

Democrats Make Clean Sweep; Some Republicans Ran Well

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Shouts, whistles and exuberant applause filled the public assembly building in Bolivia Tuesday night, and all the noise came from Democrats.

In an off-year election that drew an astonishing 57 percent of Brunswick County's registered voters, it was the Democratic candidates who took every race, from school board to U.S. Senate.

Cheers rose in intensity as 21 precincts reported their totals over a 2½-hour period. Belville precinct led off with a tally at approximately 8 p.m. At 10:30 p.m. results from Fryling Pan precinct concluded an evening of tension and exhilaration for Democrats.

The tension was present in almost every race. Closest was the District 2 school board contest, in which Dorothy Worth squeaked by incumbent Jane Causey by only 66 votes.

District 2 County Commissioner Benny Ludlum had some anxious moments, as Republican challenger Tommy Bradsher pulled ahead in six precincts reporting early, but Ludlum emerged the winner by a little more than 1,000 votes.

State Races
 Watching returns with at times a worried frown was State Rep. David Redwine, for whom early Brunswick County returns were not promising in the race for the 14th State House seat. His opponent Malcolm Grissett took a slight lead in three precincts and was close on his heels in others. However, the incumbent took Grissett, the home precinct for both men, and in the end garnered nearly 2,000 more votes than Grissett.

Totals from Topsail Township in Pender County were closer, with 1,086 for Redwine, 824 for Grissett. At press time, final results were not available from Castle Hayne in New Hanover County, but Redwine was more than 2,000 votes in the lead.

In the 18th senatorial district race, political newcomer "Randy" Sullivan amassed an impressive Brunswick County vote of 6,167 against longtime State Sen. R.C. Soles Jr., who received 7,577. In Bladen County, Soles garnered 4,084 votes to 1,914 for Sullivan, and in Columbus County the vote was 9,886 for Soles, 3,198 for Sullivan.

Sanford and Rose
 Brunswick followed the state in choosing to send Terry Sanford and Congressman Charlie Rose to Washington. U.S. Senator James Broyhill trailed Sanford only slightly in the county, with 6,301 votes against 7,071 for Sanford.

Rose did only a little better, receiving 7,547 votes in Brunswick County to 6,640 for Southport challenger Tommy Harrelson, who conceded to Rose at 9:45 p.m. Cumberland County voted overwhelmingly for the incumbent, the totals being 22,870 to 12,952.

Happy County Winners
 While early returns flip-flopped between incumbent Sheriff John Carr Davis and his challenger, as the night wore on Davis' lead over Harold Willetts made him the top vote-getter in any contested race. Davis won handily with 9,089 votes to 5,029 for Willetts.

Other happy winners included Grace Beasley, who defeated challenger Marvin Donald Shaw by a wide margin for the District 5 seat on the Board of County Commissioners. The vote was 7,726 to 5,504. Also in District 5, James Clemmons was

slaking hands and hugging friends as he pulled far ahead of Douglas Flynn for a seat on the Board of Education. Clemmons garnered 7,383 votes to 6,213 for Flynn.

Greg Bellamy retained his position as clerk of court, with 8,685 votes. His opponent George Ball received 5,272 votes.

Unopposed candidates Michael Easley and Lee J. "Bubba" Greer will be returned to their positions as district attorney and district court judge, respectively.

James Bellamy and Harold Robinson were elected to the county's soil and water conservation board, with Bellamy receiving 5,301 votes, and Robinson 4,086. Mary Earp and Maynard Owens were not far behind, with 3,483 and 3,308 votes, respectively.

Democratic Reactions
 Brunswick County Democratic Party Chairman Rex Gore, when asked his reaction to the election sweep, shouted, "Whoooooo! This is as good as it gets. The party was united this time behind the whole ticket." His answer to relatively large votes received by Republicans was, "They gave it their very best and got out the vote better than we did."

Ludlum had his own ideas about the close races in this election. "I got hit harder in some precincts than what I thought. I feel the Democrats were lucky to win. We've been spending too much of the taxpayers' dollars, and I will try to work harder and be more conservative."

Worth, whose race was tight to the very end, said with a tired smile, "I'm very happy. We worked hard and it paid off. I'm proud of the whole ticket."

Redwine was especially happy

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SHERIFF JOHN CARR DAVIS had every right to be pleased with Tuesday's results. With 9,089 votes, he was the top vote-getter among candidates with opposition. Studiously examining his own figures in the foreground (seated) is Benny Ludlum, also successful in his bid for election.

Cable Breaks Interrupt Sunset Bridge Traffic

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

At noon Tuesday nearly a dozen yachts and other pleasure vessels were lined up north of the Sunset Beach bridge, while an oil barge waited on the south side. All were stalled by a broken cable that prevented the automatic opening and closing of the old-fashioned pontoon bridge.

The break occurred at 9 a.m. Monday, causing the bridge to be closed to vehicular traffic till 4:30 p.m. Then

it was manually turned so that cars could pass.

Tuesday morning the bridge maintenance office of the Department of Transportation sent Robert Cox, bridge maintenance supervisor, and a crew of ten to repair the damage. After allowing boats to come through for an hour at 11:30 a.m., the bridge was re-opened to vehicles while work was underway, according to bridge-tender Ardell Lewis.

Cox said a pin in the turn mechanism broke, allowing the counterweight to fall, which then caused the cable to break and bent the beam lifting the apron. The repair crew was to replace the cable as well as the beam, pins and shives (castings holding the pins). He predicted the repairs would be completed by midnight Tuesday.

"This kind of damage has never happened before," declared Cox.

BY NARROW MARGIN

Holden Beach Board Accepts Grant To Build Parking Lot

BY EDDIE SWEATT

By a one-vote margin, the Holden Beach Town Board Monday night accepted a state grant to fund the largest public parking project on the Brunswick County coast.

The project includes a 90-space parking lot, restroom facilities and picnic tables to be built on Jordan Boulevard at the site of the old bridge and under the new high-rise bridge on right-of-way owned by the state.

The grant from the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development is for \$60,480. Holden Beach's share of the \$67,000 project is \$6,520.

The 3-2 vote to accept the grant

came after a substitute motion to table the matter until the next meeting was defeated by the same margin.

Commissioners Hal Stanley and Lyn Holden said they wanted to wait to see if county commissioners would vote to maintain the public facility before deciding to accept the grant.

"No one is against it (the parking project)," Mayor John Tandy remarked during the tense discussion after Commissioner Gay Atkins made her motion, which was seconded for discussion by Commissioner William Williamson.

It was obvious that Mayor Tandy had hoped to avoid a split vote, but

Atkins persisted. "We need it, we worked for it; do it and then ask the county for help," urged Atkins.

Also urging acceptance of the grant was Julie Shambaugh, head of the beach access program for the NRCDC, who worked with Streets and Accessway Commissioner Atkins in developing the plan and grant application.

While conceding that there is no deadline on accepting the grant, she told commissioners it would not be wise to turn it down.

"We need the parking and access to the beach, but I have some doubts about toilet facilities. Give us 30 days to see what we can do," Commissioner Stanley asked Shambaugh.

"Take as long as you need to decide, but there's a motion on the floor," replied Shambaugh.

Stanley said he had discussed the project with some residents who favor a "smaller project we can control."

Most commissioners were optimistic that the county would come through with the help to maintain the facility. "I don't see how the county can ignore our request for help when you see what they spend on parks and recreation," said Commissioner Holden, who feels the maintenance costs may be more annually than what the town is paying initially as

its share of the project building costs.

In arguing for her motion to accept the grant, Atkins said the county's parks and recreation director indicated a real interest in including the maintenance of the project in his department's budget.

Mayor Tandy and other members of the town board asked county commissioners two weeks ago to allocate \$10,000 a year to Holden Beach to maintain the project. They were promised a decision would be made on the request at the next meeting.

Pace Picks Up

The pace of the regular monthly meeting picked up after the parking lot vote, with all other decisions be-

ing unanimous.

McKim & Creech of Wilmington was awarded a contract to make a study to determine if a waste water treatment system is needed for the island. The firm was recommended by the planning and zoning board from four interviewed Monday out of nine engineering firms which submitted proposals.

Planning board Chairman Alan Holden said the firm is to give an "unbiased view of the pollution in the canals" and other areas of the island to tell us whether we should consider a sewer project.

The town has a \$6,000 state grant. (See HOLDEN, Page 2-A)

SIGNS REVERSE IN 30 DAYS

All Vehicles Must Stop At Holden Intersection

All motorists using the Holden Beach intersection be forewarned: STOP means you, at least for the next 30 days.

