

Seay Accused Of Recruiting WBHS Players

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Most recruiting allegations involve schools in the same city or county. Strunk said he has never heard of one high school trying to recruit students from a school far away.

Polk County is about 250 miles from West Brunswick. "It would be rare because of the distance involved," Strunk said.

Strunk said schools or coaches found guilty of recruiting are subject to penalties imposed by the NCH-

SAA. Penalties could range from a reprimand for the coach to one year of probation and loss of playoff rights for the school.

"It could be anything within that spectrum depending upon the severity of the case," Strunk said.

Seay, the winningest football coach in West Brunswick history, was 48-20 in six years in Shallotte. He never had a losing season after taking over the program in 1986.

He led West Brunswick to its best record ever in 1991, a 13-2 season that included the school's first trip to

the state championship game. The Trojans lost 21-6 to Thomasville.

Seay resigned as head football coach at West in May 1992 to take a job as athletic director and head football coach at the new Polk County school, which is 20 miles from his hometown of Spartanburg, S.C. Seay recently resigned as athletic director at the school.

In their first season under Seay, Polk's Wolverines had a 3-7 record in football. In Brett's first season at West Brunswick, the Trojans had an 11-3 record and won the state 2A championship.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

REAL ESTATE AGENTS, health department officials and interested citizens listen to state legal and health experts explain the relationship between septic system capacities and home occupancy levels at a meeting in Bolivia last week.

School, County Boards To Meet Friday

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Board member Bill Fairley urged audience members at Monday's meeting to support the school board's bid for additional funding.

"We have been wrestling now for six weeks or more with a very difficult budget situation. Our conclusion, after a lot of argument and discussion, is that we cannot operate an adequate system of education with-

out more funding."

He said the system not only needs to work with the county to provide more money for the coming year, but for the future as well if county youngsters are to receive a "decent education".

"We need to be planning five to six years down the road," said Fairley.

Should county commissioners deny the request for more funds, the school board has the legal right to appeal to the Clerk of Superior Court, Peterson said.

The clerk can choose to attempt arbitration, or refer the matter to court. If the clerk hears the issue, then either commissioners or the school board have the right to appeal that decision to Superior Court.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

DON WARREN (left), Chairman of the Brunswick County Commissioners, congratulates Lt. Ronald Hewett for receiving the National DARE Officers Association's Officer of the Year award for 1993. The commissioners presented Hewett with a certificate of recognition Monday night.

Board Ignores Deadline On Threatened Redistricting Suit

BY ERIC CARLSON

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners took no action to head off a threatened lawsuit demanding that it create a black-majority voting district, as the 90-day deadline set for action on the proposal passed without formal comment Monday night.

The board made no mention of the deadline or the threatened legal action during their regular meeting.

As a result, the lawyer who claims to represent "a group of black voters" said Tuesday that he will file a lawsuit charging that Brunswick County has violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by not re-drawing voter districts or changing election rules to assure that blacks can elect representatives to county boards.

"Our position has not changed a bit," said James Wal, director of litigation for Legal Services of the Lower Cape Fear, Inc. "We intend to

file suit. When I get everything together and ready, I'll do it. Other than that I have no comment as we are going into litigation."

Wall appeared before the commissioners at an April 19 meeting claiming that the way Brunswick County's current voting districts are drawn makes it extremely difficult for a black candidate to be elected. He offered a proposed map showing how a new voting district could be drawn with a black voter majority.

The proposed black district follows the western bank of the Cape Fear River from the Columbus County line to Southport, then zig-zags west across U.S. 17 almost to the South Carolina border.

A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision voiced strong disapproval of a new North Carolina Congressional district that was created to increase the election chances of a black candidate for the House of Representatives.

Although his proposed new voting district closely resembles the one criticized by the Supreme Court, Wall said "nothing in that decision has discouraged me from suing Brunswick County." He said he had carefully read the decision and determined that it was "not a voting rights case."

County Attorney Michael Ramos said after the commissioners meeting that he had not studied the Supreme Court decision, but felt it could have a bearing on how a court might rule in a re-districting lawsuit against Brunswick County.

In another matter, during his report to the commissioners during the meeting, Ramos recommended that the board hire an auditing firm to redo an assessment of the back taxes allegedly owed to the county in 1988 by the DuPont, Brunswick County's second-largest taxpayer.

The company has appealed to the N.C. Property Tax Commission to dispute the county's claim that DuPont owes \$1.5 million in back taxes it failed to pay between 1987 and 1992. The company claims the audit was performed in a manner that was determined to be improper by the N.C. Carolina Court of Appeals. That ruling has been appealed to the state Supreme Court.

Ramos advised that the county could lose its right to collect DuPont's 1988 taxes if it waits for the outcome of the appeal. By hiring a different firm to do a single-year audit by a different method, the county might still collect the \$250,000 DuPont allegedly owes before a five-year deadline passes. The commissioners took no action on Ramos' request.

Meeting Sparks Statewide Enforcement Of Septic Regs

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Those departments already have begun to call the state environmental health office to ask about the department's action.

"The word has definitely gotten out," Rowe said.

Last Thursday's meeting was the third in a series of discussions by a committee of real estate representatives and Brunswick County's Board of Health members formed to consider the relationship between over-advertised rental capacities and overloaded septic systems.

The group was formed after a health department study of 1993 rental agency brochures indicated that more than 75 percent of the rental cottages in Brunswick County are advertised to hold more visitors than their septic system was designed to accommodate.

In response to the survey, the board of health agreed to notify offending rental property owners that they could face criminal penalties if they refuse to either reduce occupancy levels or upgrade their rental units' wastewater treatment capacity.

The health department's action sparked protests from real estate agents over the sudden enforcement effort of an industry-wide practice that has gone on for many years. The committee was formed to discuss the concerns of the rental agents and the requirements of state environmental health regulations.

In its only official vote Thursday night, the committee agreed to ask the Division of Environmental Health to consider modifying the rules under which most residential septic systems are permitted for an occupancy level of two persons per bedroom. Instead, the committee wants the state to consider basing the occupancy permit on actual sewage output.

Several real estate representatives on the committee said that merely removing occupancy advertising on rental brochures could make the problem of septic system overload-

"The word has definitely gotten out."

—Richard Rowe

"More than likely what you're going to end up with is an advertisement that says 'four-bedroom house,' and you lose control of how many they put in there," said Sandifer.

Barkley said that until the state septic regulations are changed, owners of rental property will be violating the law if they exceed the permitted occupancy. Rental agents could face enforcement action if they advertise illegal capacities.

Violators could face revocation of a septic tank permit, a fine of \$300 a day or a misdemeanor criminal charge, Barkley said. Rental agents could also see their licenses revoked by the state real estate commission.



I, Eugene Hewett, am not affiliated with the group protesting the schools hiring practices. However, I agree with that group.

Roscoe Butler was mistakenly identified as myself.

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More Hot, Dry Days Ahead

While more rain was in the immediate offing, Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday that pattern isn't expected to continue. He's expecting temperatures to rise again, perhaps "considerably" above normal.

"The forecast is for next week to be very hot and dry, right back where we were a week ago. It's not over yet," he said, adding, "I would love for this to be wrong."

He anticipates temperatures will range from the mid 70s at night to the mid-90s during the daytime, with "hopefully" three-quarters inch of rainfall.

For the period July 13-19, he measured 2.5 inches of rainfall at his residence near Shallotte Point. "That was more rain from Thursday through Monday morning than I had

measured in three months together," said Canady.

That break in the weather wasn't unexpected, however, following a typical summertime pattern.

Canady recorded a maximum high temperature of 99 degrees on July 13 and a minimum low of 73 degrees on July 17. A daily average high of 94 degrees and a nightly average low of 76 degrees combined for an average daily temperature of 85 degrees, about 4 degrees above average.

He cautioned Tuesday that as August approaches, coastal residents should keep a closer watch on weather disturbances off the west coast of Africa, where Atlantic tropical storms or hurricanes are more likely to develop this time of year.

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