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Election At A Glance

Democrats

SHERIFF	
Jerry Dove	2455
✓Ronald Hewett	3559
John Marlow	2320
Bill Sisk	70
COMMISSIONER (Dist. 1)	
Randy Stanley	3536
✓Don Warren	3862
COMMISSIONER (Dist. 3)	
Louie A. Lewis	2861
✓Wayland Vereen	4555
COMMISSIONER (Dist. 4)	
✓Tom B. Rabon Sr.	4369
Tom Simmons	3193
COMMISSIONER (Dist. 5)	
Michael A. Ballard	2681
Dan Davis	1181
✓W.M. (Bill) Sue	3243
BD. OF EDUC. DISTRICT 1	
Thurman L. Gause	3659
✓Olaf (Bud) Thorsen	3772
BD. OF EDUC. DISTRICT 2	
✓Clara S. Carter	3531
Polly G. Russ	2769
George F. Wilson	1290
BD. OF EDUC. DISTRICT 4	
✓Donna M. Baxter	4232
Liston Hawes	2966
N.C. ASSOCIATE JUSTICE*	
Jim Fuller	4150
Louis B. Meyer	2510
COURT OF APPEALS*	
Elizabeth McCrodden	2148
E. Yvonne Pugh	1892
John M. Tyson	2269
DIST. COURT JUDGE DIST. 13*	
Tom Aldridge	2655
G. Phillip David	880
Wayne Long	3839
STATE SENATE DIST. 18*	
✓R.C. Soles Jr.	4883
Ron Taylor	3208
HOUSE OF REPR. DIST. 14*	
✓Dewey L. Hill	4163
✓E. David Redwine	6229
Gail Claude Spivey	1347

Republicans

CONGRESS DISTRICT 7*	
Robert C. Anderson	1323
Jim Cooper	851
CTY. COMM. DISTRICT 1	
Frances L. Babson	897
✓Douglas Simmons	1284
CTY. COMM. DISTRICT 3	
✓Leslie Collier	1202
Robert Slockett	1116
CTY. COMM. DISTRICT 4	
S.L. Doly	657
✓Donald Shaw	1502
BRUNSWICK COUNTY TOTALS ONLY	

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Hewett Takes Sheriff's Demo Primary

WILL FACE GOP CANDIDATE BROWN IN NOVEMBER

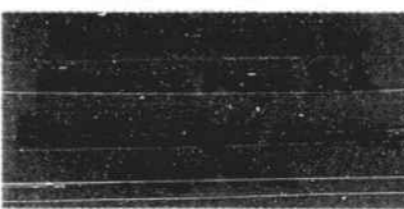
ERIC CARLSON
As the vote totals mounted in the hotly contested Democratic primary race for Brunswick County sheriff, the question on everyone's mind was: Are we going to have a runoff?

At about 8:45 Tuesday night, a deafening cheer erupted at the public assembly building in Bolivia as supporters of Deputy Lt. Ronald Hewett compared their final tallies and confirmed that he had indeed passed the magic number of 41 percent (plus one vote) needed to win the nomination.

It was a close race right down to the wire, with Hewett garnering 3,559 votes or 42.4 percent of the 8,404 ballots cast for sheriff.

Retired State Trooper Jerry Dove finished second with 2,455 votes and 29.2 percent, followed closely by Chief Deputy John Marlow, who received 2,320 votes and 27.6 percent of the total. Long Beach Police Sgt. Bill Sisk managed only 70 votes.

Hewett received 197 votes more than he needed to win without a runoff. He won nine of 22 precincts,



while Marlow led in eight and Dove was the top vote getter in five precincts.

In the glare of television lights, Hewett hugged his wife and children as his victory was assured. Then he made his way through throngs of

well-wishers to shake hands warmly with his political opponent and fellow deputy John Marlow. The two spoke briefly and Marlow patted Hewett on the back as he waded back into the crowd of people waiting with hugs and handshakes of their own.

"I just feel so humbled and thankful for all the support these people gave me," Hewett said. "I didn't win this. Hundreds of volunteers throughout the county won this campaign for me."

"I want to thank the other candidates for running a good, clean campaign and I look forward to going into the fall with renewed strength and a commitment to do what needs to be done for the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department," Hewett said. "I plan to run the same high road campaign as I did this time. There won't be any mud-slinging from me."

In an odd moment that puzzled many onlookers, Republican sheriff candidate James Brown approached Hewett as he spoke with a group of supporters. The two men shook hands and Hewett said, "Good to see you, Mr. Brown. Let's run a good, clean race."

Brown replied, "I'll run on your bad side and you run on my bad side."

In an interview Tuesday night, Dove also called the primary "a good race." He said he felt satisfied with his effort and was proud to see that his home precincts of Oak Island 1, Oak Island 2 and Southport gave him a majority of their votes.

"Being on the losing end of the stick is not the happiest feeling in the world," Dove said. "But I think I brought up a lot of issues that needed to be raised. I listened to the people and tried to respond to what they wanted me to do."

"I just want to thank all those good folks who supported me and helped me. I hope I didn't let them down," he said.

