



Democrats Sweep Brunswick County Elections

BRUNSWICK COUNTY ELECTION RESULTS	
(Contested Races Only)	
County Commissioner	
District 1	
✓ Don Warren (D)	11,621
Joseph Brust (R)	9,538
District 3	
✓ Wayland Vereen (D)	11,168
Robert Slockett (R)	10,270
District 4	
✓ Tom Rabon Sr. (D)	12,174
Patricia Young (R)	9,211
Board of Education	
District 1	
✓ Thurman Gause (D)	10,657
Janet Pope (R)	10,549
District 3	
William Carter (D)	10,117
✓ Bill Fairley (R)	11,109
District 4	
✓ Donna Baxter (D)	11,915
Pete Barnette (R)	9,317
Register of Deeds	
✓ Robert Robinson (D)	11,716
Arthur Knox (R)	10,190
NC Senate, 18th Dist.	
✓ (I) R.C. Soles (D)	11,933
Jim Whitworth (R)	8,854
R. Hollembeak (L)	828
NC House, 14 Dist.	
✓ (I) D. Redwine (D)	12,432
✓ Dewey Hill (D)	9,810
Randy Sullivan (R)	8,085
Governor	
✓ James B. Hunt (D)	11,519
Jim Gardner (R)	9,442
Scott McLaughlin (L)	1,245
U.S. House of Reps.	
✓ (j) Charles Rose (D)	12,537
Robert C. Anderson (R)	8,867
Marc Kelley (L)	579
U.S. Senate	
(i) Terry Sanford (D)	10,019
✓ Lauch Faircloth (R)	10,606
Bobby Yates Emory (L)	1,118
President	
✓ Bill Clinton (D)	10,176
(1) George Bush (R)	8,833
Ross Perot (Ind.)	3,347
Key: D-Democrat; R-Republican; L-Libertarian; I-Incumbent	

BY SUSAN USHER
Brunswick County Democrats were determined not to lose out on what appeared to be their best opportunity in recent years: a strong party ticket at both the national and state level combined with voters in a mood for change.

Rallying to a call last spring by Chairman W.A. (Bill) Stanley Jr. for party unity and team effort, local Democrats delivered the vote Tuesday night.

"We've got a Democrat for president, a Democrat for governor and Democrats in (local office). Ain't it fun!" a jubilant-sounding Rep. E. David Redwine said before leading about 200 party faithful in a brief rendition of "Happy Days Are Here Again" at Democratic Headquarters south of Bolivia.

Local Democrats' victory celebration began early Tuesday night. Several hundred party members, many of them county natives, gathered at the headquarters south of Bolivia to eat together, collect door prizes and watch state and national returns on wide-screen TV.

A three-man team—Jimmy Moore, Tom Simmons and Rex Gore—posted results faxed from the election center in Bolivia on a large board and announced them over the public address system with a running commentary.

Pearly Vereen of Exum wasn't surprised that county results echoed those of a mock election at Waccamaw Elementary School Tuesday, where Democrats swept every seat on the ballot from the county to the White House.

A former county commissioner and former county employee who was fired from his job under a Republican administration, Vereen had predicted a Democratic sweep Tuesday.

"It's the economy," he said. "People are concerned. Did you know soybeans are the same price

they were in 1957? Something's got to change."

