

PRIMARY OPPONENTS FILE AGAINST WARREN, BAXTER

Soles, Taylor, Spivey: 18th Senate Primary Ballot Is Familiar

BY SUSAN USHER

No, it's not *deja vu*. It's a repeat of the 1992 Democratic primary ballot for the 18th District state Senate seat held by R.C. Soles Jr. of Tabor City.

Primary races also developed this week for some Democrats seeking election to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and the Brunswick County Board of Education.

Brunswick County Board of Education Chairman Donna Baxter of Boiling Spring Lakes is one of two incumbents on the school board to file for election in the past week. She wants to retain her District 4 seat for a third term, while Polly Russ of Shallotte is seeking nomination to a second term. Both are Democrats.

"I had to do a lot of talking with people and thinking before I decided to file," said Baxter. "I think it's important to continue the changes we have made and to keep the momentum we now have going." She said she

doesn't want to see the knowledge and experience she's gained in office unused.

Baxter faces a primary challenge from retired Brunswick County Sheriff's Department civil officer Liston Hawes of Ash.

Russ, owner/operator of a local childcare center, faces a primary challenge from former Brunswick County school board member and music educator George Wilson of Supply.

Democratic primaries are now assured in three contests for county commissioner and a Republican primary in one.

Democrat Randy Stanley of Shallotte filed for the District 1 commissioners' seat held by board Chairman Don Warren, while Democrat Tom Simmons of Boiling Spring Lakes filed again as a candidate for the District 4 seat held by Tom Rabon of Winnabow. Both Warren and Rabon are seeking re-election.

Simmons is assistant principal of South Brunswick

Middle School and has served as a Boiling Spring Lakes town commissioner.

Leslie Collier of Long Beach filed as a candidate for the District 3 commissioner's seat held by Wayland Vereen.

With three Democrats and two Republicans seeking nomination from District 5 for commissioner, primaries for both parties are assured.

Individuals have until noon Monday, Feb. 7, to file as candidates in the May 5 primary.

Columbus, Bladen, Brunswick and parts of New Hanover comprise the 18th District, which state Sen. Soles has represented since 1977 and wants to represent for another two years. Soles announced Monday that he planned to file Wednesday, Feb. 2, in Whiteville.

Soles' Senate career has steadily advanced, suffering a setback only with his indictment and subsequent acquittal in 1983 in Colcor. In that undercover investiga-

tion centered on corruption in Columbus County, charges of vote-buying, perjury and conspiracy against Soles were dismissed for lack of evidence.

Today Soles, 59, serves as deputy president pro-tem of the Senate, making him third in command of the Senate, behind Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker, president, and Sen. Marc Basnight, deputy president. Before election to the Senate in 1977, Soles served four two-year terms in the North Carolina House. He is former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has served on the Agriculture Committee every term, and was appointed co-chairman by Basnight of the state's standing Crime Commission.

One of his primary opponents, Ron Taylor of Elizabethtown and Holden Beach, also was caught up in Colcor.

Taylor was the youngest member in the state House of Representatives when he was elected at age 23. But (See PRIMARY ELECTION, Page 2-A)

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BRUNSWICK Detectives Gene Caison (left) and Billy Hughes restrain Alden Griffith, who was one of two men arrested after a reported shooting incident at the home of Deputy Lt. Ronald Hewett Friday evening.

FALSE ALARM?

Two Arrested After Gunshots Reported At Deputy's Home

BY ERIC CARLSON

Was it gunfire? Or just a backfire?

That's what the State Bureau of Investigation has been trying to determine since three loud bangs from a passing car sent a Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy and his family running for cover and sparked a multi-agency car chase and manhunt that led to two arrests Friday night.

But no weapon has been found. Neither of the two suspects has been charged with a shooting. And the SBI has confirmed the driver's claim that his car has a tendency to backfire. Detective Captain Phil Perry said Monday.

Which may explain some—but not all—of what happened on Holden Beach Road shortly before dusk Friday.

Lt. Ronald Hewett, who is the county's Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer and a candidate for sheriff, was outside his home with his wife and his two children

talking with two local school teachers at around 5:15 p.m.

They saw a small beige Chevrolet approach and slow down in front of the Hewett home, Perry said. As it passed, the Hewetts and other witnesses said they heard three loud reports and ran for cover.

Thinking that the sounds were gunshots, Hewett jumped into his sheriff's department van, switched on the blue light and siren and attempted to stop the car, Perry said. But instead of pulling over, the driver accelerated and fled down Holden Beach Road.

Hewett radioed for assistance and was joined in the chase by other sheriff's deputies and a N.C. Marine Fisheries officer who was in the area.

The suspect vehicle eventually ran through a yard off Oxpen Road, crashed through a fence and came to rest in a grassy clearing in the woods behind the county's solid waste convenience site. Both occupants jumped (See GUNFIRE, Page 2-A)

'NOT A CRIME OF VENGEANCE,' SON SAYS

Former Brunswick Pastor Killed In Burglary Of Costa Rican Home

BY SUSAN USHER

A memorial service was to be held Wednesday at Brunswick Funeral Service in Shallotte for a former Brunswick County pastor shot to death last Thursday during the burglary of his Costa Rican home.

The Rev. Nedo Eaddy, known to his local followers as "Pastor Ned," was beaten, cut and then shot at close range by intruders who broke into his home at approximately 2:30 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time and assaulted both Eaddy and his grown daughter, Lynell Cox.

The *Beacon* spoke by telephone to Eaddy's son Frank in Costa Rica, where other members of the immediate family had gathered.

"Four intruders pried the bars from off a small room at the rear of the house and broke the glass panes from a small window," he said, reconstructing the incident based on information provided by Cox and local police.

The men apparently separated immediately and simultaneously entered the two bedrooms occupied by

Eaddy and Cox.

The two men who entered Eaddy's room were armed with a machete and a handgun. As the men who entered Cox's room began dragging her from that room into Eaddy's, she began screaming. In an apparent attempt to subdue her father, the other two men beat him in the face and cut his arms and legs in several places with the machete.

"He must have tried to fend off the machete from the rest of his body with his arms and legs," the pastor's son said.

"When they apparently couldn't subdue him, he was shot at point-blank range, at a distance of 20 meters or about 50 feet, in the center of his chest. He died instantly."

The men then forced Cox to show them through the residence and locate cash, jewelry and other items, he said. "They took a lot of stuff, including the handgun my father kept in the house but never got a chance to use."

(See MINISTER, Page 2-A)

Citizens Turn Out To See Sunset Bridge Options

BY SUSAN USHER

More than 160 people came Tuesday night to look at alternatives for either replacing or improving the Sunset Beach Bridge.

Unlike at past bridge meetings, most were looking for relief—something other than the existing bridge.

"Most of the comments I have heard were not 'I want to keep the bridge we have,' but were looking at alternatives," said Julie Hunkins, project manager with the N.C. Department of Transportation's Planning and Environmental Branch. "I still heard a lot of comments preferring a mid-level bascule."

In addition to improving or rehabilitating the existing pontoon bridge, alternatives presented Tuesday at Jones/Byrd Pavilion by the state Department of Transportation and consulting engineers Greiner Inc. included a choice of a 15-foot or 30-foot drawbridge (bascule) or a 65-foot fixed span. One of each has been mapped on corridors east and west of the existing bridge corridor as well as through its center.

Businessman Greg Gore, who lives on the island, said he favors whichever alternative "provides the most relief in the shortest time."

"I plan to live here the rest of my life, but I would like to be able to go and come as I need to and want to," he said. "Safety should be the first concern. If the choice is what we have or a high-rise, I would have to choose a high rise."

(See BRIDGE, Page 2-A)

The Alternatives

Bridge Type:	Cost (Millions)	Relocation Impact*
LOW-LEVEL (15')		
East Corridor	\$22.98	No B/1R
Center Corridor	\$19.35	3B/No R
West Corridor	\$21.79	No B/No R
MID-LEVEL (30')		
East Corridor	\$23.65	No B/1R
Center Corridor	\$21.03	3B/No R
West Corridor	\$21.86	No B/No R
HIGH-LEVEL (65')		
East Corridor	\$16.58	No B/1R
Center Corridor	\$14.34	3B/3R
West Corridor	\$16.58	No B/1R

* B=Businesses/R=Residences



STAFF PHOTOS BY ERIC CARLSON
SGT. LISA MASSEY (above) faces questioning from Attorney James Payne, defending New Jersey prosecutor Francis Hermes (far right).



NJ Prosecutor Has Tables Turned In DWI Trial

BY ERIC CARLSON

A New Jersey municipal prosecutor, who frequently pursues cases against drunk drivers in his state, found the North Carolina justice system equally strict this week as he appeared in Brunswick County District Court to face a charge of driving while impaired by alcohol.

Francis Hermes, 48, of Basking Ridge, N.J., is a prosecutor for the nearby township of Bridgewater. He thought he was in South Carolina last April 14 when Sunset Beach Police Sgt. Lisa Massey stopped him at 4:25 a.m. on suspicion of driving while impaired by alcohol, the officer testified Monday.

She said she observed the gold Jaguar Hermes was driving cross the center line of N.C. 179 four times in less than a half mile. She said he stumbled getting out of the car and nearly fell while taking a roadside sobriety test.

After transporting him to Bolivia for a blood alcohol test, Massey testified that Hermes asked to speak with Brunswick County District Attorney Rex Gore. Although it was just after 5 a.m., she said she placed the call and handed Hermes the phone.

Massey testified that she heard Hermes say he had just been arrest-

ed by a South Carolina State Trooper. So she interrupted and told him she was a Sunset Beach officer and that he had been arrested in North Carolina.

"He said, 'No wonder I couldn't find the Myrtle Beach airport,'" Massey testified. She said she heard Hermes tell his fellow prosecutor he would "appreciate any help he could give him."

After speaking with Gore, Massey testified that she followed through with the test. At that time, North Carolina considered a person's driving ability to be impaired when blood alcohol reached .10 of a percent. That threshold has since been reduced to .08.

Massey testified that Hermes told her he was familiar with the breath test for alcohol and was working in New Jersey to get his state's threshold lowered to .08.

She testified that she administered the test twice. Both times, the Intoxilizer showed Hermes had a blood alcohol content of .15 percent.

"It was my opinion that both his mental and physical faculties were impaired," Massey testified.

After four hours on the witness stand, Massey left the stand Tuesday morning in a trial that began Monday afternoon. Despite aggres-

sive cross-examination, defense attorney James Payne was unable to prevent the breath test and other damaging testimony from being entered into evidence.

As Massey stepped down, Assistant District Attorney Rick (See NJ PROSECUTOR, Page 2-

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