

Library To Reopen Monday In Temporary Resort Plaza Space

It's moving week for the West Brunswick Branch Library in Shallotte.

The branch closed Tuesday to allow staff members and volunteers to relay books, shelving and equipment a few blocks south on Main Street to a storefront in Resort Plaza, a temporary location while the existing library building is renovated and enlarged.

The project is part of a larger upgrading of the countywide system that includes opening of a new branch library on Oak Island and relocation of the Leland branch to a new facility.

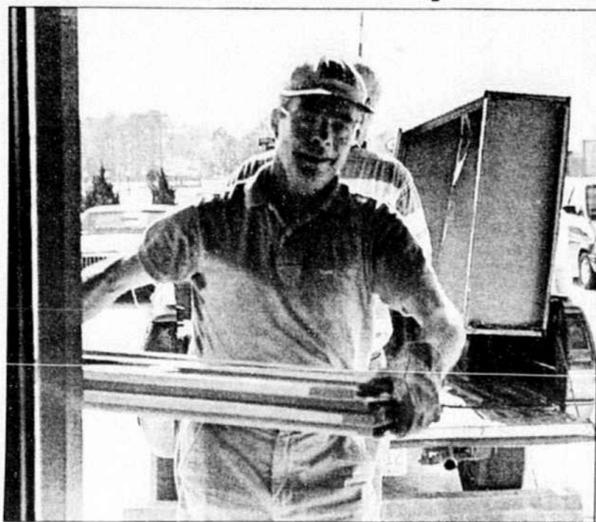
Monday, April 11, the library re-opens for service in its temporary quarters, with full services available, said Felecia Hardy, branch manager.

The library will be open just four days a week and for fewer hours than before, at least until June 30, when the budget year ends.

However, more evening hours will be available.

Scheduled hours are Mondays, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Tuesdays through Thursdays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The library will be closed Friday through Sunday.

Operation from the temporary



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY volunteers Wayne Hewett and John Twomey move shelving into space at Resort Plaza in Shallotte that will serve as temporary quarters for the local branch library starting Monday.

location has been made possible by the Friends of the Library, which recruited volunteers to raise operating funds, build shelving, move

equipment and materials, and help staff the facility.

The library's telephone number remains the same.

Study: Redwine, Soles Effectiveness Ratings Shift In Opposite Directions

BY SUSAN USHER

Veteran members of Brunswick County's legislative delegation saw their effectiveness ratings shift in opposite directions in survey results released this week.

Rep. E. David Redwine of Ocean Isle Beach received his highest ranking yet, 11th in effectiveness among the 119 House members considered in the survey conducted last fall by the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research. One seat was vacant. His most recent ranking was

The effectiveness rating for Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. of Tabor City dropped from 7th to 14th last year, though he was named deputy president pro tempore in the Senate. He is second in authority only to President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight of Dare County.

In the survey conducted following adjournment of each regular session of the legislature, the center asks state senators, representatives, legislative liaisons and lobbyists, and capital news correspondents to rate the "effectiveness" of each member of the North Carolina General Assembly on a scale of 1 to 10.

Senators are only asked to rate other senators and representatives only rate fellow representatives.

Respondents are asked to base their ratings on specific criteria as well as their personal knowledge of the legislature and their personal perceptions of those who serve there.

Criteria used included legislators' participation in committee work, their skill in guiding bills through floor debate, their general knowledge and expertise in specific fields, the respect they command from peers, the enthusiasm with which they execute various legislative responsibilities, their ability to sway the opinion of fellow legislators, their aptitude for the overall legislative process and the political power they hold—either by virtue of office, longevity or personal attributes.

Redwine's ranking for effective-

ness has risen steadily since first surveyed in 1985 at 44th. (He was appointed in December 1983 to the seat vacated by Tom B. Rabon Jr.)

On the 1993 survey, Soles had been ranked seventh in effectiveness among 50 senators in 1991. Soles, an attorney, was first elected to the Senate in 1977 after serving four terms in the state House. That experience showed, as Soles tied at 25th in effectiveness his first year in the Senate.

Eight-six of 119 House members (72 percent) responded to the survey, along with 44 of 50 senators (88 percent), 168 of 350 liaisons and lobbyists based in North Carolina (48 percent) and 17 of 33 capital news correspondents (52 percent), for an overall response rate of 57 percent.

Topping the House rankings was House Speaker Daniel T. Blue Jr. of Wake County, whose raw score for overall effectiveness was 96.91. Separate raw scores were as follows: fellow House members, 97.06; liaisons and lobbyists, 95.00 and correspondents, 98.67.

Redwine's overall raw score was 67.57, with his highest individual raw score from lobbyists and liaisons, 71.74, and his lowest from fellow House members, 63.65. The raw score from correspondents was 67.33.

Redwine's overall ranking fell just below the top 10: Blue, Martin L. Nesbitt Jr., George W. Miller Jr., Joe Hackney, Milton (Toby) Fitch, David H. Diamont, Mickey Michaux, Anne C. Barnes, Liston B. Ramsey and Jack Hunt.

Specific raw scores were not available Tuesday for Senate members, including Soles.

Freshman legislator Dewey L. Hill of Lake Waccamaw, who represents the two-county 14th District with Redwine, was ranked 93rd in effectiveness among House members, with an overall effectiveness raw score of 32.49.

Fellow freshman Thomas E. Wright of Wilmington, who represents the northwestern tip of Brunswick County, was ranked 66th in effectiveness, with an overall raw score of 39.13.

Redwine, Hill and Wright are unopposed in bids for re-election this fall, while Sen. Soles faces a Democratic primary contest in May.

