

Where To Turn Next?

Commercial fishermen look to local legislators to solve the problems of their ailing industry. Page 8-A.

Multi-Cultural Experience

Appalachian storytelling and Cherokee song and dance combine in 'All Together Now,' coming to Williamson Auditorium, 5-B.

The Three Amigos

Former Brunswick high school stars now lead the Southeaster Community College Rams baseball team. Page 1-D.

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STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Just A Drill...This Time

West Brunswick High School Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) attempt to get their peers' attention with a mock car crash and ex-traction depicting what can happen when people drink and drive, or don't wear safety belts. Shallotte firefighters and emergency medical technicians and Sunset Beach firefighters participated in the realistic demonstration, along with SADD members who posed as crash victims. The mock crash is one of numerous SADD-sponsored events leading up to the April 29 West Brunswick High School Prom. Today (Thursday) the club sponsors an appearance by Miss North Carolina, Mary Susan Runion.

Hiring Practices Racially Biased, Black Leaders Tell School Board

BY SUSAN USHER

Two black community leaders Monday night accused the Brunswick County Board of Education's of discriminatory hiring practices, claiming blacks are shut out of jobs and that salaries for the county's two black principals are "not up to par."

One warned newcomers to the staff to watch where they tread; the other called on the board to show its commitment to greater equity in hiring before election time.

Robert Gore of Shingletree Acres, a former JROTC instructor at West Brunswick High School, and Franklin Randolph of Piney Grove, a former school board member, echoed some of the same criticisms expressed by school board member Thurman Gause in an interview published in a regional newspaper this past weekend. Gause later disavowed any connection with their appearance before the board.

"If you want to be re-elected, I think you owe voters an explanation (of how two black principals' salaries were determined) and to explain what you're going to do about it in the future," said Randolph.

The two accused the system of using the concept of "qualified" to discourage and circumvent hiring of blacks, especially for entry-level teaching positions and administrative slots.

The school system, like many across the state and nation, has seen a decline in recent years in the ratio of blacks holding jobs that require teacher certification. Gore and Randolph believes qualified candidates are available, but are being overlooked.

"Either you're under or you're over (qualified), it's always an excuse," said Randolph, charging the problem rests with not only the school board by central office administrators and principals involved in selecting candidates.

In turn, school administrators lamented the small available pool of minority candidates with teaching certification, saying that the most qualified are being lured into other fields.

Gore, Randolph and other black leaders have been urging the school board to give local black candidates who are recent college graduates with certification greater consideration for teaching positions.

According to Gore, through its teacher certification process the state determines who is "qualified" to go into a classroom, but that doesn't mean the person can do the job. That, he suggested, can be decided only after the person is in the position.

Current board policy is to hire for any position the candidate recommended as "best qualified." Top applicants are interviewed by a team of school system employees that includes minority representation. If there are minority candidates who meet the minimum requirements for a position, including certification, they are typically part of the pool considered in interviews, according to Personnel Director Ralph Ward.

In another interview, Russ said the school system has been encouraging local entry level candidates who aren't first choice for vacancies to substitute teach and to seek interim positions. Developing a track record and becoming familiar to school system personnel should increase their chances of being hired when reapplying for a permanent post, she said.

Supplement State Pay?

Randolph also questioned the salary paid Principals Zelfia Grissett at Union Elementary and Sandra Robinson at Shallotte Middle School, saying the two black women earn less than other principals hired at the same time.

Superintendent Ralph Johnston (See SCHOOL, Page 2-A)

PROCESS CONTRARY TO '93 POLICY

Harvey Gets New Job At Old Salary

BY ERIC CARLSON

One year ago this week, Interim County Manager John Harvey announced that he had created a new county job and hired a recently dismissed department director to fill it.

After questions were raised about whether the move was allowable under the personnel policy, the Brunswick County Commissioners voted unanimously to require board approval before any new county position can be created.

On Monday night, acting county manager and County Commissioners Chairman Don Warren announced that he had created a new county job and hired former county planning Director John Harvey to fill it.

There was no vote of the county commissioners to authorize the new position.

Harvey, who was replaced as planning director April 4, will work as a "special projects coordinator and consultant to county departments," Warren said after Monday's commissioners meeting. Funds to pay Harvey's \$49,028 salary will be

taken from the current county administration budget until a new spending plan is adopted.

Warren said Harvey "will have plenty to do" assisting county departments in "capital planning," engineering, long-range solid waste management and helping oversee the county's compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

After more than 13 years as planning director, Harvey was removed from his position and put on part-time status March 29. County Manager Wyman Yelton said he made the change to allow Harvey time off to care for his wife Betsy, who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. An advertisement was sent to local newspapers seeking a new planning director at a starting salary of \$35,564.

The following morning, Yelton announced that former county zoning administrator Wade Horne had been hired as planning director at a reported salary of \$42,000 a year.

Three days later, Betsy Harvey died, leaving her husband free to re-

turn to work full-time.

The following afternoon, Yelton and his wife were involved in a violent head-on collision on Interstate 40 in Durham. Kathryn Yelton was killed. The county manager was seriously injured and remains hospitalized at Duke University Medical Center. Warren was named acting county manager until a temporary replacement can be found.

In an April 15 letter to the *Beacon* (see page 5-A), Warren called Harvey a "dedicated, loyal county employee." He said the two met recently and agreed on a "mutually satisfactory employment arrangement that took into account his and the county's needs. This arrangement was negotiated following Mr. Harvey's wife's death, when Mr. Harvey no longer needed a leave of absence."

Harvey returned to work Tuesday morning with a new office in the county engineering building.

County Engineer Robert Tucker on Tuesday said he was "very glad to have the help." He said Harvey has been put in charge of drafting a

long-range solid waste management plan required by the state.

Harvey's new position was not discussed by the commissioners during their regular meeting Monday night. Nor was there a formal budget transfer to fund the new salary.

After the meeting, Warren was asked if he felt the hiring violated the board's year-old policy prohibiting the creation of new positions not authorized in the budget. He said it was something that needed to be done.

In a similar move last April, Harvey created a new post of solid waste control officer and hired former Solid Waste Director Leo Hewett to fill the position. Hewett had been fired a month earlier and had requested a hearing to protest the dismissal.

Hewett's appeal was withdrawn shortly before his new position was announced.

On May 3, 1993, the commissioners unanimously adopted a policy prohibiting the county manager from creating new positions without formal authorization from the board.

Environmental Study Would Jeopardize Sewer Funding, Balloon Cost, Mayor Claims

BY SUSAN USHER

Delays associated with a full-blown sewer system environmental impact statement (EIS) sought by the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association could jeopardize funding of the regional system and create an "unnecessary financial burden" on taxpayers, Sunset Beach Mayor Mason Barber says in a letter to town residents.

Written with the help of council members, the letter was sent by the town to all resident property owners. It will be sent to non-resident property owners only if council directs, he said.

Calling for residents' "continued support," Barber writes, "Public response to this action must be forthcoming if we are to assure our future welfare and protect the best interests of ourselves and the community."

What action residents take, said Barber, "is going to be up to each individual."

The letter responds to one written earlier this month by attorney James Maxwell of Durham on behalf of the SBTA. That letter asked Preston Howard, director of the N.C. Division of Environmental Management, for assurance that a full EIS would be required for the sewer project.

"Such an action can only delay but not stop the project," Barber wrote. "A sewer program for this growing area is inevitable. If the SBTA should be successful in their efforts, it will result in higher taxes, and higher sewer charges, and we will see further degradation of our environment and water quality."

Piedmont Olsen and Hensley consulting engineers are preparing for the South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority an environmental assessment, which will be evaluated by state officials to determine if the more in-depth statement will be required. (See related story.) To date,

(See MAYOR, Page 2-A)

Atkins Named Holden Beach Mayor; Appointment Talk Expected Wednesday

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach Commissioners were expected to discuss appointing someone to the vacant seat on the town board at their regular mid-month meeting Wednesday night (April 20).

Commissioners, still mourning the April 6 death of Mayor Wally Ausley, voted unanimously last Friday to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Gay Atkins to serve as mayor through the 1995 election.

Atkins, a real estate and property management agent who has served on the board of commissioners since 1981, is the first female mayor of the Holden Beach and the fifth mayor in town history.

After appointing Atkins, officials decided to wait until their April 20 meeting to discuss the appointment to the open seat on the five-member board of commissioners.

The Friday morning meeting, which drew about 25 residents to town hall, lasted less than five minutes.

After being appointed, Atkins decided against moving one seat over



PHOTO BY GUS ULRICH

GAY ATKINS, the first female mayor of Holden Beach, takes the oath of office last Friday from Town Clerk Joyce Shore.

to the mayor's chair. "I guess I'll have to get used to filling a seat that will be very difficult to fill," she said.

Atkins was appointed on a motion by Dwight Carroll that was seconded by Sid Swarts. Carroll also made the motion to wait until the next

meeting to consider the appointment of a commissioner.

In both cases, Carroll's motions passed unanimously with no discussion by board members.

The board's unanimous support for a new commissioner seems unlikely based on recent actions.

Commissioners have appointed four people to the planning board in the last few months, and none have received unanimous support.

It also is unlikely that the appointment will be made this week. The town board's policy is to present nominations at one meeting and make appointments at the following meeting.

After Wednesday, the board's next regular meeting is May 2.

The special meeting last Friday was opened with an invocation by the Rev. Richard Warner, pastor at St. James The Fisherman Episcopal Church of Shallotte, where Ausley was a member.

"We've all lost a friend and a leader, but we know Wally is where Wally wants to be," Atkins said.

A memorial service for Ausley will be held this Sunday at Holden Beach Chapel during the 11 a.m. service.

Jim Hartman of Holden Beach will officiate the service. Anyone who wants to speak for a minute or two will be given an opportunity, according to Gil Bass.

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