Parents Ask For Action On Principal At South

the Brunswick County Beard of Education Monday night. Shaw and his wife appeared at the beard meeting to cult attention to the recent discovery. That South Brunswick, High School. Principal Mose Lewis had a gain in his brief-case at school one day in June. Lewis admitted the brieferase, abole when two South Brunswick students broke into the building one

night in the closing weeks of the school year, was his. He said he ac-calentatily brought the strong brief-case to school the day before, and without ever opening it, locked it in the school at the end of the day. The next morning he found the break-in, with several items gone, in chading his brief-case. Checking his second brief-case at from, he realized the stolen one contained the gain. Singerithestent, Geom, Varincoolis

State law promos-school grounds with the exception of law officers.

The Shaw's said they had reason to confront school officials about the in-cident. "It was our son who was thrown through a plate plass was low by Mose Lowis," Shaw said. "He dewise was convicted of assault last year."

Shaw moted that news reports quoted Varbrough as saying he

would decide the seriousness of the matter Variationgh admitted the matter before bringing it before the board. It think ther is a very serious matter. Shaw declared. And I've confacted the atterney general about at it any crimes were committed with that gas, the schools could be liable, and havants against the school aystem.

The Shaw's Beyear old son, Bull, bad a confreshation with Lewis outside the patiently over the school aystem. The Shaw's Beyear old son, Bull, bad a confreshation with Lewis outside the school aystem and two and-a-half-haur executive sees since following the meeting with principal directions of the school aystem and the school aystem and the school aystem and two and-a-half-haur executive sees since following the meeting with principal fluid that the school attorney to say nothing about



Volume 24, Number 41

Shallotte, North Carolina, Thursday, August 21, 1986



DON'T SHOOT ME, I'M JUST THE MESSENGER," and Jeff Martin, left, as 100 angry postal customers shouled at him. In front row center, wearing the white

shirt, Mayor Dong Simmons of Calabash, studies the petition he presented to Martin.

Communities Fired Up Over Address Changes

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

The presence of firefiglding equipment was enouraging as tempors binned Thursday afternoon in the
Smoot Heach fire station. Over 100 residents of Sunset
Brach, Ocean Isle Lieuch and Calabash were there to
lambor postal authorities about the change in their addiese.

henhed portal authorities about the change in their address.

Letters went out recently to these patrons of the Shallotte nest office, saying they would be required to use Shallotte on the last line of their address, instead of the names of their communities.

So much concern and larger was generated by this message from Shallotte Postmaster Henner Andrews, Toursday's meeting was arranged with representatives of the regional Fayetheville postal center and the division center in Columbia, S.C.

From the moment Jeff Martin, manager and postmaster of the Fayetheville center, began trying to explain problems the postal service has with Brunswick County growth, he was repeatedly shouted down. The bottom line, as put by Mary Frances DeBoy of Ocean Idle Beach, was this: "We don't live in Shallotte, so we don't want that as our address."

Martin said the extreme growth going on in the county is happening all over the country, and the postal service must find a way to continue delivering the mail efficiently and inexpensively. "Jots of you can tell me you've had four different addresses in the last ten years, and that's what we want to avoid in the future," he said.

When he said. "We've made great strides in the last few years," his voice was overprowered by a chorus of reautors. "We're

tew years," his voice was overpowered by a chorus of randous "No's," But he strangied to continue, "We're now going into automation, and the standardization of address formats allows us to deliver mail faster and

cheaper."

He said automation in the Charlotte division office meant an optical character reader (OCR) that scans the last line of an address. "If it reads a 'proper' address, with the town name matching the zip code as listed in our directory of post offices, it's sent right en and you get it the next day."

If, however, a lown name on the last line does not

appear in the post office directory, regardless of a pri per zip code, the OCR can't bandle it and it's tossed on to a mechanized process. If that process can't "key in a mitched name and rip code, then the mail must be a third, manual bandl

Martin stressed that each extra handline costs two Martin stressed that each extra handling costs: thirds of the cost of the original handling. "A another day of delay is added by each handling."

said.

The crowd didn't want to hear about efficiency. The issue was community identity, and Bill Austin from the Columbia center told them point-blank, "The post office does not by to give you community identity. We try to deliver mail to you."

Mayor LaDane Bullington of Ocean Isle Beach

deliver mail to you."

Mayor LaDane Bullington of Ocean Isle Beach focused on the importance of that identity. She read a resolution from her town board asking that the Ocean Isle Beach be allowed to use its town name and have its own it code. "This is not only a pride issue but an economic issue for all these communities," she said.

Tou Tucker of Sanset Beach, representing the Sooth Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, echoet her point, saying, "Tourism is the only industry we've got. I wish the poetal service would take time to find a way we can keep our identity."

Martin replied that the issue had surfaced many times around the country and the postal service had tried many things. "Then quit trying," someone yelled. "I realize this is an emotional issue, but listen, I'm just the measenger," he said. "I'm one of you. I come from a little town called Cedar Creek that you never heard of. That's because it doesn't have a post office."

State Rep. E. David Redwine spoke in more con-

State Rep. E. David Redwine spoke in more con State Rep. E. David Redwine spoke in more con-ciliatory tones. "I'm a postal brat, because my father was a rural mail carrier," he said, "The state has an in-terest in getting this issue resolved, because the state supports tourism. If you take away pride in commanity, it makes it hard for us to do better. Do we have any alternatives? Where do we go from here? Is the deci-sion strictly not exam?"

sion strictly up to you?"
"We're not your enemy," Martin began, but was

(See COMMUNITIES, Page 2-A)

Optional Sales Tax **Draws Mixed Reviews**

BY SUSAN CISHER
An optional half-percent sales tax
increase drew mixed reactions from
ten people at a hearing held Tuesday
inght by Brunswick County Commis-

Board thembers said they were surprised at the low furriout. Comments from Board of Educa-tion personnel and retirees were about countly divided for and against the new tax during the brief session.

the new tax during the brief session.

"For we folks on fixed incomes these taxes keep on adding up and our incomes don't," said Pearl Krick, speaking in opposition of the tax on behalf of the nearly 400 members of the Calabash Chapter of American. Association of Retired Persons. She was also concerned that the state legislature had not exempted coasts from the tax.

School board member James Clemmons, a retired principal from Leland who said his mother was il-literate, was equally adamant in his support for the tax because of its

support for the law because of its school funding.

"I'm retired too, but no where else will you get as much for your tax dollar than in Brunswick County," be said. "We owe it to the children who come after us to provide the best type of reheration possible. We know of education possible. We know (their) only future in Brunswick County is education."

He said the remaining funds could

He said the remaining funds could be used by the county to finance ex-pansion of the water system. Commissioners, whom Chairman Chris Chappell said appear to be leaning toward adoption of the tax, took no action on the proposal Tues-day. He expects the tax to be on their Sept. 2 agends. More than half the counties statewide have already adopted it. adopted it

adopted it.

(Commissioners met privately before and after the hearing to continue a Monday might discussion of a personnel matter.

Spenking as a private citizen at the hearing, Chappell said if the tax is adopted it should be used to reduce the property tax 'ar.' He said this could be done by esting the schools' 50 percent to pay off school construction bood indebtechess, and the county's share to meet general fund needs. He said he woold willingly campaign for

a new bond referendum to finance school construction Another retires in the audience, william bunn of Builing Spring Lakes, said that in light of Chappell's comments, he supported the addi-tional bulf-cent sales tax.

If adopted, the somest it could be put into effect would be (kdober. The state requires a month to prepare for the distribution.

The funes would be allocated to

each county-and to the numicipalities within it on the basis

of their permanent population count in the first year, Brunswick Courts of their permanent population count. In the first year, Brunswick County stands to ceive approximately \$1.1 in revenue if the tax is adopted, 01 that, 60 percent, or about \$800,000 would us to the schools for construction, construction bond indebtedness, and other capital projects, while us percent, or \$300,000 would go into the county's general coffers.

After the first two years the percentage automatically apportioned to the schools would gradually decrease until the entire amount is spent at the discretion of the board commissioners.

Towns also stand to durier if the tax is adopted, with 40 percent of their share to be set assiste for water and sewer projects. Hawever, no local municial officials attended truesday's hearing.

sever projects. However, no local municial afficials attended Tresday's hearing.

At times the public resembled a debate between pro- and censpeakers, with each rebutting the other's comments. Also speaking against the tax were begge James of the Holden Beach area and Hal Moson of Tarheeland Acres, both of whom advocated establishing a state buttery to finance school construction.

James adminished commissioners to "Be brave don't adopt the half-cent soles tax, You should think about if were."

Rather than toxing the elderly to finance school construction, she suggested lobbying for a state lottery. Later she said she intends to ask commissioners to indept a resolution consenting each is a little and the commissioners to indept a resolution comments are such as little and the commissioners to indept a resolution comments.

commissioners to adopt a res

commissioners to adopt a resolution supporting auch a lattery at their next meeting.

She also criticized creation of a new \$16,799 position, assistant opera-tions director, filled recently by former commissioner Pearly

trol, water manufement, garage acconstruction.

Adopting a phrase used durum budget hearings earlier this year Mason told commissioners. I this you're doing a lot to kill the gosthat's laid the goden eng.

On the sales has be advised our missioners. Do nothing, let it die don't think we need it for the time to me.

mg."

He objected to funding for pork and recreation, saying he had us seen more than an occasional personal either Shallatte or Town Creek Township Parks, the questioned it value of the county investing to dishers in promoting fourtien, essenting that the inclusive benefits sail, few.

few.

It's no benefit to the former in Ash who takes his ble in his hands to come to Shallotte on a Friday might

come to standing on a recently be added.

He advocated spending state accounty education dollars on rea-riculum and attracting out familia-new teachers rather than increasing pay for existing teachers.

Speaking on behalf of the tas.
Schools Superintendent Gene Varibrough singlested the sales tax would
reflece some of the pressure on the
dominant source of counts funding,
the property tax. Saying he arm
pathirzed with the pight of the closely
an fixed mounes, he added. Tracust
sure so need to grow at their expense
or that they are believed by returding
the schools growth."

Board of Education Chairman
Janies Fortsner terrified vhildren
one the best investments you can
make."

You can educate them to make a living or you can build them Jails." he said. "Good schools benefit everybody in the community."

everyhold in the community. While Mrs. Jaynes had summated residents of adjoining counties where the optional sales tax has already been adopted might shop in Branswick if the sales tax were lower. Forstner said he didn't think to become of the sales for the sales tax were lower. lower, Forstner said be didn't thin so because of the amount of trav-and the small sums involved

Water Decisions Dominate Action By Commissioners

BY SUSAN USHER
A new utilities operation board created by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday night will soon begin overseeing the county's expanding water system. Creation of the board was just one of many water system-related items that nearly mandated commissioners Monday night. In other major business, they also authorized planning of a new \$150,000 pumping station south of Shallotte, adopted a new interim water budget good for six months and adopted a revised water user attreetnent. agreement.

While named "utilities" board to reflect future directions, said District 3 Commissioner Jim Poole Monday, "for the foresecable future its one and may priority will be

*District 3— Morris Crouch of Long residential builder, three

District 4—Robert C. Nubel of Boiling Spring Lakes, plant manager

His remarks were in part to reassure several Rick Landing area residents in the audinence that water continues as the county's top priority. The group praised the county for establishing the board and including in the budget \$1.5 million tor water system lateral expansion.

Seven men were appointed to the board, as follows:

- District 1—Ed Gore of Sunset Beach, developer and also chairman of the county planning board, three years;

- District 2—W. Alforiza Roach of Holden Beach Road, developer, three years;

Monday that one reason for English appointment was to bave representa-tion on the board from Shallotte (See WATER, Page 2.5)

Supply Woman Charged In Embezzlement Case

Reba Alkitas, 29, of Supply was in-dicted last week by a grand jury in Brunswick County Superior Court on a change of taking 1100,009, from Ballenger Corp. of Supply, where she was enaployed as office manager, she was arrested Monday and releas-ed on \$5,000 bond.

Over the last year-and-a-baif.

She is charged with one count of embezzlement and six counts of false proteinves and cheating.

Padgett said some of the money was taken through checks she wrote on the company, made out to berself or to easi.

Descrive Sonny Padgett of the Brunswick County Sherit's Depart-ment said Ms. Afkins is charged with taking the money is various forms

The false pretense and cheating Ms. Atkins rented post office boxes in the names of the control of the names of lictitious companies and sent-authentically stamped tells

to Ballenger from these companies.

Railenger officials were not suspicious. Padgett said, because they were motivated by the particular of the company and took it home for her payroll work, there were questions asked that led to extensive probing into her actions as office manager.

The particular of the particular to Ballenger from these companie

ensive promar, morner to the source ice manager. Her trial is scheduled for Sept. 13 in Stunswick County Superior Court.