

## Football Season Kicks Off Friday

North Brunswick lineman Vincent Montgomery (top) stretches out over teammate Bill Watson prior to the Scorpions practice last week. Previews of all three county high school teams are in Section of this issue.



### OTHER INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS

- Calabash To Study Planning Options, 3-A
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## Her 17th Year Behind Wheel

Meet Myrtle Carroll, bus driver at Bolivia Elementary School, substitute school teacher and former teacher's aide. She is featured "Under the Sun" this week.

# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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## Fired Brunswick Tech Chief Claims Board Hasn't Supported Him

BY DOUG RUTTER

In the wake of his firing Monday night, Brunswick Tech President Joseph Carter said Tuesday the college's trustees had not given him adequate support and managerial freedom during the past year.

Carter's dismissal is effective Sept. 1. The trustees have asked the State Department of Community Colleges to provide an interim administrator, who is expected to be named in the near future.

The institution's founding president, Carter has served in the post seven years.

Tuesday he said the board had recently become "too involved" in the decision-making process of the college and that he was not given enough freedom.

"The board should be concentrating on enhancing

the image of the college and insuring professional control of the college," he said. "Instead, they are more involved with the educational procedures, which is not their job."

"They should first and foremost live by their own bylaws."

Carter was fired on the recommendation of the personnel committee, which earlier Monday had asked unsuccessfully for his resignation. Committee Chairman James Rabon made the motion which trustees approved unanimously, although not all voiced their approval during the vote.

Carter said he found out about his potential firing at the board's Aug. 17 meeting attended by State Department of Community Colleges President Robert Scott.

Board members refused to say whether the visit from Scott or any other circumstance was the deciding factor in Carter's dismissal.

Carter said Scott insinuated he had not cooperated with the State Bureau of Investigation and figuratively "slapped" his hand.

The SBI investigation of Brunswick Tech began in March after the discovery of fraudulent classes at Cape

Fear Tech in Wilmington were reported. District Attorney Michael Easley is expected to present the findings of that report to a Brunswick County Grand Jury on Aug. 31.

A statement issued Monday night by board Chairman David Kelly indicated trustees fired Carter "feeling that a change in leadership was in the best interests of the college."

Regarding the SBI investigation, Kelly's statement indicated the board knows of nothing that would lead it "to conclude that either Dr. Carter or any member of his staff and faculty has engaged in any illegal activity."

Trustees declined further comment on the situation, deferring all questions to Kelly's prepared statement.

Carter agreed with Kelly's statement, but added that he "cooperated in every way" with the SBI during its probe.

He said the SBI had turned up evidence showing that some Brunswick Tech students had signed up for two classes at the same time.

The practice itself was not unlawful at the time it

occurred, Carter said. He added that in no way does the school condone such behavior and now has a rule which prohibits the practice.

A lack of computerization at Brunswick Tech made it difficult to cross-reference student files and determine if they had actually signed up for classes correctly, he said, adding that new computer operations being set up at the college will help prevent similar problems in the future.

### Options Rejected

Carter's termination followed a bid by him to gain more time.

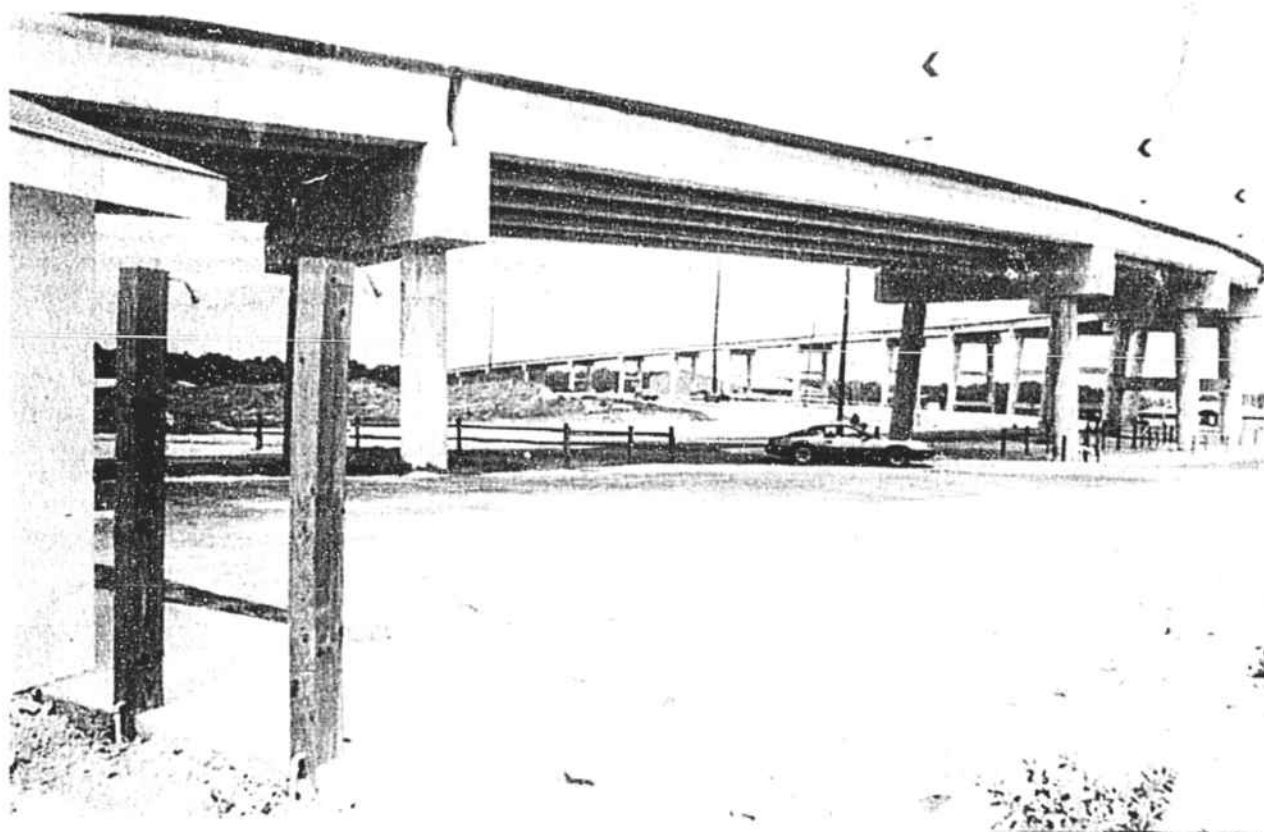
Carter told The Brunswick Beacon he had proposed two options to the personnel committee, which met Monday afternoon before the meeting of the full board. Committee members rejected both, he said, and instead demanded his immediate resignation, which he refused to give.

Carter's first option called for a six-month probationary period during which the board could evaluate Carter's performance as president and demand his resignation if not satisfied.

(See BRUNSWICK, Page 5-A)



Carter



THE FIRST REGIONAL BEACH ACCESS in the South Brunswick Islands area has been constructed at Holden Beach on property below the new bridge. The

facility consists of a 90-car parking lot, restrooms and showers.

## Holden Beach Access Is Almost Completed

BY RAHN ADAMS

Holden Beach officials say the newly-constructed regional beach access there is expected to greatly relieve traffic congestion, especially on weekends.

According to town administrator Tom Birmingham, the beach access project is virtually completed, with only some restroom fixtures—one lavatory and mirror—yet to be installed.

A 90-space parking area, located off Jordan Boulevard near the old Holden Beach Bridge, is already open.

Visitors using the new facility will have an approximately 300-foot walk from the parking area to the beach, Birmingham said.

Holden Beach street and access commissioner Gay Atkins said last week that the facility will also allow convenient access to the Intracoastal Waterway for fishermen, with construction of a marl walkway from the parking area.

Ms. Atkins said tourist traffic to Holden Beach will undoubtedly increase with addition of the regional access; however, she added that the facility will also greatly benefit mainland residents.

"We feel like we'll have more day visits than before," Ms. Atkins said, "probably as far away as Columbus County."

"Unfortunately, when the beaches were developed," she added,

"nobody apparently thought about how popular these little islands would become."

Ms. Atkins said the regional access should solve parking problems on weekends, when vehicles often are parked "helter skelter" in various areas.

"I'm going to hope that with this parking facility that traffic will use this access," she said, "and alleviate some problems in areas that have permanent residents."

Ms. Atkins said another plus will be having public bathroom and shower facilities, something not found at Ocean Isle or Sunset beaches.

According to Birmingham, the building has handicapped access, and is as vandal-proof as possible,

featuring stainless-steel lavatories and safety-glass mirrors.

Two cold-water showers are located outside the building.

Estimated cost of the project is \$70,000; all but approximately \$10,000 of that amount will come from state grant monies.

Birmingham said maintenance of the facility will be handled by the town. Police officers will open and close the building, although hours have not yet been set.

The Holden Beach regional access is the first built in the South Brunswick Islands, although Sunset Beach is working toward developing a similar facility.

The only other regional access in Brunswick County is in Long Beach.

## Grading For Shallotte Bypass Could Begin In Early November

Grading of the southern half of the U.S. 17 bypass around Shallotte could begin as early as November, but the route isn't expected to open to traffic until the mid-1990s.

And Brunswick County planning board members are concerned that the bypass will be obsolete before it's finished, Planning Director John Harvey told county commissioners last Thursday night.

At the request of the planning board, commissioners directed County Attorney David Clegg to draw up for their consideration a resolution urging the N.C. Department of Transportation to reconsider from a safety standpoint plans for an at-grade intersection of the bypass with N.C. 130 near West Brunswick High School.

Harvey said U.S. 17 will be an important, heavily-traveled connector between Interstate 20 to the south and Interstate 40 to the north. An at-grade intersection could be hazardous for public school students. N.C. 130 serves both West Brunswick High School and Shallotte Middle School.

Cameron Lee, an assistant administrator for the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) said the

state board will open bids on Sept. 15 for grading a 2.3-mile segment of the project. It is expected to award a bid at its October meeting.

Grading bids for the remaining 2.5 miles of the project won't be opened until June 1988. "That's going to take a good while to complete," he added.

Also, under the current transportation improvement plan, the first contracts for paving won't be let until at least 1990, with completion not due until several years later. The plan is revised annually.

Work on the companion four-laning of U.S. 17 to the South Carolina line is expected to begin before the bypass is completed, but won't be finished until later, said Lee.

County commissioners are expected to adopt a resolution supporting a grade separation at the intersection of N.C. 130 and the bypass at their next meeting.

In an interview earlier this month, however, DOT Project Engineer Cyrus Painter said the agency continues to recommend a grade-level intersection with east-west stops. The site would be looked at again before all work is finished, he said. If needed, the state could install a traf-

fic signal. At that time, however, it would be too late to redesign the intersection.

At the present time, he added, the proposed speed limit for the bypass is 55 mph. Access to property along the route will be by small service roads, with no driveway connections.

Last Wednesday night, however, Shallotte aldermen gave their support to a resolution from DOT which calls for the bypass to intersect U.S. 17 just north of S.R. 1136 at the south end of town and just north of S.R. 1316 at the north end of Shallotte, circumventing the town on its east side.

Mayor Jerry Jones said the state would be responsible for the adjustment cost of relocating any city-owned water and sewer lines because the town's population (976) doesn't exceed 5,500.

"The town has been hoping for this bypass for many, many years. We are all very pleased that it is finally getting underway," said Jones.

The resolution adopted by the town board also calls for a rest area to be maintained by the state. It will be located at the intersection of the bypass and N.C. 130.

## Commissioners Hire County Manager On 3-2 Vote

BY SUSAN USHER

After a five-month search, Brunswick County is getting a new county manager.

County commissioners voted 3-2 last Thursday night to hire John Thomas Smith, 53, of Clinton. He will earn \$42,500 a year and will have use of a county car. He is expected to

begin work within about 30 days.

Smith, a former manager of Iredell County, currently manages two tax appraisal companies that handle only revaluations.

Voting for him were Commissioners Frankie Rabon, Benny Ludlum and Chairman Grace Beasley.

Commissioners Chris Chappell and Jim Poole voted against his hiring.

"We had a potentially excellent candidate for the county," said Chappell afterwards. "I thought it was time to try it."

That candidate was H.C. (Herbie) Ward Jr. of Shallotte, manager of a farm credit service and chairman of the Shallotte Planning Board. Chappell said Ward had no past government employment, but was capable of learning the manager's job.

Poole supported another candidate who he said was "more qualified" than Smith.

However, both Poole and Chappell said they would give their full support to the majority's choice.

Smith, in a telephone interview Friday night, said of the split vote, "You always want 100 percent support and a 100 percent vote."

He added, "But I will work hard enough to get all the board's support. I'll be working for the good of the

(See SPLIT VOTE, Page 2-A)

## West Principal Drops Student Debt Policy

BY SUSAN USHER

Outstanding student debts at West Brunswick High School won't be forgiven come Monday, but they will be forgotten—at least for the moment.

Saying the school year needed to begin on a more positive note, Principal David R. Corley announced last week that he will drop efforts to collect debts owed from previous years before allowing students to attend classes this fall.

Instead, he will return to the school's past policy of collecting all overdue debt before seniors are given their report cards.

"We were trying to prevent burdening seniors with the extra expense," said Corley, as well as giving a lesson in financial responsibility and solving a longstanding problem for the school. West, along with other schools, routinely loses revenue due it from students who drop out or move away before graduation.

In mid-summer parents of approximately 200 students received letters announcing their children owed the school money. If the bills were unpaid by the start of school, Corley indicated in the letter, the students would not be allowed to pick up class schedules. Instead, they would be kept in the equivalent of in-school suspension.

On Aug. 17, one parent took his complaint about the plan to the board of education, saying the school had

no proof his daughter owed the debt for which he was billed.

Later in the week, Corley said he had decided "not to make an issue of it."

Meanwhile, about half the outstanding debt has been cleared up.

"More people told me that they liked what we were doing as far as teaching financial responsibility," said Corley. "But we did get that negative . . ."