

Economic Development, Education Top Issues For House Candidates



E. DAVID REDWINE
Incumbent

BY SUSAN USHER
Both candidates for the 14th District seat in the State House of Representatives say economic development and education are among the top three issues the district's representative must face during the coming term.

In what is perhaps the most closely-watched primary contest to be decided next Tuesday, attorney R. Glen Peterson of Leland is attempting to derail incumbent Rep. E. David Redwine's bid for election to a third term in the N.C. House of Representatives.

Peterson said he is seeking election because "wants to provide aggressive leadership that is committed and open to everyone in the district."

Also, he said, he feels he can do a

better, more responsive job than the incumbent has done.

The issue of seniority, he said, has been "overrated," because the legislature makes use of talent and leadership it sees, "freshman or not." He would like to see the district's representative involved more in statewide and regional issues.

Redwine, first appointed to complete the unexpired term of Tom Rabon Jr., has served 2½ terms. His experience, seniority and effectiveness, he said, enables him "to make sure Brunswick County has effective representation in Raleigh."

"I think this district needs somebody willing to go to Raleigh and take the time and effort this job needs," he said. "This area is ready to blossom; it needs leadership. I

think I can give it that."

Redwine said he also enjoys the "nuts and bolts" aspect of the job—helping constituents solve individual problems, and feels he has done a good job at it.

Along with economic development, Peterson lists education and environmental concerns as top issues; Redwine, education and the state's transportation network.

Redwine, 40, an Ocean Isle Beach resident and vice president of a Shallotte insurance and realty agency, is currently ranked the 28th most effective of 120 House members by the non-partisan N.C. Center for Public Policy Research in Raleigh.

Peterson, 33, is partner in a Southport law firm and was co-chairman of the Brunswick County Constitution Bicentennial Commit-

tee. He was county coordinator for Terry Sanford's 1986 Senate race, and campaign manager for Redwine's predecessor, former Rep. Tom Rabon Jr., in the 1978 and 1982 elections.

Economic Development
Redwine wants to ensure the continued economic growth of North Carolina, "urban and rural."

Critical to that is development of infrastructures in the rural areas of the state, particularly roads, but also more support for sewer projects.

Citing the Albemarle area as an example, he said a regional economic development effort is needed. "New Hanover County does not have much land available for economic development, but Pender and Brunswick do," he noted.

(See TOP ISSUES, Page 2-A)



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Ocean Isle Hires New Police Chief

BY DOUG RUTTER

Just 10 days after accepting the resignation of Police Chief Bill Ozment, the Town of Ocean Isle Beach has hired a new man to head up the police department.

Ocean Isle Commissioners Monday hired Curtiss Augustus Pritchard, 38, who has served as chief of police at West Jefferson for the past six years.

Prior to becoming police chief in the small western North Carolina town, he worked nearly 10 years with the Pompano Beach Police Force in Florida.

Ozment, who had worked for the department for about 10 months, cited family reasons in announcing his resignation April 15. His resignation becomes effective April 30.

In a telephone interview Tuesday, Pritchard said he will start work at Ocean Isle no later than May 12. He added, however, that he will attempt to move to the area as soon as possible.

Commissioners hired the new police chief during a special meeting Monday. Mayor Betty Williamson said the board made its decision after discussing all nine applicants in executive session. Pritchard will earn an annual salary of \$24,000.

Mayor Williamson said four of the board members voted in favor of Pritchard, while Commissioner Bill Benton did not vote. She said Benton supported the hiring of another applicant, but didn't want to oppose the hiring of Pritchard.

"Any new police chief deserves the full support of the board and he will have that from the town of Ocean Isle Beach," the mayor said.

The board interviewed Pritchard last Wednesday and another applicant last Thursday, she said, before reviewing all applications again Monday.

Two of the applicants currently live in Brunswick County, while one was from Tabor City and one from Wilmington. Others were spread throughout the state, with one from (See OCEAN ISLE, Page 3-A)



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Gause Is Best Speller

Shallotte Middle School sixth-grader Monekia Gause captured the Brunswick County Spelling Bee Championship last week and a trip to the National Spelling Bee. Here she is congratulated by her mother, Waccamaw Elementary School teacher Louise Gause. The story and a picture of other finalists is on Page 9-A.

Quiet Primary Season Rolls To Conclusion Next Tuesday

BY SUSAN USHER

An unusually quiet primary campaign season will end Tuesday when Brunswick County voters go to the polls to name their party's nominees for the general election in November.

"It is a quiet, calm time," Brunswick County Board of Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt said Tuesday, echoing the general consensus of election observers within both the Democratic and Republican parties. "Hopefully it will hold through election day."

The key missing ingredient, Britt concluded, is the draw of a combined

presidential/state primary.

"That's the only logical conclusion you can reach," she added. "That's the only thing that is different."

"It is hard to analyze whether it (separate primaries) helped or harmed until we know the turnout next Tuesday," she concluded.

