

Election At A Glance

Shalotte

MAYOR	
✓Beamon Hewett	135
✓Sarah L. Tripp (I)	200
ALDERMAN (4-year)	
✓Roney W. Cheers	143
Gene Frink	81
✓David L. Gause (I)	188
✓Morris J. Hall	165
Joe Monroe Hewett Jr. (I)	87
Sam Inman	101
Jay G. (Jody) Simmons (I)	110
ALDERMAN (2-year)	
✓Wilton Harrelson (I)	197
Odell (Odie) Johnson	124

Holden Beach

MAYOR	
✓Wally Ausley	220
Bob Buck	72
COMMISSIONER	
✓Gay Atkins (I)	152
✓Gil Bass	160
Donald Campbell	86
Diane Clark	79
?Jim Fournier, (Tie)	136
Crawford Hart	115
Larry McDowell	43
✓David Sandifer	137
James Shafor	131
✓Sid Swarts	142
Larry Vogt	56
?Roger Williams, (Tie)	136

Ocean Isle Beach

MAYOR	
✓Betty Williamson (I)	153
COMMISSIONER	
William Bullington	46
Raymond Erickson	45
✓Debbie Fox (I)	70
E. Paul Justice	56
✓Janet Sanders	107
✓Kendall Suh	119
John Sutton	23

Calabash

COMMISSIONER (District 1)	
✓Keith Hardee (I)	312
COMMISSIONER (District 2)	
Warren (Bud) Knapp	312
✓Robert L. Noe	328
✓Jon B. Sanborn (I)	396

Varnamtown

MAYOR	
✓Judy L. Galloway (I)	103
ALDERMAN	
✓John D. Dawson (I)	69
✓Faye Galloway	77
Roscoe Griffin	33
✓Tonya Robbins	35
Jeff Whitfield	52

Sunset Beach

MAYOR	
✓Mason Barber (I)	115
COUNCIL	
✓Cherri Cheek	105
✓Mary K. Griffith (I)	117
Cletus A. Waldmiller	70

Bolivia

MAYOR	
✓Ina Mae Mintz (I)	31
ALDERMAN	
?Thurston Clemmons Jr. (Tie)	19
✓Sarah E. Knox (I)	23
✓Alice Lesh	26
✓Ella Jane Wescott (I)	20
?Sherry Willetts (Tie)	19

Leland

MAYOR	
✓S.L. Doty	245
Russell G. Baldwin (I)	146
COUNCIL	
Lynette Carlisle (I)	133
✓Jane O. Gilbert (I)	282
✓Thomas D. Hyatt	283

Belville

MAYOR	
✓Kenneth D. Messer Sr. (I)	5
COMMISSIONER	
✓Markland S. Carper	5
✓Cindy Messer	5

Navassa

MAYOR	
✓Louis (Bobby) Brown (I)	61
COUNCIL	
✓Thomas V. Merrick (I)	56
✓Walter Williams (I)	56
✓Eulis A. Willis (I)	58

Boiling Spring Lakes

MAYOR	
Herbert C. Bunten	95
Charles A. Schneiders	174
✓Mark Stewart	269
COMMISSIONER	
✓Bert H. Buckbee	321
Martha H. Bullard	102
Gregory P. Holley	126
George H. Lanier Jr.	106
✓Warren Plowden	279
L.K. (Randy) Randolph	76
Phyllis O. Vaughan	51

Southport

MAYOR	
C.B. (Cash) Caroon (I)	314
✓Norman R. Holden	490
ALDERMAN (Ward I)	
✓Mary H. (Meezie) Childs (I)	493
J. Walton Willis	274
ALDERMAN (Ward II)	
✓Neilson E. Adams (I)	408
✓William W. Delaney II	443
Paul W. Sweeney (I)	372

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THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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THE REMAINS of a Corvette driven by Steve Smith of Ash came to rest in the median of the U.S. 17 Shalotte bypass. The logging truck overturned, blocking the southbound lanes.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Fatal Bypass Accident Revives Debate Over Need For Overpass

BY DOUG RUTTER

A fiery auto wreck that killed a local businessman and high school junior last week has breathed new life into talk of the need for an overpass where the U.S. 17 Shalotte bypass intersects N.C. 130.

