

Brunswick Candidates Cited, Fined For Finance Reporting

BY ERIC CARLSON

All things considered, they did pretty well. But elections officials say candidates for Brunswick County offices will need to pay closer attention to their campaign finance reporting to avoid costly fines and embarrassing reprimands from the state board of elections.

Three candidates in the May 3 primaries were fined by the state for submitting their reports of campaign contributions and expenses after the April 22 deadline, Brunswick County Board of Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt said last week.

Two sheriff's candidates have been asked to clarify the sources of improperly accepted contributions or to turn the money over to the state board of elections. One

"For the amount of contributions and expenditures they handled, I think they did a wonderful job."

—Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt

of the two also was notified that he had accepted a loan in excess of the maximum amount allowed by state elections laws.

At least one county commissioner candidate apparently failed to list an expenditure for advertising, Britt said. Another seems to have violated the spirit—if not the letter—of campaign reporting requirements for small cash contributions. And many candidates neglected to include

"in-kind contributions" of labor and materials donated to their campaigns, she said.

Brunswick recently exceeded the population threshold of 50,000 residents that puts the county under the legal requirements of the N.C. Campaign Reporting Act. This year's election season is the first in which candidates for county offices have to submit a series of reports on their campaign contributions and expenditures.

"I think all-in-all they did exceptionally well," Britt said last week. "Although we had three late reports, I've been very pleased with their promptness. It doesn't appear that anybody deliberately did not disclose something. We had some errors that candidates realized after the fact—after reading the manual—that they have obviously made attempts to correct."

Three candidates—Bill Sisk for sheriff, W.A. Alfonza Roach for commissioner and Thurman Gause for Board of Education—failed to submit their financing reports in time to meet the Friday, April 22, deadline and were fined \$20 per day for their tardiness. Roach and Gause turned in their reports on the following Monday, while Sisk returned his on Tuesday.

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THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

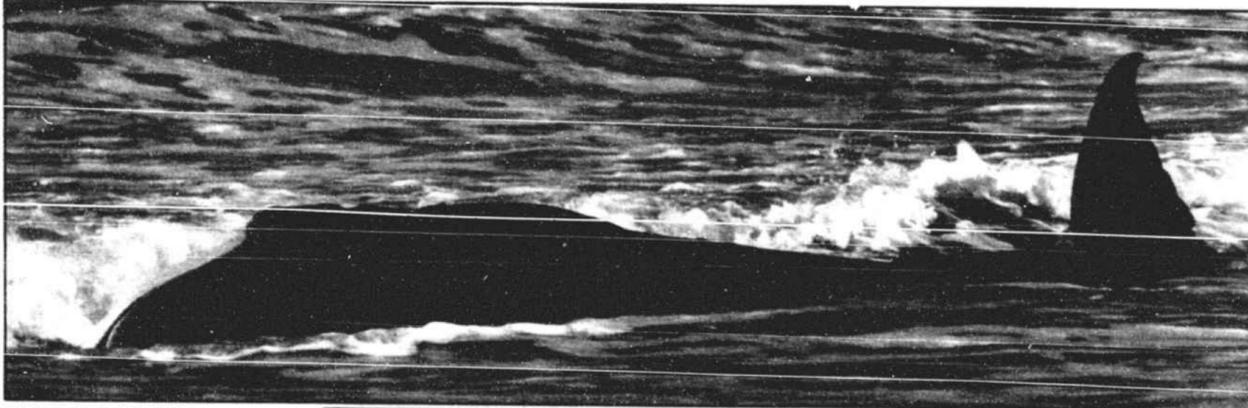
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STAFF PHOTOS BY ERIC CARLSON

A 25-FOOT FIN WHALE weighing about two tons struggles in the surf at Holden Beach Saturday morning before beaching itself and dying on Ocean Isle Beach Sunday. Two more immature cetaceans—this time pilot whales—were in trouble in the Holden Beach surf at press time Tuesday night. Experts say onlookers should resist the urge to try to help the mammals.



More Whales Come Ashore At Holden Beach; Cause Unknown

BY DOUG RUTTER

Two whales washed up on the Holden Beach strand Tuesday, just three days after a fin whale came ashore in the same vicinity and later died at Ocean Isle Beach.

By mid-afternoon Tuesday, a crowd of about 100 people had gathered near the west end of Holden Beach to watch, photograph and videotape the whales as they rolled and twisted in ankle-deep water.