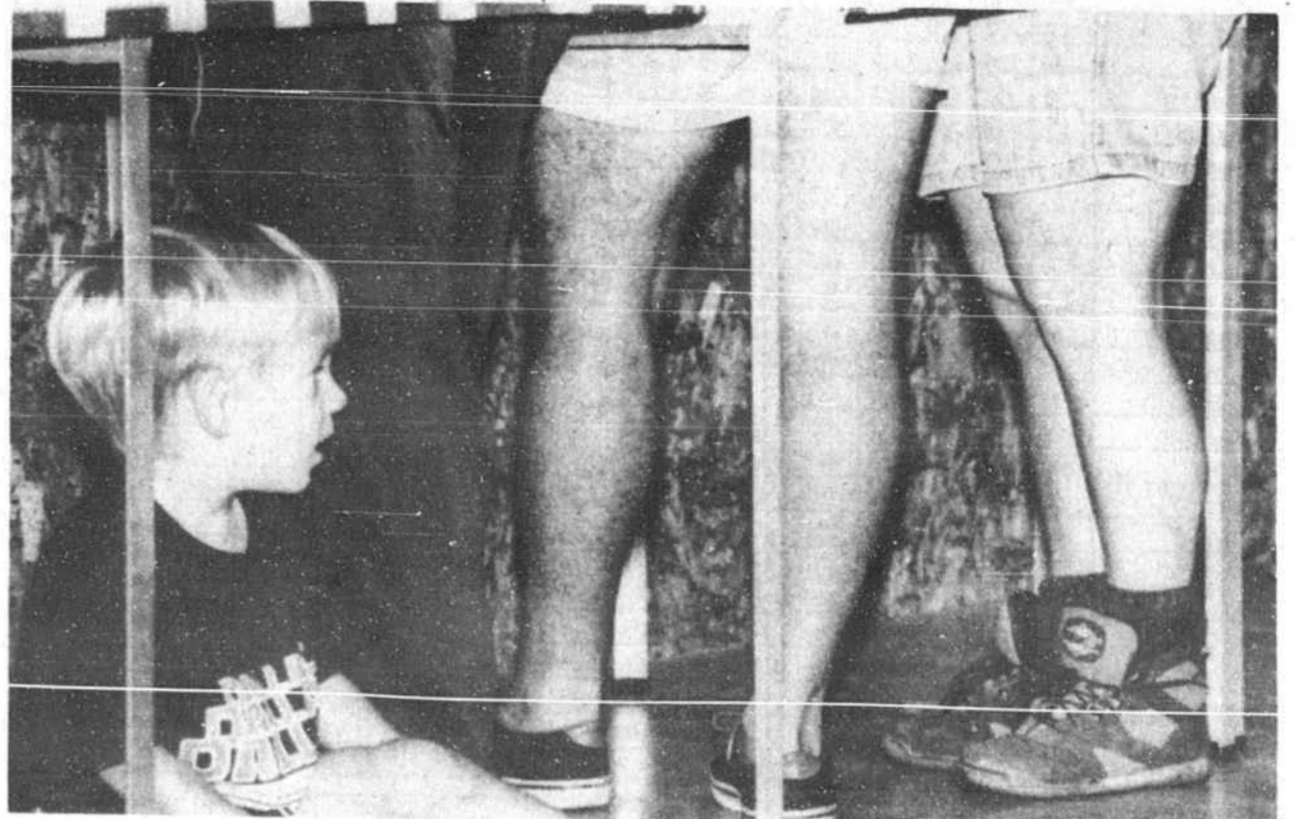
Onlookers attributed the Democratic Party's local success to a combination of factors that included concerns about the economy and a desire for change, as well as a more attractive national ticket and lots of "teamwork" by local party members.

"We worked extra hard to bring the Democrats together," said Democratic Party Chairman W.A. (Bill) Stanley Jr. "They haven't been in the past few years. We had better communication and we invited everybody to participate; we didn't exclude anyone."

A public "tired of a Republican administration from the White House on down" helped, he said. "It's the way they think: the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, while we Democrats put the people first."

While the county party hasn't yet rebuilt to its former strength locally, Stanley is predicting a brighter future for local Democrats.

"We've got a party rebuilding. It's not built but it will be stronger. We've got better organization and structure, more membership and more enthusiasm."



VOTERS COME IN all heights and pants styles, as Jon Barbee learned Tuesday morning at Shallotte Precinct. Jon was waiting as his father, Michael Barbee, 35, voted for his first time.

Three Democrats Win County Commissioners' Seats

BY ERIC CARLSON
Democrats won a clear majority on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Tuesday with victories in all three district races.

The newly elected commissioners will replace three incumbents who chose not to run for re-election and will step down from the all-Republican board.

Shalotte insurance agent Don Warren took the District 1 seat by defeating retired school superintendent Joseph Brust of Ocean Isle Beach.

In the closest of the three races,

Yaupon Beach propane dealer and former one-term commissioner Waylon Vereen won the race to represent District 3 over retired research chemist Bob Slockett, also of Yaupon Beach.

Tom Rabon Sr., a retired postmaster and real estate broker from Winnabow won an easy victory over businesswoman Patty Young of Winnabow for the District 4 commissioner's post.

According to unofficial totals released by the board of elections Tuesday night, Warren took 18 of 22 precincts for a 2,083-vote win-

ning margin over Brust. Vereen won 16 precincts to top Slockett by 898 votes. Rabon defeated Young in all but two precincts to garner a 2,963-vote victory.

While all three new commissioners agreed that the Democratic Party's presidential victory helped their cause, none thought it was a major factor in the local sweep of county board races.

"I can't say it was just coattails. I don't read that much into it," Warren said shortly after the last precinct tally was announced.

"I think the Democrats benefitted

from the general mood of the country and the focus on the economy," Warren said. "But I also think the people here recognized that we had a strong slate of candidates. It was a good ticket."

Warren said he doesn't have a firm agenda for his first months in office. He said he wanted to "sit down with (County Manager) David Clegg and take a good look at the budget."

He noted that it was "interesting timing" for the board of commis-

(See ELECTION, Page 2-A)

Zoning Plan Passes First Vote 3-2 On Election Eve

BY ERIC CARLSON
On the eve of an election that will replace three of its members, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday voted 3-2 in favor of a zoning ordinance, raised the salaries of all county workers and left consideration of a proposed leash law to the incoming board.

As expected, Chairman Kelly Holden voted with commissioners Gene Pinkerton and Jerry Jones to approve a zoning law that would regulate land use in unincorporated areas of Brunswick County. Commissioners Frankie Rabon and Donald Shaw voted against the measure.

Because approval of the law was

not unanimous, it must be voted on again at a later meeting. Holden said he would ask the board to approve the zoning law again Nov. 16, the last regular meeting for him and outgoing commissioners Pinkerton and Rabon.

If approved at that meeting, the zoning ordinance would go into effect July 1. The new board would be responsible for setting up the apparatus to implement the ordinance.

Several commissioners candidates have expressed reservation about the law and one has publicly said she would vote to repeal it.

The question of zoning was put to a vote in a non-binding countywide referendum last year, when it was endorsed by a two-to-one margin.

Numerous public hearings were held to collect input before drafting an ordinance. After a series of joint public workshops the law was reviewed at a public hearing.

Still, several people at Monday's meeting complained that the law was hastily considered and rushed into law without sufficient citizen input.

"Evidently it's too late to reconsider this," said Rabon before the vote. "I want to go on record against it. It will be a tremendous burden on poor people in the county and will take away privileges we have enjoyed for years and years."

After the vote, Holden said he felt that the Zoning Board of Adjustment, which will consider requests to modify the law, should be comprised of residents of the county's unincorporated areas. Other commissioners voiced support for the idea.

Some zoning opponents have charged that the ordinance was drafted to benefit resident of towns that already have zoning at the expense of rural residents who don't approve of the law. In the referendum, zoning received its widest sup-

port from municipal precincts.

Employees Get Raises

On another issue, after hearing the results of a study of county positions and pay scales, the commissioners voted unanimously to raise employee salaries to at least the minimum amount recommended by a study of similar positions across the state. The recently completed study was conducted by David M. Griffith and Associates of Raleigh at the request of the commissioners.

In addition to the raises suggested by the study, the board voted to increase by 2.5 percent the salaries of employees whose pay scale was within statewide norms and whose positions were not recommended for an increase.

Although the study recommend no pay raises for department heads—the highest-paid county employees—the board voted to give them the 2.5 percent increase.

The raises were in addition to a 2.5 percent salary hike approved by the board at its final budget workshop June 8. County Manager David Clegg estimated the increases would cost the county about \$300,000. Money for the raises was included in

the 1992-93 budget pending completion of the salary study, Clegg said.

The commissioners also agreed to implement the recommendations of an in-house salary study of the sheriff's and register of deeds departments. Both elected officials asked not to be included in DMG study.

The in-house study conducted by the county finance department, like the DMG study, used statewide data to establish average salaries for similar sheriff's department positions. It recommended salary increases that would bring the pay scale in line with state norms.

Most sheriff's department pay raises ranged between 6 and 10 percent, primarily for lower paid deputies and detectives. Employees not recommended for an increase were given the 2.5 percent raise.

Leash Law Tabled

In the board's last action before adjourning, commissioners voted 3 to 2, with Holden and Pinkerton dissenting, to table consideration of a county leash law.

Holden had asked the board to vote on the proposed ordinance it

(See ZONING, Page 2-A)

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Police Seeking Suspects In 2 Shallotte Robberies

BY DOUG RUTTER
Shalotte police are investigating two armed robberies of local businesses that occurred within 2 1/2 hours of each other Sunday night and early Monday morning.

The Market Express convenience store was robbed at gunpoint just before 2 a.m. Monday, and Hardee's fast food restaurant was held up around 10:35 p.m. Sunday. Nobody was injured.

Shalotte Police Chief Rodney Gause said he doesn't think the two robberies are related. But the Hardee's robbery may have been com-

mitted by the same man who robbed a Subway shop in New Hanover County earlier Sunday night.

The Shallotte Hardee's was robbed around 10:35 p.m., after the restaurant had closed for business.

Five employees were cleaning up, said Gause, when a black man followed an employee who had been taking out trash through a rear door into the restaurant. The robber pulled a gun and ordered the employees to get into a walk-in cooler. He then stole an undetermined amount of cash and fled.

Employees described the suspect as a clean-cut black man in his late 20s, about 6 feet 3 inches tall and weighing 175 pounds. He had a light complexion.

Workers told police the man was wearing a purple hat and a white shirt with purple trim. He was carrying a gun that appeared to be a chrome- or nickel-plated, .38-caliber revolver.

While police were investigating the Hardee's robbery, Gause said the Market Express was robbed at gunpoint around 1:58 a.m. Monday.

A black man thought to be in his early 20s entered the convenience store and picked up a soft drink and candy bar. He walked to the counter and pulled a gun out of his back pocket and demanded money.

Gause said the cashier told police the man appeared to be holding a small chrome or stainless steel automatic handgun.

(See ARMED, Page 2-A)



POLICE SKETCHES depict suspects in Sunday's armed robberies. On the left is what police believe the robber of Hardee's looks like; on the right is the Market Express suspect.



Feathers And Bones

With their plumed hats flaring and trombones glistening, the West Brunswick High School Band marches toward the Holden Beach Bridge in the Festival By The Sea parade Saturday morning. More festival photos and stories, inside.

STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON