

WHO'S ON THE BALLOT

Sheriff	District 2:	<input type="checkbox"/> S.L. Doty (R)	District 3:
<input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Dove (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Jones (R/I)	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Ballard (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Fairley (R/I)
<input type="checkbox"/> John Marlow (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> W.A. Roach (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Davis (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> Eric S. Pfeiffer (R)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ronald Hewett (D)	District 3:	<input type="checkbox"/> W.M. "Bill" Sue (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> William "Billy" Carter (D)
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Sisk (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wayland Vereen (D/I)	Board of Education	District 4:
<input type="checkbox"/> James Brown (R)	<input type="checkbox"/> Louis A. Lewis (D)	District 1:	<input type="checkbox"/> Donna Baxter (D/I)
Board of Commissioners	<input type="checkbox"/> Leslie Collier (R)	<input type="checkbox"/> Thurman Gause (D/I)	<input type="checkbox"/> Liston Hawes (D)
District 1:	<input type="checkbox"/> Robert Slockett (R)	<input type="checkbox"/> Olaf "Bud" Thorsen (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pat Purvis Brown (R)
<input type="checkbox"/> Don Warren (D/I)	District 4:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rozell Hewett (R)	District 5:
<input type="checkbox"/> Randy Stanley (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rabon Sr. (D)	District 2:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yvonne Bright (R/I)
<input type="checkbox"/> Frances Babson (R)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Simmons (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> Polly G. Russ (D/I)	<input type="checkbox"/> Glenda Browning (D)
<input type="checkbox"/> Doug las Simmons (R)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pete Barnette (R)	<input type="checkbox"/> Clara S. Carter (D)	D=Democrat
	District 5:	<input type="checkbox"/> George F. Wilson (D)	R=Republican
	<input type="checkbox"/> Donald Shaw (R/I)	<input type="checkbox"/> Eugene Hewett (R)	I=Incumbent

Only Three County Office-Seekers To Be Unopposed In May Primaries

The races are on, with party primaries aplenty for both Democratic and Republican would-be nominees for local office.

Filing closed at noon Monday for candidates for most local and state offices. Only three local candidates are without May 3 primary contests, which secures their places on the Nov. 5 ballot: District 2 Commissioner Jerry Jones, a Republican; District 5 school board member Yvonne Bright, a Republican; and Clerk of Superior Court Diana Morgan, a Democrat, who is unopposed for office.

This is the first time since Brunswick County voters decided in 1991 to limit terms for the school board and board of commissioners to two years that all seats on each board have come up for election.

All five incumbents on each board have filed for re-election. Most face primary challenges, and all face opposition in the November general election.

A second retired educator filed last week for the Democratic nomination to the District 2 school board seat held by childcare center owner Polly G. Russ, 43, of Shallotte, who is seeking a second term.

Challenger Clara S. Carter, 59, of Supply is a retired educator, having served as principal of

(See MOST CANDIDATES, Page 2-A)

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Erosion To Blame For Holden Beach Street Closing

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach's Hillside Drive has seen better days. A decade ago, there was plenty of room for property owners to build oceanfront homes along the south side of the street.

Not any more. The ocean has steadily closed in on Hillside Drive and washed out all of the beachfront lots. The second-row lots have become the beachfront lots.

In an attempt to slow down erosion, town commissioners plan to have truck loads of sand dumped on the road and tied in with what's left of the oceanfront dune.

As part of the project, officials plan to formally close Hillside Drive to the public. A hearing on the street closing will be held Monday, March 7, at town hall.

"The ocean comes up to the pavement in many places already," Mayor Wally Ausley said at Monday night's town meeting, when commissioners passed a resolution of intent to close Hillside.

Town Manager Gus Ulrich is getting estimates from contractors on how much it will cost to build up the dune. The area under consideration stretches for about 1,500 feet.

"That street is seriously threatened by ocean erosion," Ulrich said Tuesday. "We're hoping the material we put there will stabilize the situation."

Instead of waiting until after the



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

HOLDEN BEACH OFFICIALS plan to close Hillside Drive and build a dune there in an effort to slow down erosion. The ocean has washed out oceanfront lots along the street.

public hearing, Mayor Pro Tem Gay Atkins asked Monday night if the town could move ahead with its plans to renourish the dune along Hillside.