The N.C. Center for Public Policy Research in Raleigh is a non-profit corporation formed to assess state government practices independently and without a partisan bias. Its publications include *North Carolina Insight* magazine, six newsletters a year, research reports and the effectiveness rankings.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jump Rope For Heart

Shallotte Middle School students raised more than \$1,000 for the American Heart Association's research and educational programs during the recent "Jump Rope For Heart." Pictured (from left) are Dustin Causey, Michael Wooten, Thomas Blandino, Sharyl Bellamy, Brooke Evans, Ashley Sawyer and Laura Kennedy. Ron and Melanie Champion co-chaired the "Jump Rope For Heart" campaign in Brunswick County this year. The event raised more than \$7,000.

Drowning Victim's Family Files Wrongful Death Suit

BY DOUG RUTTER

The family of a 12-year-old boy who drowned nearly three years ago in the Holden Beach surf has filed a wrongful death lawsuit claiming the town was negligent and should be held responsible for the death.

Jeremas Barnes of Knightdale was visiting Holden Beach with his grandparents on July 4, 1991, when he drowned in the ocean near the 1000 block of Ocean Boulevard West.

Barnes was playing on a raft with a cousin and his foster brother when a wave knocked all three boys into the water. Two boys surfaced, but Barnes was apparently pulled out to sea by a rip current.

The boy's body washed ashore the next morning about five miles from where he went under.

The lawsuit was originally filed last July in Wake County and it was recently transferred to Brunswick County Superior Court.

The six family members named in the suit are seeking wrongful death, punitive and compensatory damages in excess of \$10,000.

Plaintiffs in the case are the boy's mother, Jannet Barnes; his father, James Barnes; siblings Christopher Barnes, Janelle Barnes and Maurice Bobbitt and foster brother Lawson Minga. All are residents of Knightdale.

They claim in the suit that Holden Beach was negligent in the planning, operation and management of the beach because it did not provide lifeguards, did not close the beach when dangerous conditions existed, failed to provide adequate warning about dangerous conditions and

failed to have plans and equipment for rescue and emergency use.

Family members also contend that they "have suffered and will continue to suffer great mental anguish and distress, anxiety, loss of sleep, loss of enjoyment of life, and other emotional injuries..." as a result of the death.

The plaintiffs allege that Holden Beach has waived its governmental immunity for damages by obtaining liability insurance and by joining a municipal risk pool.

Plaintiffs also claim that neither the victim nor his family members "knew or had any reason to suspect that the ocean waters at Holden Beach possessed a propensity for development of life endangering hazardous conditions such as riptides and strong undertows."

At the time of the drowning, Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan described ocean conditions as "extremely terrible."

"It was not a day for anybody to be in the ocean, not just playing around," Logan told *The Brunswick Beacon*.

Holden Beach Police, Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad and Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department responded immediately to search for the child after he was reported missing.

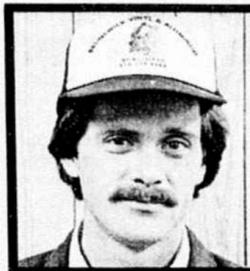
Two U.S. Coast Guard boats, a Marine helicopter and a Brunswick County Sheriff's Department airplane joined the search later.

Brunswick County's surf boat was launched, but it was taken out of the water after it flipped. Two people with life jackets also waded into the ocean to search for the boy, but they returned to shore when they could not keep their balance.

"We exhausted everything we could get our hands on," Logan said at the time. "I don't really know of much more or anything more we could have done."

The attorney representing Holden Beach, Clay Collier of Wilmington, has asked for the lawsuit to be dismissed.

Nobody has ever successfully sued a North Carolina beach town after a family member has drowned in the ocean.



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Non-voters might just as well turn the district over to the old political machine, says Democrat Ron Taylor

Whiteville, NC . . . Calling upon all residents of the 18th District to become registered voters, Democrat Ron Taylor, challenger for the State Senate in the May 3rd Primary, had some dire warnings for non-voters.

"Our District, like other parts of the Tar Heel state, is being ground up by that old political machine," says Taylor. "And I say to our people who are not even registered to vote, you might just as well turn the whole thing over to the 'politics as usual' crowd."

Taylor, a member of the state House of Representatives from 1976 to 1982, has spoken out against the old political machine, blaming it for some of the District's problems in education, lack of jobs and industry and the loss of Constitutional rights.

"My call is simply for a return to what's fair," says Taylor. "Is it fair for public jobs not to go to best qualified people, but as handouts by that old political machine to repay favors? Is it fair for them to hand-pick people to run Town Council or to appoint people to school boards? Is it fair that the educators who are with our children daily don't have input into educational planning?"

Comparing government to a business, Taylor said: "We have a mandatory drug testing program at our company. Government's your company and those who hold public office are your

employees and spend your tax dollars. Why not have these judges, attorneys, mayors and other employees of the taxpayer take a drug test. I would surely support that."

Taylor also discussed images and attitudes. "Is it fair for people in office

"You've got to register for this Primary—and I mean as a Democrat—and get out and vote for fairness and against the old political machine."

to develop the attitude that they own the office and can cater to the wants of a few, rather than the needs of the whole District?" he asked. "Is it fair that our society has allowed the concept of the American family, like mine, with husband, wife and child together, to become unpopular with our young people?"

Pointing out that change is in the hands of the voter, Taylor said: "If you believe, as I do, that these things are not fair and must be changed, you've got to register for this Primary—and I mean as a Democrat—and get out and vote for fairness and against the old political machine."

Voter registration ends Monday, April 11th, at local Boards of Elections and local libraries.

Paid for by Ron Taylor for N.C. Senate

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