True to the pledge made to a hostile crowd gathered at the intersection last Monday night, on Nov. 3 Department of Transportation employees began the slow process of reversing the stops.

It won't happen immediately, according to Roger Hawkins, division traffic engineer. The first step is a 30-day transition period, like the one used when the stops were first changed.

During this month-long period, all traffic entering the intersection must stop.

At the end of the 30 days, said Hawkins, stop signs on N.C. 130 and Sabbath Home Church Road will come down. Traffic exiting the Holden Beach causeway and S.R. 1120 will then have the only stop signs.

At a quickly called public meeting last Monday, unhappy local residents told Highway Commissioner Tommy Pollard that they wanted a light at the intersection.

Until such time as a light can be obtained, residents of the area said they preferred the old traffic pattern.

DOT began a study of the intersection last spring after receiving a request from Holden Beach for a traffic signal there. A signal wasn't warranted, according to Division Engineer T.E. Funderburk, so DOT then began looking at alternate ways to improve traffic flow. Reversing the stops, they said, gave the right of way to the roadway with the greatest volume of traffic, N.C. 130 to and from the beach.

Sunset Tables Gore's Parking Offer Again

BY TERRY POPE

Following a lengthy and heated discussion Monday night, the Sunset Beach town council once again tabled an offer that would give the town 35 acres for parking space on the island's west end.

"We're right back where we were before," said Councilman Donald Safrit following the meeting.

The board voted 3-1 to table councilman and developer Ed Gore's proposal to donate the large tract of oceanfront property for parking. Instead, the board voted to "explore all alternative parking solutions" before making a decision on his proposal.

Council members believe a final decision will be made on Gore's offer before February 1987. Safrit voted against the motion to table the matter Monday while Gore was granted an abstention. Council members Minnie Hunt, Kathy Hill and Mary Katherine Griffith voted to table the offer.

Gore offered to donate the 35-acre tract to the town in April 1986, but the wording on the deed that was needed to make the offer official was never

accepted by the council. The matter has been tabled since April.

Sections of the deed were referred to town attorney Mike Isenberg for revision. The board could reach no agreement on the wording of the deed Monday.

According to council member Hunt, there are two main obstacles to the town's acceptance: 1) the deed will not allow the town to do with the property as the town wishes; and 2) providing access to the 35-acre tract is "a rather monumental problem right now" for the town, she said.

Gore said his family is willing to donate the land, but only if the town uses it for public parking. He added that the family does not want the land to be used as a "natural area" when the purpose in making the donation is to "meet the parking needs for the whole coastal area."

"As a family, we want the property used for the purpose for which we gave it," Gore said. "The primary point is the town needs to use it for parking, and we need to make sure that it is used for parking."

According to the deed, if the town

accepts the offer then it would have three years to prepare the land for use as a parking lot. The town could also construct restroom facilities and concession stands as it wishes. If the town decides not to use the land following the three-year period, its ownership would revert back to the Gore family.

Ms. Hunt asked the board Monday to "approach the beach access problem in a wider range than has been done to date." She recommended that the board meet as a parking committee within the next few months to look at the town's alternatives.

"There are no options available to us that would give us the number of parking spaces while at the same time present the least amount of problems to anyone other than this area," Gore responded. "That is so obvious that it cries out."

As a public parking facility, the town would set user fees, hours and restrictions. Isenberg said these rights were added in two sections that were not included in the original deed.

In the event of a natural disaster or

act of God that would destroy the parking lot, the town would not have to use the tract for parking until the facility could be rebuilt.

"I think this board is making a serious mistake if we don't get down to the nitty-gritty and accept this man's offer," said Safrit.

To provide access to the tract, the town would have to purchase an adjacent oceanfront lot and a road would have to be constructed. Ms. Hunt said it is a concern to the town that the tract could revert back to the grantor after the town has already provided access to the area.

There is no section in the deed that gives the town the power to prohibit future development on the 35-acre tract should it revert back to the Gore family. Council member Hill quickly made the motion to table the discussion when this point was brought up at Monday's meeting.

Other Business
 In other business Monday, the board:

•Set two public hearings—one for Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. on the recodification (See SUNSET Page 15-A)