said.

In his own experiences, Stanley said he has become aware of "how simple it can be to educate children and how difficult adults can make it."

As an administrator Stanley said he was shocked to walk into classrooms and find that some of his former teachers couldn't control their classes, didn't have lesson plans, weren't doing their jobs.

"We have got to get serious about the education business and stop letting it be just a 'talk' show," he said. "We do not want favoritism shown to minorities in hiring practices, but

we demand that the playing field be equalized."

Stanley said that the system may need to accelerate minority recruitment efforts to make up for past lack of attention, but not at the price of quality.

"We don't just 'want a black.' We want qualified people who can go in the classroom and do the job," he said.

Aggressive recruiting outside and inside the system is needed, not just by system employees charged with the task, but by everyone concerned. Once in the system, Stanley said minority personnel must also be supported and given opportunities for

upward mobility.

Urging that the report not "become another piece of trash to be swept under a rug," Stanley said recruitment of minority instructors is "urgent and necessary" to provide positive role models for all children.

"Whether minority or Caucasian, we need good people," he said. "Everybody in business and industry is going after the very best people. We need to do that too. We need to say we want good people in every classroom."

He urged an end to backstabbing, negative rumor-mongering and self-defeating actions at every level of the system, and asked the school board to move "above petty politics, petty vendettas, personal agendas and talk education."

"Students should be our top priority."

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