

MATTER REFERRED TO CLEGG

Angry Resident Takes 3-Year-Old SAD Bill Dispute To Utilities Board

BY TERRY POPE

Jerry Caison has spent five years fighting an apparent legal error which stems from Brunswick County's first Special Assessment District (SAD) water project near Holden Beach.

When his 78-year-old father received notice last week that his bank account would be frozen if he didn't pay a \$3,100 assessment, it made Caison angry.

So angry that he began shouting Monday at the Brunswick County Utility Operations Board, which is responsible for overseeing the county's water expansion projects.

"I'm sorry I acted like I did a while ago," Caison later said, "but it's enough to stir you up. But I've had it."

SAD 1 was completed in June 1988 at a cost of \$5.98 per foot of road frontage for property owners within the assessment area. It includes the Holiday Acres, Holiday Pines and Holiday Ranches subdivisions off of Holden Beach Road (N.C. 130).

Between the Caison property, which fronts N.C. 130, and a private road to one of the subdivisions is a 20-foot

strip of land owned by developer Alfonza Roach. Caison says he has no access to the water line because of the 20-foot buffer strip and should not have been assessed as part of the SAD.

"I've been fighting this for five years," said Caison. "I've done everything they've said to do."

The Caison property, mostly farmland, has access to a water line on N.C. 130, but the family has opted not to connect.

Caison said he hired a surveyor to prove the 20-foot strip wasn't his. He carried to Monday's meeting a letter from Roach, who served on the UOB when the SAD 1 project was approved.

In the letter, Roach claims ownership of the disputed strip of property.

"Why didn't they do it legal to start with?" asked Caison.

Most of the persons involved with SAD 1 are no longer on the UOB. It was also before UOB Attorney Mike Ramos and Public Utilities Director Jerry Webb came aboard, too.

"What I'm trying to do is find a way to settle the matter," said Webb.

The UOB will ask County Attorney David Clegg to investigate the county's options in possibly setting aside the assessment.

Both public hearings were held on SAD 1 and the matter wasn't corrected in 1988, said Ramos. Caison said he complained to Roach. Board minutes show the matter was never brought up at any of the meetings, said Lynne Haas, UOB Clerk.

"We couldn't do anything about it if we wanted to," said Ramos. "I didn't hear anything about it until a year or two later. It pops up when the bill goes out. That's the purpose of these hearings, to show us where the errors are. After a project is closed out, there are limited things you can do."

UOB member Burton Meyers made a motion to hold the \$3,100 assessment in abeyance until the property owner requests water service. But that motion was withdrawn so the board could enter into executive session to discuss the matter.

The board reached a consensus to take no action on the matter, said Chairman Al Morrison. It instructed Webb to meet with Clegg on the matter and to report back at the next meeting.

Other Business

In other business, the board:
 ■ Welcomed a new member, William Browning of Route 1, Leland. Browning was appointed by Brunswick County Commissioners last month to replace D.V. Jones of Shallotte, who resigned. He is a Leland businessman who lives near the Northwest community.

■ Heard from Bob Black of Shell Point, who represents property owners petitioning for county water. The 1992-93 Water Department budget includes a request to fund \$1.8 million a water transmission line down Mt. Pisgah Church Road to serve Shell Point.



BROWNING

Churches Mark Easter With Special Services

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will hold two worship services Easter Sunday, one at 9:30 a.m. and another at 11 a.m.

Leading the inter-denominational services Sunday will be the Rev. Charles Petty, a Baptist minister from Raleigh. A nursery is provided.

Sunday school will be held at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. from April 26 through the last Sunday in November.

Camp UMC

Camp United Methodist Church will hold a Holy Thursday Service, April 16, at 7 p.m., and a Good Friday Service, April 17, at 7 p.m. at the church on Main Street, Shallotte.

Interchurch Council

Easter sunrise service, sponsored by the South Brunswick Inter-Church Council, will be held at the Holden Beach Fishing Pier with the Rev. Jack Hancox, pastor of the Holden Beach Baptist Mission, leading services, at 5:45 a.m. Services will start at 6:08 a.m.

Jim Hartman, retired educator and consultant for the Southern Baptist Convention, will bring the message. Coffee, hot chocolate and doughnuts will be served afterward.

Baptist Mission

A Maundy Thursday communion will be held tonight (Thursday) at 7 o'clock at The Holden Beach Baptist Mission on N.C. 130, Holden Beach.

A sunrise service will be held at 5:45 a.m. at the Holden Beach Fishing Pier Easter followed by an 11 a.m. worship service at the church.

Seaside UMC

The Festival of the Resurrection will be observed by the Seaside United Methodist Church congregation on N.C. 179 near Ocean Isle.

The Rev. Camille Yorkey Edwards will preach at the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services.

Music will be provided by the adult choir under the direction of Marjorie Crissman, with Wayne Stanaland on trumpet. The children's Wesley Choir will perform the offertory anthem, *Sing Allelu*.

Mildren Bernard and Betty Bray will coordinate fellowship time and flowers are arranged by Robin Walters.

Supply Baptist

A special Good Friday service, a dramatic monologue by Robert Hall titled *The Innkeeper*, will be delivered at the Supply Baptist Church, Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m.

The church is located on U.S. 17 at Supply.

Shell Point

Shell Point Baptist Church will hold a 7 a.m. outdoor Easter service at the church on Shell Point Road east of Shallotte.

Doughnuts and coffee will be served in the fellowship hall afterward.

St. Luke Lutheran

That's My Cross He Is Dying On is the theme of a dialogue sermon on Good Friday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m., between the Rev. Donald Safritz, pastor, and Timothy Robinson at the Lockwood Folly Community Center on Stanbury Road, sponsored by St. Luke Lutheran Church of Shallotte.

St. Luke will hold a sunrise service at Shallotte Middle School, 7 a.m., on the school grounds.

Sunday school will be at 9 a.m. followed by a 10 a.m. worship service with Holy Communion at the school.

Sabbath Home

Sabbath Home Baptist Church of Sabbath Home Road, Holden Beach, will present a musical, *Hallelujah: What A Savior*, Sunday, April 26, at 11 a.m.

First Baptist

First Baptist Church of Boiling Spring Lakes will celebrate the Resurrection with a sunrise service Easter Sunday at the swimming area of Spring Lake on Pine Road.

Service will begin at 6:30 a.m. Those attending may want to bring lawn chairs.

Shallotte First

Shallotte First Baptist Church will hold an Easter sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. on the front lawn.

Breakfast will follow in the fellowship hall. The church is located on Main Street, Shallotte.

Harvest Fellowship Pentecostal

Harvest Fellowship Pentecostal Church will present the Easter play, *Daybreak* Saturday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the church, which is located on Gray Bridge Road off Holden Beach Road, N.C. 130 east.

Ocean Isle Beach Chapel

Two services are planned Sunday by the nondenominational Ocean Isle Beach Chapel at Ocean Isle Beach.

The first will be held at 8:30 a.m. on the strand adjacent to the pier. The second will be held at 11 a.m. in the chapel on West 3rd Street.

The Rev. Paul Curtis of Atlanta, Ga., will be the guest minister.

Regular chapel services begin Memorial Day weekend and continue through Labor Day weekend.

Typical Weather Ahead

Typical spring weather is in the forecast for the next few days, with little rainfall and mild temperatures expected.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday the weather outlook remains promising.

"We expect both temperatures and rainfall to be near normal," said Canady. "It looks like a typical spring-time pattern for the next few days."

He expects temperatures to range in the low 50s at night and into the middle 70s during the day, with no more than a half-inch of rainfall.

For the period April 7 through 13, Canady recorded a maximum high of 83 degrees on April 8 and a minimum low of 51 degrees on April 7.

A daily average high of 76 degrees and an average nightly low of 55 degrees combined for an average daily temperature of 65 degrees, or about two degrees above normal.

He recorded 1.86 inches of rain during the period.

Voter List Stands At 29,921

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register of deeds, coroner, State House, State Senate and three unopposed District Court judge seats. They will also vote in state and national races.

There are 25,167 whites, 4,697 blacks and 57 of other races registered in Brunswick County. Female voters outnumber males, 15,857 to 14,064.

Unaffiliated voters are allowed to vote in the Republican primary in North Carolina, but not in the Democratic race.

Election officials at the voting places have been instructed by the N.C. Board of Elections not to automatically issue unaffiliated voters a Republican ballot unless the voter personally requests information as to what ballots he or she is entitled to receive or unless the voter announces an intention to vote Republican.

Brunswick County Democrats last week adopted a resolution asking that unaffiliated voters also be allowed to vote in future Democratic primaries. They argue that it gives Republicans an unfair advantage, that those voters will also be likely to vote for Republicans in November.

Post Office Moving Day Nears

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now at the Shallotte post office. "I recommend that people come in and rent a box before we open the South Brunswick branch," Bringoli said. "It will take less time and they can notify everyone of their new address."

Both locations will close for lunch as part of new time schedules announced this week. Bringoli said he did not receive additional clerks requested for the local offices and anticipates additional staffing cuts in the future. In anticipation of increased automation of mail-handling, the U.S. Postal Service is generally not filling vacancies as they occur.

Beginning May 2, the Shallotte post office hours will be as follows: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., with the office closed for lunch from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. On Saturdays it will open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

South Brunswick branch hours

will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. until noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. till noon. This office will be closed for lunch from 12 to 1 p.m. and on Wednesday afternoons, as well as all day Saturday.

Also starting May 4, there will be additional parking spaces available at the Shallotte post office on the Pine Street side and in the lot behind it.

"This should help alleviate some of the traffic congestion around the post office," Bringoli said.

FACES DEMOCRATIC CHALLENGER

Baxter Cleared Of DWI

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The blood-alcohol test was taken at Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport following the accident. Under normal circumstances, it takes from two to three weeks for SBI lab work to return.

The other driver, Walter A. Lumsden, 63, suffered neck and back injuries in the accident. Ms. Baxter received stitches for a cut on the forehead. Both were treated and

released. She faces a Democratic challenger in her bid for re-election to the school board in District 4, J. Bryant Pergerson, 35, of Boiling Spring Lakes.

Earlier, Ms. Baxter had indicated she would withdraw from the race if blood tests revealed she was legally impaired, saying she would never do anything to hurt the Brunswick County Schools and its children.

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