Based on past experience, Britt is anticipating to vote a relatively low turnout next Tuesday, in the 40 percent to 45 percent range. That would be above the turnout for the presidential primary in March, but below the 50 percent vote in May 1984—the last

(See QUIET, Page 2-A)

BUT PROCEDURES NOT FOLLOWED

Commissioners Decide Racial Discrimination Not A Factor

BY RAHN ADAMS

After dealing with the matter in secret for about 11 hours in four separate meetings over a two-week period, Brunswick County Commissioners determined Monday that a racial discrimination grievance filed by six black employees of the county's water department was unfounded.

However, in a news release issued Tuesday, County Manager John T. Smith said the commissioners' probe

into the grievance uncovered inconsistencies in the water department's enforcement of the county personnel policy. Smith made the announcement Tuesday morning after meeting with four of the six employees.

Commissioners had met in executive session for about 45 minutes Monday night to formalize their recommendations in the matter. The board heard the employees' grievance on April 11; met with

water department heads on April 13; and brought both groups together on April 15, with each meeting behind closed doors.

Following Monday's meeting, Commission Chairman Grace Beasley would not announce the board's findings, "to protect the confidentiality of the employees," she said.

"As a result of the hearings, the Board of Commissioners could not (See NOT RACIAL, Page 2-A)

County's Population, Housing Figures Continue To Increase

BY RAHN ADAMS

"It's inevitable," is how Planning Director John Harvey explains Brunswick County's continued growth in population and housing.

The Brunswick County Planning Department last week released its annual report on population and housing counts in the county. Estimates contained in the report indicate that both categories remain on the upswing, but at a slightly slower rate than in previous years.

"I said when I came to the county (in 1980), 'Let's do what we can to have good growth,' and that's how I've approached it," Harvey told the Beacon last week. "The Douglas Commission in 1958 said that the people of the United States would flock to the coastal areas of the nation for the next century like lemmings to the sea.

"When I came, people were still saying we could stop the growth," he added. "We can't do that; we have to just try to make it better in all ways, as far as I'm concerned."

The 1980 Census listed Brunswick County's population at 35,377. According to planning department estimates, the county's population has now grown to 56,966. Housing units have increased from 21,565 in 1980 to an estimated 36,311 over the same eight-year period.

Those figures translate to a 56.4 percent rise in population and 68.1 percent increase in the number of housing units since 1980.

The planning department study, though, shows that rates of growth in both population and housing have progressively decreased since peaks in 1985.

From April 1984 until April 1985,

population rose by 7.6 percent. The growth rate was estimated at 6.7 percent, 5.6 percent and 4.7 percent in the three succeeding 12-month periods up to present.

Similarly, increases in the number of housing units peaked at 8.7 percent in the planning department's 1985 report, then slowed to 6.2 percent in 1986, 5.4 percent in 1987 and 5.3 percent in the current study.

Harvey last week described the growth rates as "a cyclical phenomenon only, of no long-range significance." He declined to speculate on future peaks in the county's growth rate, although he said he was "confident they will occur."

In terms of individual areas, Shallotte Township remains the fastest-growing section of the county since 1980, with a 98.2 percent increase in population and 118 percent

increase in housing units.

Shallotte Township's estimated population is 12,966. Some 10,249 housing units are located within the township.

Population estimates for other townships are: Lockwood Folly, 12,546 population in 1988, representing a 70.4 percent increase since 1980; Town Creek, 10,720 population, 55.9 percent increase; Smithville, 9,535 population, 39.4 percent increase; Northwest, 8,426 population, 37.3 percent increase; and Waccamaw, 2,773 population, 37.1 percent increase.

Estimates on the number of housing units in other townships are: Lockwood Folly, 9,499 housing units in 1988, 68.5 percent increase since 1980; Town Creek, 3,956 units, 53.7 percent increase; Smithville, 8,208 units, 50.6 percent increase; Nor-

thwest, 3,376 units, 37.7 percent increase; and Waccamaw, 1,023 units, 36.9 percent increase.

Each of the county's 14 municipalities registered population increases in this year's planning department study. Growth ranged from two persons in both Bolivia and Belville to 200 in Boiling Spring Lakes.

Towns in the Shallotte area showed the following population increases in the 1988 report: Shallotte, 101 new permanent residents; Ocean Isle Beach, 36; Sunset Beach, 17; Holden Beach, 15; and Calabash, nine.

Estimated 1988 populations of the municipalities include: Southport, 3,188; Long Beach, 2,987; Boiling Spring Lakes, 1,795; Shallotte, 996; Yaupon Beach, 758; Sunset Beach, 646; Ocean Isle Beach, 564; Navassa,

(See GROWTH, Page 3-A)

Brunswick's Annual Growth*

	Population	Housing Unit
1981	4.6%	5.5%
1982	6.2%	7.3%
1983	6.1%	6.5%
1984	6.9%	8.6%
1985	7.6%	8.7%
1986	6.7%	6.2%
1987	5.6%	5.4%
1988	4.7%	5.3%
Total	56.4%	68.1%

*Figures represent growth estimates for one-year periods beginning and ending April 1.

Source: The Brunswick County Planning Department