

A Nice Catch

Gilbert Campbell's 11-pound, 12-ounce flounder sets a new record for the Shallotte Point VFD Flounder Tournament. **10-B**

Insurance Changes Eyed

Congress is looking at changes in Flood Insurance Program rules that could affect thousands of county property owners. **12-A**

Surfing Safari

Three young surfers are California-bound to compete in the National Scholastic Surfing Association championship. **7-B**

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Bill Calls For Voters To Set Terms For Two County Boards

BY SUSAN USHER

Should House Bill 586 pass, Brunswick County voters would decide this fall whether county commissioners and school board members should serve two-year or four-year terms of office.

"I'm not dodging the responsibility of making a decision, but letting people have a voice in how their county will be run," Rep. E. David Redwine said this week. "That's part of my job."



REDWINE

Redwine said he decided to seek the referendum after getting "mixed signals" from county voters on the issue.

"I don't mind making decisions," he said. "I research issues and generally get a feel one way or another how people feel."

"This is the first to come to me with mixed feelings all over the landscape." While some people he talked with had definite opinions about which term is best, just as many did not. Most, he said, saw nothing wrong with putting it to a vote.

Both the Democratic and Republican conventions addressed the question, with Democrats supporting two-year terms and Republicans, four-year terms.

"Both sides were putting pressure on me to do what they wanted done," said Redwine. "I decided I would like to hear what the other 25,000 voters who didn't go to one of the conventions had to say."

Presently Republicans hold all five seats on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, while Democrats hold four of five seats on the Brunswick County Board of Education.

Neither board has taken an official stance on the bill.

However, Redwine said he has heard from the commissioners "and their friends" in opposition to two-year terms.

Comments he's received in talking to in-

dividual school board members have been mixed, he said, just as their views on the subject were during last fall's election.

While GOP conventioners raised the question of partisan politics, Redwine, a Democrat, said he is trying to avoid partisanship by taking the issue 1) to a vote and 2) timing the vote to take place during the off-year election.

"I don't want it to become a campaign issue," he said. "I just thought they ought to settle the issue of terms first, then talk issues such as the future of Brunswick County during the campaign."

He said the issue of terms should be de-

ecided on the basis of which is best. Arguments advanced on behalf of a two-year term include greater responsiveness of elected officials to voters, while proponents of staggered, four-year terms cite continuity of leadership. Opponents of two-year terms argue that having to campaign every two years is costly.

Should the bill pass, the referendum will be held by the Brunswick County Board of Election Nov. 5 in conjunction with municipal elections. Should voters approve two-year terms, all five seats on each board would be up for election in November 1992. Filing for the May primaries would begin in January 1991.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

A Family Affair

This miniature sand city—complete with public restrooms, a cemetery and Gothic cathedral—was a three-day project for the Rich and Bondurant families, who came from the Charlotte area last week to Ocean Isle Beach. Pictured (from left) are Carol Hinson, Tina Bondurant, Teri Bondurant, Kreig Bell, Jason Bondurant, Benjamin Herr, Rick Herr, Terri Herr, Marcia Phaneuf, Butch Phaneuf and Doug Bondurant. The group has been vacationing at Ocean Isle for the past four years.

Sunset Council Hears Support For Two Proposed Annexations

BY SUSAN USHER

Sunset Beach Council members are expected to vote next week for annexation of two areas lying within the town's extraterritorial area, following a hearing Monday at which affected property owners voiced no objections.

The council meets Friday, June 21, at 2:30 p.m. for a hearing on the 1991-92 budget, a vote on the annexations and other items of business. Councilman Al Odom will be absent, helping to celebrate his parents' 50th wedding anniversary, he said.

A handful of residents of Sugar Sands and Oyster Bay Colony subdivisions spoke at a public hearing Monday night in favor of the annexation, with the only objections raised by an island resident.

The annexations would be first by Sunset Beach that were not initiated by the residents of the communities involved, a so-called "involuntary" annexation.

Cletus Waldmiller, chairman of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association, and Councilman Ed Gore spoke passionately on the annexations, taking opposite sides.

Waldmiller asked the council not to annex the areas because the action would "forever change the nature of Sunset Beach."

"No longer would Sunset Beach be a beach town, but rather a town with a beach," he contended, making it unique among barrier island communities along the North Carolina coast.

He suggested that political control would lie in the hands of mainlanders, people who live away from the beach and might not share the same concerns for "the environment and lifestyle."

Waldmiller said he thought that sometime in the future the change would open the way for "ambitious and greedy developers to turn our bit of paradise into another Myrtle Beach..."

However, Al Consalvi, a Sugar Sands resident, saw it differently, asking earlier, "Is there no down side to this?"

He suggested Waldmiller was overlooking another possibility—that the make-up of island residents could change as well. "It wouldn't take many people to vote in or vote out the things you care about...You don't have enough people to stop it," Consalvi said.

Speaking in support of annexation, one woman said she thought she had moved to Sunset Beach, only to find out later her home was in "LaLa Land" (the extraterritorial area outside the town limits) instead.

"We like the town; we like the way it is and we want to be a part of it," she said.

Other speakers noted that their living on the mainland doesn't preclude concern for the island beach and its best interests.

Welcoming the new areas in advance, Councilman Ed Gore said the annexations were helping fulfill a dream shared by him and his father "that we will have a whole community."

The Gores have developed much of Sunset Beach and the surrounding area.

"You can only make it better," he said. "We need not be afraid of change...I look forward to a community less biased and more willing to work in harmony than we have"

(See ANNEXATION, Page 2-A)

HEALTH BOARD HEARS PLAN

Food Workers Targeted For AIDS Testing

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County Health Board member H.J. "Skip" Davis wants local restaurant employees to be tested for AIDS.

Davis' plan would require every person who prepares or serves food, whether in restaurants, school cafeterias or nursing homes, to obtain a health card and be tested for tuberculosis, syphilis and the HIV virus, which is associated with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

The proposal was unveiled at a health board meeting Monday night, but members took no action on it.

To become county policy, the board would have to adopt a local ordinance requiring that food service employees obtain a health card, said Health Director Michael Rhodes.

Health departments once required that food workers obtain cards and be tested for tuberculosis, but that practice ended in 1972 with the decline of the disease, said John Crowder, environmental health supervisor.

The program would show that the "department of health is doing something for the citizens of this county to curtail the disease factors," said Davis.

"I'm worried that someone might have AIDS that's serving me food," said Davis, a chiropractor with an office at Ocean Isle.

However, details of the proposal remain sketchy, said Rhodes.

Leading researchers agree that AIDS is transmitted in only two ways, by exposure to infected blood or to infected semen. Experts say

AIDS cannot be transmitted through casual contact. There remains no cure for the deadly disease.

Davis said he has discussed the idea with local restaurant employers.

"I did not receive any negative comments," he said. "All of them favored the idea."

He estimates there are over 700 workers who handle food in Brunswick County who would be required to obtain health cards if the plan

is approved.

One argument against the testing, Davis said, was that someone who tested negative today could test positive tomorrow for any of the three diseases. Those testing positive would be isolated and follow treatment outlined by the health department.

"It would do me a world of good to walk into a restaurant, whether they're positive or negative, to

know someone is trying to curtail this disease epidemic," said Davis.

Tuberculosis is a highly contagious disease that affects the lungs. Syphilis is a sexually-transmitted disease that can be treated with antibiotics, but if left untreated it can affect the brain, heart, pregnancies or even be fatal.

Tests for tuberculosis costs the county \$1 and syphilis tests \$3. HIV (See FOOD, Page 2-A)

ONE PERSON CHARGED

Air Search Spots Marijuana Plants

BY TERRY POPE

Marijuana plants valued at \$48,000 were found at nine locations in Brunswick County during a search by air last week.

One person was charged with possession of a marijuana plant and with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Connie Sharpe Hewett, 36, of Route 1, King, was charged after officers found one marijuana plant growing at a home near Supply where she was staying, said Lt. David Crocker of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

She was later released from the Brunswick County Jail under her own recognizance after signing a statement to appear in District Court, said Crocker.

The aerial search was a joint effort of the sheriff's department, the Civil Air Patrol and SBI officers. The Civil Air Patrol supplied a pilot and spotters to help locate plants from the air.

Sheriff's Detective Doug Todd was the primary spotter, leading ground crews to at least 30 marijuana plants in the county's first marijuana eradication project of the season.

The plants ranged from seedlings up to 18 inches

and were found in plots all across the county, said Crocker.

"You can tell by the size of the plants that they're (growers) getting a late start this year," said Crocker.

Regardless of size, each plant is valued as a mature plant, or worth \$1,600 each, by the SBI. Each mature plant is capable of producing a pound of marijuana valued at \$1,600, Crocker said.

During the air search Friday, officers also stumbled upon a 1982 Ford Econoline maintenance van that had been reported stolen from Craven County.

The van was registered to Craven County's maintenance division, according to a report filed by Brunswick County Sheriff's Lt. Ronald Hewett.

Valued at \$5,000, the van was parked in a heavily wooded area off Shell Point Road (RPR 1132), Hewett said.

It is not known how long the van had been parked at Shell Point.

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department gives cash rewards to persons who call with information that can help officers find marijuana plants, said Crocker.

Calabash Eyeing Healthy Tax Cut

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash residents and merchants could see a healthy cut in their tax bills next year if commissioners adopt a \$431,047 budget presented at a public hearing last week.

Town officials are considering slashing the tax rate from 15 cents to eight cents per \$100 of property. That would be a reduction of 47 percent—saving the owner of a \$75,000 home about \$52 in taxes.

But the tax rate might not drop so drastically if commissioners accept the recommendations of Mayor Pro Tem George Anderson, who suggested adding \$36,500 in expenses to the budget at Tuesday night's town meeting.

Anderson, a member of the town finance committee, suggested adding \$20,000 to the administration fund Tuesday to cover a possible lawsuit. The budget already included \$20,000 to pay the town attorney for his services.

Anderson, who is chairman of the board of adjustment, said last week that the owners of a business outside the town have threatened to sue the town if a sign variance isn't granted.

"I don't know if they will win the suit, but if they do win we have to

be prepared," Anderson said at the budget hearing last Wednesday.

He also proposed adding \$10,500 for mowing the large drainage ditches, \$5,000 for reimburse elected officials for their travel and telephone expenses and \$1,000 for the Calabash Merchants Association.

The suggestions appeared to take other town board members by surprise Tuesday night. They gave no indication whether they favored or disapproved of Anderson's proposals.

If all of the expenses are incorporated into the budget, it would push the tax rate up at least four cents unless another source of revenue was discovered.

With the town board proposing to slash the tax rate, the Calabash fire station was virtually empty last Wednesday when fewer than 20 people attended the hearing on the new budget.

In contrast, more than 100 people turned out for the budget hearing last year when town officials presented the first budget since the merger of the old Town of Calabash and Carolina Shores.

"Hopefully, the sparse crowd means we're doing something"

(See CALABASH, Page 2-A)