Steve Allen Smith, 39, of Ash, died at the scene of the accident last Friday morning. Misty Dawn Carmichael, 16, of Shalotte, died Saturday in New Hanover Regional Medical Center from injuries sustained in the wreck.

Shalotte Police Chief Rodney Gause said the two were driving separate cars and crossing the bypass on N.C. 130 when a logging truck headed south on the bypass failed to stop at a red light and collided with both vehicles.

Smith, owner of Photographic Concepts in Shalotte, was traveling east toward town in a Chevrolet Corvette. Miss Carmichael, a junior at West Brunswick High School, was driving west toward the school in a Pontiac Firebird when the wreck occurred at 8:05 a.m.

The southbound truck, which was owned by T&J Trucking Co. of Maysville, struck the Firebird first and then hit the Corvette, dragging it 320 feet south on the bypass.

Gause said the loaded truck traveled 384 feet after impact before it overturned and logs spilled onto the right shoulder of the highway.

The collision knocked Miss Carmichael through the sunroof of the Firebird, and she was thrown about 50 feet from the vehicle. Police were unable to determine if she was wearing a seat belt.

The driver of the truck, Charles Maurice Lassiter, 36, of Maysville, was treated for minor injuries at The Brunswick Hospital in Supply last Friday and released the same day.

Gause said the truck driver was charged with two counts of death by motor vehicle and one count each of improper equipment and a stop light violation.

The improper equipment violation was for faulty brakes on the truck. "The capability of the brakes wasn't up to par," Gause said.

Based on evidence gathered at the scene and an N.C.

Division of Motor Vehicles inspection of the truck, Gause said it appears Lassiter never applied the brakes.

"We found no hot spots on the tires of the truck he was driving," Gause said. "The tires were never dragged."

The deaths were the 12th and 13th to occur on Brunswick County roads this year. The county had 14 highway fatalities through the end of November last year, said N.C. Highway Patrol spokesperson Ruby Oakley.

They were the first fatalities to result from an accident on the bypass, which opened May 22 after nearly 30 years on the drawing board.

"It's the worst accident we've had in years," Gause said. The truck and Corvette both burst into flames following the accident, according to eyewitnesses.

The wreck left debris such as pieces of metal, fiber-

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Man Killed In Single Car Crash

A man was killed early Saturday morning, Nov. 2, when the 1976 Toyota pick-up truck he was driving went off the right side of the road.

Allen Ray Lowery, 20, of Ash was driving straight on Big Neck Road (S.R. 1335) about 11.9 miles west of Shalotte at 1:30 a.m. when he ran off the right side of the road and hit a culvert (pipe) in the ground.

Ruby Oakley, spokesperson for the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington, said that Trooper J.V. Dove estimated Lowery was driving 60 mph when he struck the pipe.

She also said that alcohol may have been a factor. Trooper Dove estimated the cost of damage to the pick-up truck at about \$1,200, said Mrs. Oakley.

(See POLICE, Page 2-A)

Incumbents Fare Well Across South Brunswick Islands Area

BY DOUG RUTTER

Residents of most Brunswick County municipalities indicated in Tuesday's elections that they are generally satisfied with the way their town's business is being conducted.

Voters in 16 towns returned 29 incumbents to office, and booted out only 10.

In the South Brunswick Islands, most incumbents who chose to seek re-election were returned to office. That was true in Calabash, Sunset Beach, Ocean Isle Beach, Holden Beach and Varnamtown.

Shalotte voters replaced two of the five incumbents who ran for election.

Voters elected people to 56 seats on 16 municipal boards Tuesday, and filled five other seats on local hospital and sanitary district boards. Outcomes of two races—one in Bolivia and one in Holden Beach—are still uncertain as a result of apparent tie votes.

The election results will not be official until votes are canvassed at 11 a.m. today (Thursday), according to Brunswick County Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt. All challenges must be made by next Tuesday.

Among the incumbents who lost Tuesday were Southport Mayor C.B. "Cash" Caroon and Leland Mayor Russell Baldwin.

Long Beach voters also cleaned house, getting rid of long-time Mayor Johnny Vereen in the Oct. 8 primary and two incumbent commissioners Tuesday.

Ausley New Holden Mayor

In one of the more interesting local races, Holden Beach voters elected Wally Ausley to the mayor's post and Gil Bass, Gay Atkins, Sid Swarts and David Sandifer to the board of

commissioners. Ms. Atkins was the only incumbent seeking re-election.

The holder of the fifth seat on the town board was still unknown Tuesday night, as Jim Fournier and Roger Williams both received 136 votes.

If the two candidates are still tied following a Thursday recount, they will either flip a coin or draw straws to see who gets the final seat, said Holden Beach Board of Elections Chairperson Elizabeth Dameron.

Ausley received 220 votes in the mayoral race to defeat two-term commissioner Bob Buck, who received 72 votes.

A political newcomer, Ausley said he was "pleased and humbled" by the outcome. "I just want the people to be involved in our community," said Ausley, who will succeed John Tandy as mayor.

Shalotte Mayor Re-Elected

In Shalotte, Mayor Sarah Tripp easily defeated challenger Beamon Hewett, but two of the four aldermen seeking re-election were defeated.

Alderman David Gause was re-elected to a third four-year term, while Wilton Harrelson was elected to a two-year term.

"I'm completely tickled," Gause said Tuesday night. "I'm glad everything went the way it did."

Town board members J.G. "Jody" Simmons and Joe M. Hewett Jr. were defeated, and will be replaced by former mayor Roney Cheers and political newcomer Morris Hall.

In the mayor's race, Mrs. Tripp beat another former mayor, Beamon Hewett, 200 to 135.

Hewett won by 12 votes in the Shalotte precinct, but Mrs. Tripp captured 76 more votes than her opponent in Frying Pan precinct.

"I think it's wonderful. I'm having a ball," Mrs. Tripp said. "You always have a doubt in your mind, but I really appreciate everybody's support."

Two And Two

Elsewhere in the South Brunswick Islands, Ocean Isle Beach voters re-elected both incumbents who were running—Mayor Betty Williamson and Commissioner Debbie Fox—and elected two new faces to the town board.

Janet Sanders and Kendall Suh were elected to four-year term on the board of commissioners. Neither have held political offices previously. They succeed Virginia Gibson and Pearl Steele, who did not seek re-election.

"I'm very excited, and I am certainly looking forward to working with the Town of Ocean Isle Beach in the next four years," Mrs. Sanders said.

Ms. Fox, who received 70 votes and finished third in the town board race, said she was glad to be re-elected.

"I'm pleased with the people I'll be working with, and I think we'll have a real good four years, a real productive four years," she said.

Sunset Elects Cheek

At Sunset Beach, voters elected Mayor Mason Barber to a third two-year term and Councilwoman Mary K. Griffith to a third four-year term.

Cherri Cheek received 105 votes to win the

REDISTRICTING APPROVED

Voters Elect 2-Year Terms, Support Exit Poll Issues

BY TERRY POPE

By almost a 4-1 margin, voters who went to the polls Tuesday said they want to elect county commissioners and school board members to two-year terms.

By an estimated 3-1 margin, county voters also approved a plan to redraw the county's five residency district lines.

The term vote surprised Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Chairman Kelly Holden.

"My biggest fear is that county government will regress to the way business was conducted 20 years ago," said Holden. "It comes at a time, too, when I felt that we were turning things around."

The controversial issue was placed on the ballot in the spring by State Rep. E. David Redwine, who first asked the conventions of both political parties to take a stand on the issue. The Brunswick County Republican Party, in control of all five seats on the board of commissioners, voted against two-year terms while county Democrats favored it. Redwine then decided to put the issue before voters in the off-year election.

The mandate means that beginning with the 1994 elections all five seats on the Brunswick County Board of Education and Brunswick County Board of Commissioners will be up for election at the same time. Presently members of both boards are elected to staggered, four-year terms, which means that at most three seats are open at any given time.

About 24 percent, or 6,899 out of the county's 28,405 registered voters, cast ballots in Tuesday's election.

"That's about four percent better than I predicted," said Lynda Britt, supervisor of elections.

Most also chose to participate in an optional exit poll on three issues targeted by the county commissioners.

A breakdown on the turnout in rural areas, where the county issues were the only items on the ballot, in comparison with municipalities was not available.

While studying the election returns at the county government complex Tuesday, Holden said he didn't think the county followed party lines in its vote, noting that he could detect no trends from precinct totals.

With all but Oak Island I and Hood Creek precincts reporting, the vote was 4,569 for two-year terms and 1,330 for four-year terms. Members of both the board of commissioners and board of education are presently elected to staggered four-year terms.

Holden predicted that two-year terms would result in fewer people seeking office.

"I'm not saying if I'll run or not," said Holden, "but I do think we're going to lose a lot of good people."

Voters who favored two-year terms argue that representatives are more responsive to the people if they must run for election every two years. In North Carolina, 94 of 100 counties elect commissioners to four-year terms.

Holden predicted that long-range issues, such as county zoning and water expansion, would suffer under a board elected every two years.

"The possibility is that you set up a lot of uncertainty," said Holden. "I've always tried to base my decisions on what I felt was the consensus of the majority of the people."

Redistricting Passes

Commissioners placed before voters a plan to divide the county based on the 1990 U.S. Census population counts so that each district would contain approximately 10,197 residents.

Although it was a generally non-controversial issue, it had County Manager David Clegg busy Monday. People were calling the manager's office for advice on how to vote in the redistricting issue.

"The phone has been ringing off the hook," said Clegg. "I've been telling them to vote, yes, yes, yes."

Residents were concerned that the new district lines would disrupt county precinct lines, which isn't the case, said Clegg. Had this plan failed, voters would have been asked to return to the polls until one passed.

With all but two Hood Creek and Oak Island I precincts reporting, voters supported the plan by a vote of 3,853 to 1,769.

Exit Poll

Voters countywide could choose to participate in a non-binding exit poll that asked for residents' opinions on county zoning, non-partisan school board elections and establishment of fire and rescue service districts.

Those ballots had to be counted by hand, with returns slower coming in.

With all precincts reporting, voters favored all three proposals by substantial margins: non-partisan school board elections 4,328 to 1,136; county zoning, 3,449 to 1,955; and fire and rescue service districts, 3,856 to 1,625.

Commissioners Holden and Jerry Jones kept an eye on the results of the zoning poll. Both have endorsed a comprehensive zoning plan for the entire county.

Holden said he thought the almost 2-1 margin "reinforces the position of advocates of zoning."

only other available seat on the town council, replacing Al Odom, who did not seek re-election.

Cletus Waldmiller garnered 70 votes. "I'm just real happy," said Mrs. Cheek from her home Tuesday night. "I'm looking forward to working with the other council members."

"Hopefully we will all have the same ideas in mind for the growth and development of the area. I am personally for controlled growth for the entire area."

Noe Joins Sanborn

Voters in Calabash re-elected Jon Sanborn and elected former Carolina Shores Property Owners Association Manager Robert Noe to the two town board seats from District 2.

Former Planning Board Chairman Warren "Bud" Knapp came up 16 votes short in the District 2 race, while District 1 Commissioner Keith Hardee was re-elected without opposition.

Elsewhere In Brunswick

In Varnamtown, voters re-elected John David Dawson to the town board along with political newcomers Faye Galloway and Tonya Robbins. Mayor Judy Galloway, who ran unopposed, will serve her second two-year term.

Bolivia voters elected Mayor Ina Mae Mintz to a sixth consecutive term, and Alice Lesh, Sarah Knox and Ella Jane Wescott were elected to the town board of aldermen.

Thurston "Tut" Clemmons and Sherry Willetts tied for fourth with 19 votes each. If they are still tied after the final tally Thursday,

(See INCUMBENTS, Page 2-A)