Dove said he ran at somewhat of a disadvantage because the N.C. Highway Patrol does not allow its officers to actively campaign, so his effort could not begin until he retired in January.

After a few weeks "enjoying my retirement," Dove said he plans to go to work part time as an auxiliary officer with the Southport Police Department.

Marlow also praised the other candidates for running a clean campaign. He was philosophical about the outcome. "I just take it as it comes," Marlow said. "I'll show up for work tomorrow morning just like any other day."



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Fatal Crash

Rescue workers treat the driver of a Volkswagen Fox which went out of control on U.S. 17 Saturday, apparently when the driver fell asleep at the wheel. The Camp Lejeune Marine died two hours later at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. The Volkswagen struck a southbound Buick and injured its two passengers, as well as a second Marine. The story is on Page 9A.

Million-Dollar Bond Is Set For Suspect In Ash Murder

BY ERIC CARLSON

He is accused of trying to rob three elderly people in two counties and killing them when they tried to resist. Police say he got just \$22 in cash from the 81-year-old woman he allegedly beat to death during a burglary in Red Springs last month.

Three days later, they say, he made off with only \$60 after shooting Burns Everett Babson in the face as the 74-year-old Ash store owner fought for his life.

Now he'll have to come up with a million dollars to get out of the Brunswick County Jail.

Daniel Cummings, 38, of Red Springs made his first appearance in a Bolivia courtroom Thursday morning, where District Court Judge Ola Lewis set the \$1 million bond and appointed Southport attorney William Fairley to defend him against a charge of murder.

Three days earlier, Cummings was arraigned on a first-degree murder charge in Robeson County for allegedly killing Lena Hales, who reportedly surprised him after he broke into her Red Springs home on the night of April 15.

Police there believe he may also be responsible for killing an 84-year-old man who was found robbed and beaten to death more than a year ago. Cummings has not

been charged in that case, but authorities say he has made statements implicating himself in all three murders, according to Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Tom Hunter.

It was Hunter who interviewed Cummings and obtained the incriminating statements from him after he was arrested in Clinton on a breaking-and-entering charge the night after Babson's murder.

Hunter said that during three interviews with the suspect, he learned that Cummings went into Babson's Ash Beverage Bamboo Corner store on the evening of April 22 to rob him of money to buy crack cocaine. When Babson tried to defend himself with a .38-caliber revolver, Cummings allegedly wrestled the gun away from Babson and shot him at least three times.

Babson's wife Jewell told police that Cummings fired at her twice before driving off in a white Ford van. The Sampson County deputy who arrested Cummings called the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department after he heard a bulletin alerting authorities to watch for a vehicle of that description.

Local detectives are continuing the investigation into Babson's murder and more charges against Cummings (See BOND SET, Page 2-A)

Voters Take 'Anyone-But' Approach To School Board

BY SUSAN USHER

Anyone but. That appeared to be the general sentiment among voters Tuesday when it came to the county school board.

If the primary results are an accurate gauge, voters are looking for change in the Brunswick County Schools, at least in terms of leadership. Ousting District 1 and 2 incumbents Thurman Gause and Polly Russ, Democrats assured that at least a majority of the five seats on the board will be filled by newcomers in December.

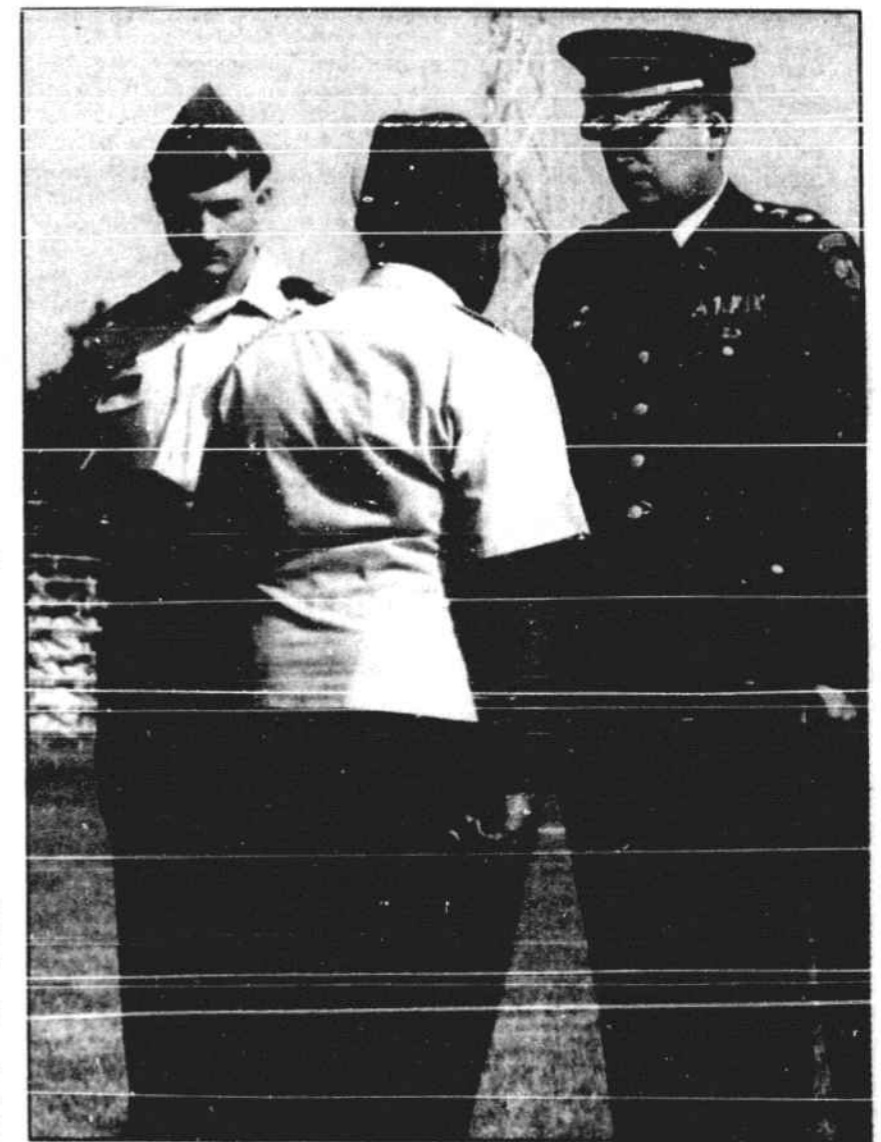
A decision by District 3 incumbent Bill Fairley not to seek re-election vacates the third seat. The Brunswick County Republican Party is expected to name a replacement for the ticket sometime after the primary, possibly Robert Slockett, a former school board member whose campaign for county commissioner ended with Tuesday's primary.

Incumbent Thurman Gause, who lost a close District 1 race to first-time candidate Olaf (Bud) Thorsen, predicted that there will be "all new" people on the board in December. He expects November upsets by board Chairman Donna Baxter of District 4 and Vice Chairman Yvonne Bright of District 5.

Gause said he had expected to be the winner Tuesday, but accepted the defeat in good humor, saying, "He just beat me in a good, clean race. He was the people's choice."

His mind had already turned to a special school meeting called Wednesday for consideration of the budget—which the full board has not yet seen. "We were supposed to have it by May 1," said Gause. "If they're expecting me to approve it when I haven't had time to study it, they're mistaken."

Thorsen, a state juvenile court counselor whose work brings him in (See INCUMBENTS, Page 2-A)



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTHER

Attention!

West Brunswick High School JROTC cadets were on their best behavior when a team of officers from N.C. State University visited for the annual inspection last Thursday. Inspectors reviewed the appearance of each cadet's uniform and asked each student questions to test general military knowledge. Pictured questioning a cadet are the chief inspector, Maj. Mark Lockett (right), and Cadet 1st Lt. Brian Johnson. West Brunswick, which has 104 students in its JROTC program, scored 589 points out of a possible 600.

CLERK'S LAWSUIT DELAYED

Former Commissioner Vereen Sues County, Claims Firing Was Political

BY ERIC CARLSON

A second victim of the 1991 county budget ax has asked the courts to decide whether he was fired for political reasons.

Former Brunswick County Commissioner Peary Vereen filed a lawsuit against the county Monday, claiming that his subsequent job in the water department was eliminated in 1991 by three Republican board members because Vereen is a Democrat.



VEREEN

The lawsuit requests a court order forcing the county to immediately re-hire Vereen and seeks a jury trial on whether he should be awarded more than \$68,000 in back pay along with benefits, damages in excess of \$10,000, punitive damages and legal costs.

Meanwhile, a federal judge in Wilmington has postponed trial on a racial and political discrimination suit filed by former Clerk to the Board Regina Alexander, who claims the same three commissioners—Chairman Kelly Holden, Donald Shaw and Jerry Jones—voted to eliminate her salary from the 1991-92 budget because she is black and a Democrat.

Vereen and Alexander were among the 14 employees whose positions were eliminated from the budget in what the commissioners called a reduction in force.

The Alexander case was scheduled to be heard May 9. But a judge has agreed to consider whether the commissioners had "legislative immunity" from prosecution when they voted to fire her. She is suing the three men individually and in their official capacities as commissioners.

The judge could rule that the board members can't be sued at all. Or he could say that the county is liable for the commissioners' actions.

County Attorney Michael Ramos said Tuesday he expects the court to make a ruling "in the next couple of weeks." If the suit moves forward, it would probably be heard in early June, he said.

Ramos said he had not received a copy of Vereen's lawsuit and could not comment about it.

Vereen's suit also names as defendants former Interim County Manager David Clegg and former Republican commissioners Frankie Rabon and Gene Pinkerton, who voted against cutting the positions from the budget. Current board members Wayland Vereen, Tom Rabon and Chairman Don Warren are named in the suit in their official capacities.

County personnel records indicate that Vereen was hired Aug. 11, 1986, as assistant director of operational services and water management coordinator. At a June 17, 1991, workshop, the board of commissioners voted 3-to-2, with Rabon and Pinkerton dissenting, to eliminate numerous positions (See VEREEN, Page 2-A)