"We better or we're going to have a lynch mob up here," said Commissioner Jim Fournier.

At the very least, town officials will have to wait for the removal of the only residence still standing on the south side of Hillside Drive. It shouldn't be there much longer.

The owner, Donna Bailey, is waiting for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to agree to pay for its relocation.

"We're anticipating that being moved this week or very shortly,"

Ulrich said. "That will be out of the way before work begins."

Ulrich said people who own homes on the north side of Hillside will not be affected by the proposed street closing because they have access to their property from Ocean Boulevard.

There are 27 lots with frontage on Hillside and Ocean Boulevard. In anticipation of the street closing, the town moved all water connections to those houses from Hillside to Ocean Boulevard last year.

"I think they all are aware the change is coming because of the relocation of the water service," Ulrich said.

At one point, there were at least 10 oceanfront cottages on the south

side Hillside Drive. Commissioner Dwight Carroll said he helped build one of them in the early 1980s.

At the time, Carroll said there was 70 feet of sandy beach between the house and the ocean. Now, the home sits off the oceanfront on Brunswick Avenue and almost all of the lot where the it once stood has been washed away.

"That's how much it has changed," Carroll said. "I attribute a lot of that to when the town went out and bulldozed the beach (after Hurricane Hugo in 1989). They bulldozed it too deep."

Carroll also said he thinks the frequent dredging of Lockwood Folly Inlet causes erosion near the east end of Holden Beach.

Schools To Get \$250,000 For 'Critical' Needs

BY ERIC CARLSON

Some said it was a recent tour of local classrooms by three county commissioners that changed their minds. Others said it was an election year political ploy.

Either way, Brunswick County education officials were overjoyed to hear that the county board voted Monday to approve a quarter-million-dollar special appropriation earmarked for specific instructional needs requested by teachers and principals at the county's 12 primary, middle and high schools.

In the board's final action Monday, Chairman Don Warren said he and other commissioners had been meeting with school board members to discuss what he called "very critical needs" and "mass shortages"—especially in science departments—that had been pointed out to him in visits to several local schools.

Warren said that as a result of the visits he had asked Superintendent Ralph Johnston to gather lists of classroom needs from each school principal. These were distributed to each commissioner in a memo before the meeting, he said.

In all, the requests totalled \$254,499, which was slightly less than the \$308,000 that the school board had asked for authorization to transfer from its building fund to instructional supplies last fall. The commissioners denied the earlier request, insisting that the money be used for a new Leland elementary school.

This time, the board voted 3-to-2 in favor of the appropriation, with commissioners Jerry Jones and Wayland Vereen dissenting.

"You ought to see the grin on my face. This was badly needed," school board member Bill Fairley said Tuesday. "These were not extravagant requests. They are things that teachers feel they need to teach their classes, some of which are woefully deficient. I hope the process that has given rise to this grant will carry over into other areas of school needs."

Fairley had appeared at the county board meeting to plead for the funds last fall and was visibly stunned when the request was turned down. He said he personally met with Warren and Commissioner Tom Rabon for a tour of South Brunswick Middle School and South Brunswick High School. He said Commissioner Donald Shaw also toured schools in the Leland area.

"I think the willingness of some commissioners to go to the schools had a lot to do with it," Fairley said.

"The three who voted for it are the only ones who have taken the trouble to visit the schools."

Before voting against the measure Monday night, Vereen cautioned that the commissioners would be "setting a very dangerous precedent and taking away the school board's authority" by allocating funds earmarked for specific purchases. Jones had no comment when asked to explain his vote.

In an attempt to alleviate Vereen's concerns, Warren said the allocation had been discussed with Johnston, school board Chairman Donna Baxter and other members, and had received "bipartisan" support.

Johnston said Tuesday that the additional money was not anticipated.

(See SUPER, Page 2-A)

Sunset Beach Okays April 5 Sewer Referendum; OIB Turns Thumbs Down On Stormwater Study

BY LYNN CARLSON AND SUSAN USHER

Sunset Beach officials say they want to lead the region in combating water quality problems on two fronts, despite some taxpayers' skepticism that a \$35 million sewer system should be part of the battle plan.

If the town council has its way, voters will approve an April 5 referendum on the sewer system, and Brunswick County will lead eight local governments in a stormwater management program.