Both whales were between 15 and 20 feet long and came ashore around 2:30 p.m. Officials from the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher were sent to investigate the strandings.

Andy Wood, curator of education at the aquarium, said the all-black whales were probably pilot whales.

"Without seeing them that's just a guess. Pilot whales are all black," he said in a telephone interview late Tuesday.

Wood pointed out there's a possibility more whales may beach themselves within the next few days.

"Pilot whales often strand together. Pilot whales have commonly been involved in mass strandings...hundreds at a time in some instances, but usually it's a dozen or so," he said.

Asked if the two whales could be part of a mass stranding, Wood said, "We hope not, but that possibility exists. If there is going to be a mass stranding it will occur relatively quickly, at least if history is any guide."

Early Saturday morning, a 25-foot fin whale weighing about 2 tons washed up on Holden Beach, also near the west end. Onlookers pushed the whale out to sea several times, but it beached again and died Sunday at Ocean Isle.

As of Tuesday, Wood said officials had not determined the age of the fin whale or the cause of death.

"The speculation was it was young enough that it hadn't been weaned by its mother, so months old rather than years," he said.

Wood said biologists do not know what causes whales to beach themselves.

"There's lots of speculation, but nobody knows for sure. Everything from parasites in the ears to just confusion. It's just not known," he said.

When people see a beached whale, Wood said they should resist the urge to try to help it. The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 makes it illegal to handle whales.

"Marine mammals are protected by federal and international law. When they're stranded like that they can only be handled by licensed volunteers," Wood said.

"It's as much for the protection of humans as it is for the whales. A 15-foot whale has incredible strength in the tail. A whale writhing and struggling in the surf can snap a neck without any problem," he added.

"When they're stranded you don't know what they have. Some whales carry disease that can be transmitted to humans. It's not something you want to mess with."

Holden Beach police and public works employees tried to keep onlookers away from the beached whales Tuesday, but did not have much success. People stood within a few feet of the whales to get a close look and splash water on them.

Wood said whales usually beach themselves when they are dying and pushing them back out into the ocean usually just prolongs the dying process.

"That's what happened with the fin whale. It was put back in the water only to wash up later on," he said.

"A stranded whale creates a charged atmosphere. People want to help and we're appreciative of that," Wood said. "But if it's alive it poses a very serious threat to humans who get in the water to try to help it."

Wood said there is some positive that comes out of whale strandings.

"When we see strandings like this that does tell us one thing. There are whales out there. If there were no strandings we wouldn't know if there were whales out there," he said.

Contracts Not Offered To Three Supervisors In Step Toward Schools' Planned Reorganization

BY SUSAN USHER

Contracts were not renewed last week for Brunswick County Schools supervisors James McAdams, Robert Rhyne and Christine Hall, whose positions are among those being eliminated at the end of the current school year.

Board of Education Chairman Donna Baxter said action on the contracts is one step in the instructional services staff reorganization plan adopted by the board last December.

The board vote was unanimous Friday afternoon during a special meeting called to discuss attorney-client and personnel matters. Member Bill Fairley had left the meeting earlier because of a conflict in his schedule, she said.

While adjusting some other assignments, the reorganization plan developed by Jan Calhoun, assistant superintendent for instructional services, eliminates five positions and creates five others that relate more directly to goals of supporting school-based management and decision-making.

The plan eliminates the above four positions and one other now vacant (director of health, athletics, physical education and driver education) at the end of the current term, either reassigning or doing away

with their duties.

Each of the three supervisors was either eligible for tenure (career status) or for contract renewal as a supervisor.

A fourth employee whose position will be eliminated under the reorganization plan, Library/Media Service Director Edna Gause, already has tenure as a supervisor.

June 1 is the cut-off date for notifying professional employees with probationary status if they will not have contracts for the coming school year or, in the case of third-year employees, will not be granted tenure. If timely notification isn't provided, the contract is considered automatically renewed.

Personnel Director Ralph Ward said Tuesday the supervisors whose jobs have been eliminated could be considered for the five new positions being created, or for other staff vacancies for which they qualify.

"We have not completed our staffing for the coming year, so that's a possibility," he said.

All three individuals have been

granted tenure previously by the Brunswick County Schools in other career slots, two as principals and one as a teacher.

McAdams was first hired as a principal in 1982, serving North Brunswick High in that capacity until October 1992, when he was named a supervisor. The Wilmington resident presently serves as supervisor of high schools and said Tuesday he has applied for one of the new positions being created.

