

With Realignment

Pamlico Hurricanes Will Play In New Conference

The N.C. High School Athletic Association has notified Pamlico County High School that it will be placed in an entirely different conference for athletic competition, beginning in August of next year.

The action means that Hurricane sports teams will be heading off in new directions next year when their conference foes will be schools located to the west and northwest of Pamlico County. For the past several years, PCHS teams have been meeting league competition to the south and southwest.

In a Class 2-A conference yet to be named, Pamlico will be competing with three Pitt County high schools, Farmville, Ayden-Grifton and North Pitt; along with South

Lenoir High which is located just south of Kinston; Greene Central High at Snow Hill; and Aycock High which is just north of Goldsboro.

Pamlico's first varsity competition in the new conference will be next September 27 when the football team will host Greene Central in Bayboro. This was determined last Friday when athletic directors of the seven schools gathered to compose a league schedule for next fall.

North Pitt and South Lenoir will also visit the PCHS stadium in 1985, while the Hurricanes will travel to Farmville, Ayden-Grifton and Aycock for their three conference road games.

The placement of Pamlico in the

new league is a part of the statewide realignment of schools for purposes of athletic competition. It takes effect at the beginning of the 1985-86 school year.

The NCHSAA, in its realignment task, has sought to divide the state's 320 public high schools into four classifications of approximately 80 each. In the last few years, Class 3-A had as many as 126 members, while Class 1-A had only 29 members.

Pamlico has for the past several years been in a Class 2-A league with Dixon, East Carteret, Jones Sr., Lejeune, Richlands, SW Onslow, Swansboro and Topsail.

East Carteret, like Pamlico, will remain classified as 2-A, but has been assigned to comprise a

conference with Clinton, East Duplin, Wallace-Rose Hill, White Oak, and Kenan High of Warsaw.

Under the new realignment format, Dixon, Jones, Lejeune, Richlands, SW Onslow, Swansboro and Topsail will drop to Class 1-A.

All schools with average daily membership (ADM) figures for grades 10 through 12 of between 424 and 635 have been delegated Pamlico's ADM figure is 447, higher than 22 other teams which have now been assigned to 2-A competition for 1985-86. There will be a total of 84 Class 2-A teams across the state, including Avery County High and West Brunswick High...two schools which actually are Class 3-A size but which have

been placed in 2-A leagues because no other 3-A conference is located in their geographical area.

Ten teams across the state will be playing in Class 2-A although they are 1-A size. These 10 have elected to "play up" in classification. Schools are allowed to elect to "play down" in a lower classification. Nearby West Craven, which is 2-A size at 576 ADM, has elected to "play up" in a Class 3-A league.

Schools in Class 4-A next year will be those with ADM figures ranging from 930 to a high of 2,118. Schools in Class 3-A will be the ones with ADM figures from 635 to 930.

Eleven 3-A size schools have

elected to "play up" in 4-A leagues, and 10 2-A size schools have chosen to "play up" in 3-A leagues.

Aurora, with an ADM of 170, will be playing in basically the same conference, with the addition of North Edgecombe.

ADM enrollment figures for the new Class 2-A Conference into which Pamlico will move next summer show the league as follows:

548	Aycock
548	North Pitt
542	Greene
531	South Lenoir
510	Farmville
447	Pamlico

(See PCHS, Page 11)

The Pamlico News

Vol. 17, No. 39

20¢ per copy

USPS 782-460

Wednesday, October 3, 1984

County's Revenue Sources Show Change Over Years

Over the years, Pamlico County's sources of revenue for operating county government have changed—new sources have become available, others have been lost and still others have changed, increasing or decreasing with the economy.

While most sources of revenues have waxed and waned, ad valorem taxes, since fiscal year 1976-77, have risen steadily: 1976-77, \$77,075; 1977-78, \$851,280; 1978-79, \$922,752; 1979-80, \$991,777; 1980-81, \$1,104,232; 1981-82, \$1,335,383; 1982-83, \$1,382,061; 1983-84, \$1,388,499.

Since 1979-80, revenues from building permits have risen, an indication that there has been more construction in the past five years since the cost of building permits had not changed much as of June 30, 1984. Building permits in 1979-80 were \$4,089 and for 1983-84, \$8,609.

County manager Bill Rice said

that the intangibles tax revenues are "a direct reflection of the prosperity of the county." A look at the revenue generated by the intangibles tax shows that it has had its ups and downs. For fiscal year 1979-80, \$40,327 was collected; the next year that dropped slightly to \$39,718 but a steep increase occurred in 1981-82, rising to \$52,688. It dropped again in 1982-83 to \$48,726 and rose this past year to \$55,129, according to the preliminary audit report.

Fines and forfeitures, a source of revenue that ultimately benefits the schools, showed an increase from 1979-80 to 1981-82, rising from \$6,578 to \$10,329. There was a slight drop in 1982-83 with a large increase this past year to \$19,411.

Sales tax revenues, another indication, said Rice, of the buying power of the county's residents, have also fluctuated over the years from a low in 1976-77 of

\$113,209 to \$202,016 this past fiscal year for the one-cent local option tax. The half-cent local option sales tax, collected last year for the first time, generated \$131,214, forty percent of which must go to the schools.

There must have been fewer marriages in Pamlico County in 1983-84 than in 1982-83 according to license revenues. Marriage license revenues were segregated from other recording fees collected by the register of deeds office for the first time in 1982-83. These licenses generated \$1,190 in 1982-83 and \$930 last fiscal year.

With growing programs, the county has also been receiving increasing amounts from the state for social services. With the fiscal year ending June 30, 1977, the county received \$89,624; this past year, \$143,506 was received. Revenues listed as "social services miscellaneous" have risen

from \$37,748 for 1979-80 to \$121,796 last year. These two revenues, in looking at the budgets for the last few years, were often overestimated in the initial budget—this past year, 1982-83, by \$7,648 for administration and \$17,875 for miscellaneous.

Rice explained that the fluctuations and overestimates occurred for a number of reasons. The legislature has a substantial effect on the available revenues. In

addition, social services is reimbursed by various programs at different rates. If emphasis in DSS is placed on a program with a lower reimbursement rate, revenues, of course, will be lower. Rice also commented that in the past the estimates of anticipated revenues prepared by the state had received too much credibility and generally proved to be too high.

Since fiscal year 1976-77, the tax on beer and wine sales has

increased, suggesting that alcohol consumption may also be on the rise. For the year ending June 30, 1977, revenues were \$17,422; 1978, \$18,039; 1979, \$19,943; 1980, \$21,206; 1981, \$23,436; 1982, \$25,648; 1983, \$26,253; and 1984, \$27,019.

Revenues from recreation fees have also risen and declined—according to participation in the department's programs, said

(See MONEY, Page 11)

Pamlico Commissioners Opt For Market Issuance Of Bonds

The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners called an emergency meeting last week, their first in a number of years, to discuss funding for the Goose Creek Island water tank project. An emergency meeting was necessary because of the time factor involved. In the end, the commissioners decided to sell the bonds on the open market.

Tom Harwell, chairman of Carolina Benchmark, the engineering firm handling the project, and Bob Pittman, president of the same firm, were present to discuss the matter with the com-

missioners during the Thursday, September 27, meeting.

The county had counted on funding the project with a loan from Farmers Home Administration. The county has \$253,000 left from the bond authority approved seven years ago for the original county water system.

Harwell told the board that FmHA receives its money in quarterly allotments and that Pamlico County's project was not included in the past quarter which ended September 30. FmHA began a new fiscal year on October 1. The problem, he said, was

that the county's seven-year bond authority will expire on November 29, the date of the vote approving the bond referendum. In discussing the matter with FmHA, Harwell said that agency officials indicated that the funds could be included in the first quarter allotments. There would be just enough time, barring any unforeseen problems, to bid and sell the bonds by the November deadline, he added.

County manager Bill Rice explained that the county had three

(See BONDS, Page 11)

Cox Files Suit Against Beaufort School Board, Superintendent, Principal

A former Chocowinity High School math teacher, transferred to Aurora High in August, filed suit last week against the Beaufort County Board of Education, county superintendent and the principal of Chocowinity High alleging that his transfer was the result of his criticism of the principal, James Henderson, during an appearance before the school board and in a letter to the editor in a local newspaper. The suit was filed September 25 in the Eastern District of federal court.

In his complaint, Otis Cox is seeking reinstatement as a teacher at Chocowinity, \$25,000 in

actual damages and legal fees and expenses.

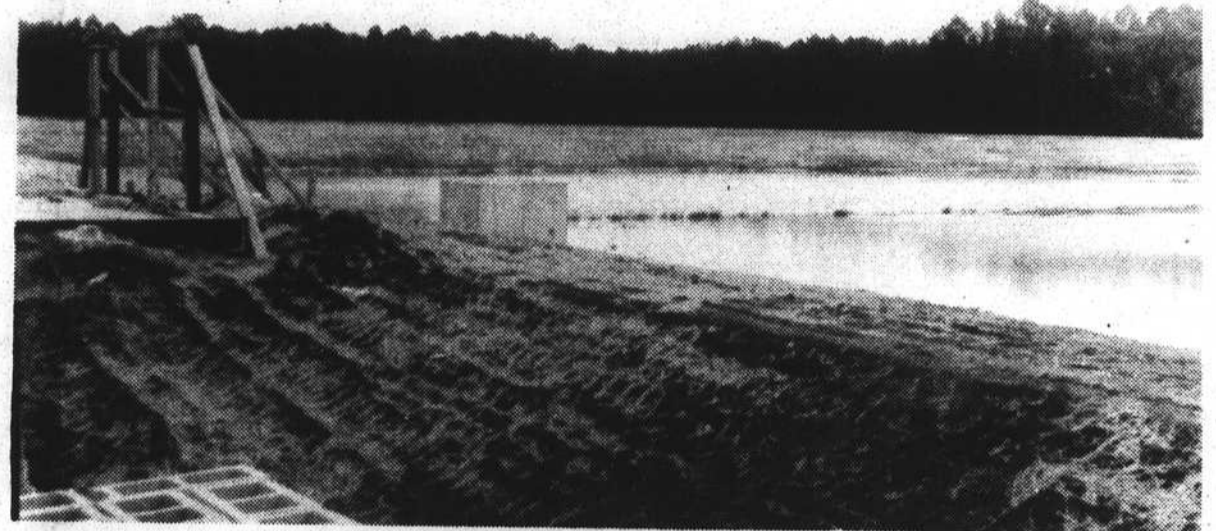
In February, according to the complaint, Cox, along with others, appeared before the school board, expressing criticism of Henderson. In April 1984, Cox wrote a letter to the editor which appeared in the Washington Daily News expressing his concern about the deletion of an 8th grade algebra course. Cox alleges that the school board retaliated by transferring him to Aurora High, an assignment, he contends, that is not desirable and requires his traveling a further distance.

The suit maintains that his

rights protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendments have been violated.

Cox has taught in the Beaufort County Schools for eight years; the complaint, which requests a jury trial, maintains that his performance as a teacher has been satisfactory. The complaint states that Cox's transfer was approved by the school board on August 14, one day prior to the date on which teachers were to report for work; Cox says he did not request a transfer nor was he given any notice that the transfer was being

(See SUIT, Page 11)



On Wednesday, September 26, the sewage treatment plant for Oriental municipal

sewage disposal system was completed. In another month,

some customers should be hooked up and using it.

First Phase Of Oriental Sewer Nearly Operational

Within a month, the first users should be able to connect to the Oriental sewer system with the entire project being completed and operational by Christmas.

Four sections, 26,000 feet of sewer pipe, have been completed since the work began four months ago, said Frank Byrnes, an inspector with McDavid and Associates, the engineering firm for the project. Pipe is now being laid along Midgette Street, work which should be finished within two weeks, and then installation of the system in the center of town will begin. By leaving this section until last, he explained, most summer residents will have left and businesses will not have been disrupted and inconvenienced during their busiest times. About 18,000 feet of pipe, and the accompanying manholes, remain to be laid.

The first sections to receive sewer service will be the Whitaker Creek area, excluding Skipper Circle, the marina, and Seafarer Road, and the Community Development Block Grant project area. Byrnes said that within

two weeks the testing of this portion of the system will begin. It first be flushed and cleaned of mud and other debris and checked for infiltration. The system must

then be accepted by the town. After acceptance, homeowners can arrange for plumbers to con-

(See SEWER, Page 11)

Voter Registration Closes Oct. 8

Voter registration for the November 6 general election closes on October 8, according to the Pamlico County Board of Elections. The elections board supervisor adds that registration of new voters has been relatively heavy in the past month.

Ernestine Mattocks, supervisor of the Pamlico County Board of Elections, said that approximately 100 voters have registered within the past few weeks. Surprisingly enough, she added, 20 to 25 percent have been registering as

Republicans. Locally, there is only one contested race, that for county commissioner for township 3. It pits

Republican newcomer Bill Paul against Vince Sevinski, incumbent Democrat.

Under the Voters Rights Act Amendment of 1975, explained Mattocks, county residents not registered to vote can cast their ballots for the presidential and vice-presidential races. To do so, a person must request in writing, by mail or in person, a PR form from the board of elections office. A person has until 7:30 pm on November 6 to submit the completed ballot.

For more information on the PR form, contact Mattocks at the board of elections office in Bayboro.