Council members conceded Monday that the upcoming referendum will not be on the simple question of whether there should be a sewer system, but claim that having voters decide on whether to approve \$5 million in general obligation sewer bonds is the only legally binding means of seeking public opinion on the issue.

Council has pledged never to issue those bonds but, if the referendum passes, to activate the South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority and proceed with a plan of grants, loans and revenue bonds to build the sewer system to serve areas of both Sunset Beach and Calabash.

Its members expressed optimism about a recent meeting between Brunswick County Engineer Robert Tucker and representatives of eight local governments to begin efforts to formulate a re-

gional stormwater plan.

Town Administrator Linda Fluegel said the eight towns "are all receptive to the county being the lead agent on stormwater. We all agreed that stormwater (management) is necessary for all of us—that it won't work for just one or two towns. Big and small, we all want this very badly."

Fluegel received council's permission to obligate Sunset Beach to spend \$3,000 to \$4,000 as its portion of an initial study of a basinwide stormwater management concept.

Sunset Beach is the area's only municipality where the pollution issue has been polarized between sewer and stormwater management advocates. Council has expressed its commitment to pursuing both avenues, but says it must take advantage of available sewer system funds which are currently available.

It has been challenged by leaders of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association, who argue that the region's primary pollutant is stormwater runoff and that the town has not pursued stormwater control vigorously enough.

Cool Response At OIB

Stormwater management apparently won't be pursued at all by Ocean Isle Beach's town government, where the idea met with a cool response Tuesday morning.

The Ocean Isle Beach commissioners quickly reached a consensus not to participate in the preliminary "scoping" study for the project, questioning its relative benefit to the town.

OIB Mayor Betty Williamson represented her town at the Jan. 27 meeting at Sea Trail Plantation between with the county engineer and representatives of eight towns. She said Tucker indicated the county would be willing to pay half the cost of a study to determine the extent of the proposed project, if the towns would share the remaining cost. The towns were asked to each submit a letter committing to participate in the scoping study.

"The consensus of those there was that they didn't feel it would be effective if all the towns don't participate," Williamson said. "I believe it was received well by the towns represented."

While the scoping study wasn't expected to cost the towns but \$3,000 to \$4,000 each, Williamson said Tucker estimated the actual stormwater management study could cost anywhere from \$250,000 to \$500,000, and that the county would seek state financial assistance.

Still, she said, "it would be a major budget item in the future if the county goes with this."

Ocean Isle Beach Commissioners and town of-

(See SUNSET SEWER, Page 2-A)

Task Force Sees Need For Deeper Changes If Schools Are To Succeed

Related Story, Page 9A
BY SUSAN USHER

A task force charged with devising a way to increase the number of minorities employed in certified positions Monday night presented a plan it believes will achieve that goal while also helping everyone in the school system.

However, Co-Chairman Maliston Stanley said Monday that if the larger goals of quality education and equity are to be achieved, the school system must cut out "talk" education and get serious about its task.

"It is very evident to this task force that getting Johnnie Sr. a job and protecting his job, regardless of his competence, seems to be more important to our system

than making sure Johnny Jr. receives an adequate education," he said in summarizing key points agreed upon by the 17-member task force during its four months of working together.

The group will formally present its plan to the Brunswick County Board of Education next Monday night in Southport. After that, Superintendent Ralph Johnston invited observers to watch, pledging, "the administration is ready to go as soon as we have the charge."

On Monday night, at a joint work session led by Co-Chairman Christine Hall and Johnston, the task force reviewed its work with a group that included three school

(See RECRUITMENT, Page 2-A)



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Frankfurt Fishermen

Karl Raab of Frankfurt, Germany, teaches his daughter, Jennifer, the finer points of surf fishing Monday at Holden Beach. Unseasonably mild weather is expected all week. However, rain showers also are in the forecast.

Inside...

Birthdays.....	2B
Business News.....	9-10C
Calendar.....	3A
Church News.....	5B
Classified.....	1-8C
Crossword.....	12C
Court Docket.....	10A
Golf.....	11C
Obituaries.....	12B
Opinion.....	5B
People In The News.....	4-5A
Plant Doctor.....	7A
Sports.....	3B
Television.....	8-12B
	6-7B