Rhyne, of Yaupon Beach, had served as a principal and assistant principal before moving into a supervisor's job in July 1992. Hall, of Riegelwood, has also been a principal and assistant principal before her appointment as a supervisor in August 1992. Rhyne is presently supervisor of middle schools and Hall supervisor of elementary schools.

Neither Rhyne nor Hall could be reached for comment Tuesday evening.

Calhoun said Tuesday that inter-

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Don't Lose Sight Of Day's Meaning, Veterans Say

BY ERIC CARLSON

The American flag remained at half staff outside the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8866 in Holden Beach Monday morning in remembrance of fellow veteran and former Commander-in-Chief President Richard M. Nixon.

Beside the door to the post's new recreation building, two white crosses were flanked by pairs of well-worn combat boots and two rifles standing upside-down on their bayonets.

Inside, about 40 VFW members and their wives were gathered on this Memorial Day to honor all those in uniform who gave their lives to preserve the United States of America.

"Yesterday I watched a newscast where they interviewed people on the street about the purpose of Memorial Day," said featured speaker Billy Ray Cameron, former national commander-in-chief of the national VFW organization. "One talked about having cook-outs. Another said it was the beginning of summer. A third person said it was a good time to go to the beach.

"Not one of them said anything about honoring veterans," Camerons told the group. "People seem to be forgetting that Memorial Day is more than just a sale day at the department stores."

Cameron, the first Vietnam War veteran to head the VFW, said he spent the previous day giving a speech at the National Cemetery in Salisbury, "among more than

"People seem to be forgetting that Memorial Day is more than just a sale day at the stores."

—Billy Ray Cameron

17,000 great individuals who gave their lives for their country." The Sanford resident said it was great to be back at his "second home" of Holden Beach, where he frequently returns for vacations.

Severely wounded in Vietnam, Cameron spent a year recovering in the hospital after he was evacuated. He said the experience inspired him "do everything humanly possible" to find out what happened to the 2,300 servicemen who are listed as missing in action in Southeast Asia. He also noted that 8,000 U.S. soldiers were never accounted for after the Korean War, while 88,000 remained missing at the end of World War II.

"I can't imagine anything worse than going to bed at night wondering what happened to a loved one who didn't come back," Cameron said. "This issue will not

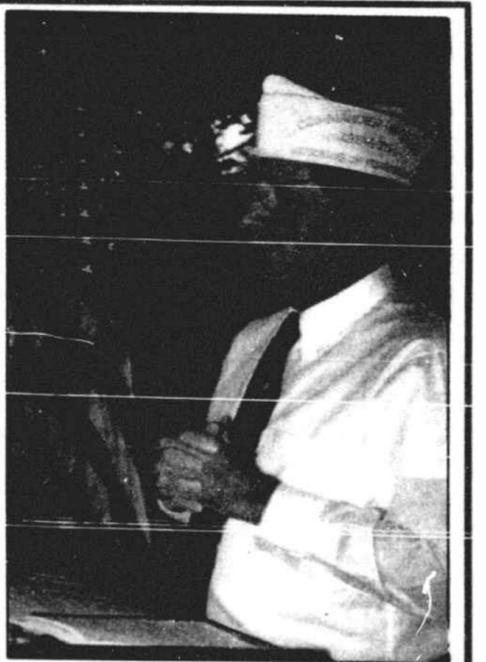
be resolved until every one of these cases is resolved.

Cameron asked his fellow veterans to say a prayer each day for the families of missing soldiers. He urged VFW members to combat the public's apathy about the dedication and commitment of former military personnel by "communicating to others what veterans have done for this country."

"If not for veterans and the friends and family who support them, this great country would not be what it is today," Cameron said. "God bless the United States of America, and may we always remember those who gave it the supreme sacrifice."

Following a prayer led by post chaplain Rudolph Grissette, Post Commander Fred Dilley read the names of members who have died since VFW Post 8866 was chartered in 1988. As each name was read, post auxiliary leader Joanne Gunn placed a commemorative poppy into a red-white-and-blue memorial wreath. Those honored were: John N. Clark, James D. Griffin Sr., Leon M. Stone, Francis J. Miles, James B. Hulon Jr., Littleton J. Glass, Norlee Varnum, Alton Schroeter, Wilbur G. Holden and Herman Stewart.

FORMER Commander-In-Chief of the national Veterans of Foreign Wars organization Billy Ray Cameron addresses fellow veterans who gathered for a Memorial Day observance at VFW Post 866 in Holden Beach Monday.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON