

Sheriff's Race Tops Spending Among Countywide Primaries

(Continued From Page 1-A) advertisements. Hewett's campaign has spent more than \$11,000 on plywood, lumber and printing for signs and other campaign materials.

Among the other sheriff's candidates, Republican businessman James Brown was the third place fund-raiser with \$8,084 taken in. He has spent \$3,086 of that so far. Brown faces no opposition in the May 3 primary.

Chief Deputy John Marlow has collected \$4,031 and spent \$3,097 on his bid to be the Democratic nominee for sheriff. Long Beach Police Sgt. Bill Sisk has taken in \$1,300 and spent \$1,117.

Hewett has collected most of his campaign funds through individual contributions of less than \$100 each. Nearly a hundred such donors are

listed by name on the candidate's report. Hewett also collected more than \$1,000 in unrecorded contributions of less than \$100 each at rallies in Shallotte, Town Creek and on Oak Island.

Major contributors (of more than \$500) to Hewett's campaign since he filed for election include Mr. and Mrs. Emery Hewett of Supply, \$4,000; campaign manager Albert Parker of Supply, \$1,700; Connie Powell, Copas Shores, \$1,500; H. Mercer Johnson, Southport, \$1,300; Dr. Chris Moshoures, Shallotte, \$900; Al Parker Jr., Supply, \$600; Harry White, Supply, \$600; and B.L. Langston III, Shallotte, \$600.

Dove's financing report lists no individual contributions over \$500. His campaign picked up \$3,550 in unnamed small contributions at a

Southport fundraiser and \$2,100 at a similar event in Calabash.

The largest contribution to Marlow's campaign was a \$400 donation from Troy Price of Calabash. Sisk donated \$1,200 to his campaign has collected only \$100 in outside contributions.

Brown lists campaign donations of \$4,000 from his wife and \$2,474 from his son.

Other Races

Contributions and spending for other primary campaigns have been modest by comparison, with some candidates listing their filing fee as the only expense incurred thus far. Several reports list the candidates themselves as their biggest—and sometimes only—campaign contributor.

Democrat Bill Sue leads the pack in spending for the county commissioners race with \$2,225 taken in and \$1,985 spent so far.

Other commissioners candidates, with their donations and spending totals since filing include: Leslie Collier, \$2,170 contributed, \$1,700 spent; Tom Rabon, \$1,514 contributed, \$1,229 spent; Wayland Vereen, \$1,306 contributed, \$198 spent; Alfonza Roach (filed report late), \$1,039 contributed, \$78 spent; Michael Ballard, \$1,011 contributed, \$1,011 spent; Frances Babson, \$1,000 contributed, \$767 spent;

Bob Slockett, \$873 contributed, \$853 spent; Don Warren, \$664 contributed, \$489 spent; Doug Simmons, \$614 contributed, \$539 spent; S.L. Doty, \$600 contributed, \$479 spent; Randy Stanley, \$275

contributed, \$72 spent; Donald Shaw, \$139 contributed, \$102 spent; Tom Simmons, \$89 contributed, \$39 spent (on his filing fee); Jerry Jones, \$39 contributed, \$39 spent; Pete Barnette, \$39 contributed, \$39 spent; Dan Davis, \$39 contributed, \$39 spent.

Commissioner candidate Louie Lewis filed no report, stating that he intends to spend less than \$1,000 on his campaign.

In the primary race for seats on the Brunswick County Board of Education, only four candidates—reported donations or spending in excess of \$500.

Incumbent Thurman Gause, who filed his report late, listed \$1,500 in contributions and \$1,460 in spending. Pat Brown has taken in \$1,200 and spent \$406. Bud Thorsen has

accumulated \$963 and expended \$879. Clara Carter collected \$501 and spent \$493.

Each candidate will be required to submit a post-primary financing report on May 13.

Primary Vote Set Tuesday

(Continued From Page 1-A) ers, and choose a candidate to challenge 7th District Congressman Charlie Rose in the November election.

While candidates for the board of commissioners and board of education run from and represent the district in which they live, they are elected by and accountable to all county voters.

Brief profiles of most candidates involved in local or regional primary races can be found elsewhere in this issue. All candidates were given an opportunity to respond to a *Brunswick Beacon* questionnaire regarding their background and qualifications and what they hoped to accomplish in office. Not all candidates responded.

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Highway 17 South Won't Be Ready For Summer Traffic

BY SUSAN USHER

There's good news and bad news from the state Department of Transportation for motorists who will be traveling U.S. 17 south of Shallotte this summer.

The bad news: The four-laning project is running about a month to six weeks behind schedule.

The good news: Three out of four lanes could be open to traffic by early July, unless more delays occur.

The not-so-good news: During paving, northbound traffic will be confined to one

lane, with no passing for 11.5 miles.

The best news: When the project is finished in July or August, four lanes of traffic will be open from Wilmington to Myrtle Beach, S.C.

APAC Construction began work in late 1991 as prime contractor on the project, which is expected to cost around \$12 million.

DOT Resident Engineer Allen Pope estimates the widening project is 85 percent complete, and about 10 percent behind schedule. He anticipates all work should be completed by the end of July or in early August, barring unanticipated delays. The original target date

was June 4.

Contractors encountered a major delay last year in project scheduling. Installation of a box culvert at a stream near the south end of the project had to be delayed until fall, after spawning season, because the stream is a nursery area for fish.

Rehabilitation of the original U.S. 17 roadway—now the southbound lanes—couldn't begin until the new northbound lanes were paved and opened to traffic. Most of the drainage work has been done.

"We've had some scheduling delays and

some weather problems," said Pope. "I feel like we are back on track."

Once the southbound lanes are ready for traffic—possibly by early July—the northbound lanes will be closed one at a time for a final cap of pavement.

"While that's going on there will be no passing for northbound traffic that total length of the project," cautioned Pope. "We understand that will be an inconvenience and we will try to pave it and get it fully open as quickly as we can."

Warm, Dry Days To Continue

"More of the same" is Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady's weather forecast for the next several days.

That translates into continued above-average temperatures and below-average rainfall.

Canady expects temperatures to average from the mid-60s at night to the mid-80s during the daytime, with less than one-half inch of rainfall.

For the period of April 19-25, he recorded a high of 84 degrees on April 25 and a low of 48 degrees in April 19. A daily average high of 80 degrees and a nightly average low of 56 degrees combined for a daily average temperature of 68 degrees. That's about 3 degrees above the longterm average, said Canady.

He recorded no measurable rainfall for the period.

Red Springs Man Suspect In Ash Store Owner's Murder

(Continued From Page 1-A)

behind a row of stores in Clinton, broke into a fabric shop and stole some cash. They said he took the money to the Family Dollar Store next door and bought some green spray paint, which he used to paint part of the van.

Hunter said he went to the Sampson County Jail, questioned Cummings briefly and returned with a photograph of the suspect. He gathered several other photographs of men who resembled Cummings and showed the "photo line-up" to witnesses in the Ash area. Each one picked out Cummings as the man in the white van—the one they saw Friday evening, Hunter said.

He returned to Clinton with a State Bureau of Investigation agent and interviewed the suspect again Sunday. Four and a half hours after being advised of his rights, Cummings signed a confession admitting his involvement in the robbery and murder, Hunter said.

At first, the suspect reportedly told Hunter that a man he called "Joe" picked him up hitch-hiking and offered him some crack cocaine. Then he said they went to the

Bamboo Corners store, where "Joe" went inside and shot Babson.

"I knew there wasn't any Joe. All the witnesses who saw him said he was alone in the van," Hunter said. "He just couldn't admit what he had done."

Having gained a rapport with the suspect, Hunter said he and the SBI agent interviewed Cummings again on Monday. This time he wrote out another confession—without Joe.

"He told me he went to the store to get money to buy crack," Hunter said. "He said he thought (Babson) looked like someone who would be easy to rob."

Cummings remained in Sampson County Jail Tuesday night on charges related to his arrest there. Police in Red Springs believe he may be the man who broke into the home of an 84-year-old woman and beat her to death during an attempted burglary last Tuesday night (April 19).

An investigation into Babson's murder is continuing. Detectives hope to recover the murder weapon and other physical evidence using information supplied by Cummings during the interviews with Hunter.

The Brunswick County District Attorney's office has not yet determined what additional charges might be brought against Cummings. He had not been served with the murder warrant when the *Beacon* went to press Tuesday night.

YELTON IMPROVING Temporary Manager May Be Hired Monday

BY ERIC CARLSON

The Brunswick County Commissioners have interviewed two candidates for the position of temporary county manager and plan to choose one of the two next week to fill in for Wyman Yelton, who remains hospitalized with injuries suffered in an automobile accident.

One of the two applicants was interviewed in a closed meeting of the board Tuesday night. Another man met with the board in closed session April 18. The commissioners would not reveal the identity of either applicant. Nor would they comment on their qualifications.

The *Beacon* has learned that the candidate interviewed Tuesday is Greg Page, a former manager of several counties in North and South

Carolina. He is currently unemployed and seeking a permanent position in eastern North Carolina.

Commissioners Chairman Don Warren said Tuesday that the board intends to make a decision on which one to hire at its next regular meeting May 2. He said the candidates were selected from a list of prospects suggested by the N.C. Association of County Managers and the Cape Fear Council of Government.

Warren said he spoke with Yelton Tuesday and reported that the county manager's condition continues to improve. Yelton is expected to leave Duke University Medical Center next week and to enter a skilled nursing facility in Wake County, where his daughter lives.

Yelton suffered a crushed knee, a crushed rib cage, a broken shoulder and a fractured lower right arm in a head-on collision on Interstate 40 in Durham. His wife Kathryn and a University of North Carolina coed were killed in the wreck.

Although doctors can't say for sure, Warren said it seems likely that Yelton will remain in rehabilitative nursing care at least until mid-June. He is not expected to be well enough to return to work until "late summer at the earliest," Warren said.

"I want to stress that whoever we hire, it will be on a temporary basis," Warren said. "We hope to see Mr. Yelton back at work as soon as he is ready to return."

In their business Tuesday, the board:

■ took a formal vote to approve the creation of a new position of special projects coordinator and planning consultant and the hiring of former county planning Director John Harvey to fill the post at his former salary of \$49,028.

■ agreed to direct Harvey to undertake a population study of Brunswick County to help in planning for future schools and other county projects.

■ decided to donate \$10,000 to the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District for improvements to their treatment plant on N.C. 211.

■ voted to have county parks and recreation Director B.J. Jones look into complaints from parents about the department's youth wrestling program.

Sunny Point Is Chosen To Receive Nuke Rods

(Continued From Page 1-A)

enriched fuels promoted by the U.S.

Because of the project's urgent designation the decision cannot be appealed, said Debbie Crane, spokesman for the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources. The department, through its Division of Radiation Protection, is the lead state agency involved in overseeing the movement of the fuel elements through the state.

All the state can do now, she said, is try to move the fuel through as quickly and safely as possible.

The fuel casks will be transported by commercial or chartered ship from Europe to the port on the Cape Fear River just above Southport. Containers will be transferred by union longshoremen to rail cars, then transported by rail to the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site near Aiken, S.C., for temporary storage in an underwater receiving basin.

The hazardous cargo will travel by U.S. Army train on the Sunny Point railroad connector through Boiling Spring Lakes to the Davis

rail yard near Leland, where the cars will be switched to a CSX Transportation train and continue on through Navassa and Hamlet to South Carolina. The train will travel through Dillon and Florence, then pass north of Charleston and on through Yemassee to Aiken and the Savannah River Site.

The foreign reactor operators will work through a broker to contract a shipper and make other arrangements for transport. Once those logistics are worked out, a total of 409 elements will be sent in two to three shipments from eight reactors in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

The elements will travel in 15 stainless steel casks, each weighing about 25 tons and holding approximately 33 spent fuel elements. Each element is like a small box, three feet long by four inches wide and four inches deep.

North Carolina officials have not decided whether to require any measures beyond those normally required for domestic shipments of spent nuclear fuel or other haz-

ardous wastes.

Energy Department spokesman Tim Harms said the agency is just beginning to talk with state and local officials about the shipments.

"We want to make sure all regulations are followed," said Harms. "We don't want any accidents and we don't want people to think there will be any accidents, and we don't want to waste taxpayers' money."

Logan and his New Hanover County counterpart, Dan Summers, left Sunday for a four-day, all-expenses-paid transportation training conference sponsored by the federal government—a workshop they were called and asked to attend several weeks ago, before port selection was announced.

Also before the announcement Logan had begun putting together a 15-person radiological response team similar to the team used by Carolina Power & Light to monitor its shipments from the Brunswick Plant to its Shearon Harris Plant near Raleigh. As of Friday, Logan had "handpicked" the first six members.

"When I get back I'll know more

how to pick my team," said Logan. "I would like to take the time to handpick the rest of the people," he said, with a preference for individuals with experience handling or working with radiological material.

Is This Just A Beginning?

(Continued From Page 1-A) tors that could make affect its attractiveness as a port of entry.

On average 70 vessels per year call at the terminal's three wharves and move approximately 433,000 metric tons of cargo through the port, primarily ammunition.

"These two or three shipments will not pose a problem with them completing their military mission. That military mission could change one way or the other," said Harms. "If it slows down, then the terminal might welcome the increased activity. If it speeds up, it may not be able to handle the shipments."

"We might also select more than one port, I don't know."

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Police Worry For Safety Of Missing Woman

Brunswick County Sheriff's detectives suspect that a South Carolina woman who disappeared from the parking lot of a Seaside nightclub last week may have met with foul play.

They have released a new photograph of the woman and are seeking information from anyone who might help them locate her.

Delores Shipp Melton, 38, also known as "Shorty," was with friends at the High Tide club in Seaside when she went outside with her boyfriend at about 12:30 a.m. Saturday, April 17. He

went inside briefly and came back out to find her gone, according to a report filed after the incident.

A bartender at the club told a deputy that he saw Melton get into a vehicle and leave with another man. She did not return to her home in North Myrtle Beach that morning has not been seen since.

Melton is described as a white female about 4 feet 10 inches tall, with long reddish-blond hair, blue eyes and a medium complexion. She was last seen wearing a blue shirt over a black Harley-Davidson tank top, white shorts and white tennis shoes.

Anyone with information about Melton's whereabouts is asked to call detectives John Ingram or Charlie Miller at (910) 253-4321 or 1-800-672-6379.

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