



STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON

Beautifying Sunset Beach

Sunset Beach Beautification Committee members and the town's mayor pose with one of 44 flower barrels placed at businesses throughout the town. Merchants paid for the barrels, whose flowers will be tended by committee members. Many of the members wore bright yellow "Keep Sunset Beach Beautiful" T-shirts designed by Sue Jensen. Pictured are (kneeling, from left) Gayle Schadle, Phyllis Manfred, Althea Grace, Jane Bye, Betty Dawley, (standing, from left) Anne Commerton, Kathy Kakos, Mary Bazemore, Chance Scrantom, Peggy Smyly, Mayor Mason Barber, Ginny Barber, Diana Heil, Augusta Mylorie and Jerry Moore.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

FIREFIGHTERS and equipment from Civietown and Tri-Beach volunteer fire departments line Stanbury Road to protect homes from a woods fire that burned about 15 acres of nearby forest land Thursday morning.

Dry Air, High Winds Make Spring Ripe For Woods Fires

BY ERIC CARLSON
In what has become a regular springtime event—occurring at a rate of about one per day—volunteer firefighters helped the N.C. Forestry Service contain a woods fire that destroyed about 15 acres of forest near Stanbury Road, Supply, Thursday morning.
As of Tuesday (April 27) there had been 25 woods fires reported this month, according to N.C. Forest Service Ranger Phillip Caison.
"Spring is our worst time of the year," Caison said.
Poorly supervised debris burning and woods arson have been blamed for most of the fires, Caison said. Low humidity, high winds and significant amounts of dry, fallen debris have helped the fires spread, making work difficult for firefighters.
Thursday's fire was probably intentionally set, said assistant county Ranger Phillip Inman.
"I suspect it was some thrill-seeker who wanted to see the big equipment in action," he said.

The forest service was called to the scene at about 10 a.m. along with Civietown and Tri-Beach fire departments. Volunteer firefighters manned pumps and lined Stanbury Road to assure that the fire could not spread to nearby homes. Emergency Services Director Cecil Logan also responded.
As a forest service airplane kept watch on the fire from above, two fire plows and about six forest service fire fighters went into the woods to create a fire break that would deprive the blaze of fuel, Inman said. The fire was under control by noon, he said.
No injuries were reported.
The Thursday blaze was the largest woods fire this month, Inman said.
A Friday brush fire scorched the overgrown cemetery of Kendall Chapel AME Church near Belville before being brought under control by firefighters. A church worker was burning underbrush and pine trees to expand the cemetery when he lost control of the blaze after a wind gust.

About a half-acre of woods burned Sunday in a fire on High Meadows Road near Shell Point. It was apparently caused by a debris fire that was thought to be extinguished, but re-ignited.
Inman urged that anyone needing to burn brush or debris should take special care during the current dry conditions. He advised that such burning be done late in the afternoon, when the daytime humidity reaches its peak.

School System Interviews 17 Candidates For Principals' Jobs

Monday Brunswick County School officials completed interviewing 17 of the 65 applicants for four school principalships.
Ralph Ward, personnel director, said 54 new applications were received for the position. Another 10 or more applications on file were also considered. Of the 17 scheduled for interviews through Monday, seven were from within Brunswick County and 10 from outside the school district.
Johnston said he hopes to recommend candidates for the posts to the school board at its May 10 meeting. At that meeting he is also expected to outline his proposal for reorganizing his administrative staff.
Of the 12 schools in the county system, four have principals serving on an interim basis. However, principals are employed by the system and may be assigned to any school.
Applicants for the vacancies were expected to have a graduate degree in school administration, to meet the qualifications for a North Carolina principal's certificate, to have five years of experience as a school principal or assistant principal, and to have experience in using computerized school attendance and scheduling programs.

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Student Conduct Code Includes New Policies On Weapons, Grievance

BY SUSAN USHER
A ban on weapons and their look-alikes is just one of the changes reflected in a revamped conduct code for Brunswick County students tentatively approved last week by the school board.
Brunswick County Board of Education members will vote a second time at their May 10 meeting on the package considered April 22. If adopted as expected, the new policies would become effective July 1, said Superintendent Ralph Johnston.
The proposed weapons policy would ban a student possessing, handling or transmitting any loaded or unloaded firearm, explosives, knives (including pocket knives) or other weapon or any item used as a weapon. The only exception would be for Junior ROTC cadets who are required to carry arms as part of their class duties, or students who use weapons in school-approved instruction or ceremonies.
The code presented by consulting attorney Richard A. Schwartz of Raleigh compiles policies relating to student conduct considered necessary for safe and effective operation of schools.
Among other topics, policies cover school disruption; misconduct on school buses; trespassing; assault; property theft or damage; use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs; searches of lockers, the person or property of students, and auto exteriors and interiors; and student integrity.
The code also outlines disciplinary measures, due process and appeals procedures and even a student grievance policy.
The policies apply to any student: in a school building or on school premises before, during or after school hours; on a bus or other vehicle on which he or she is being transported as part of a school activity as well as at any bus stop; during any school function, activity or event; at any time a student is subject to the authority of school personnel; or whose conduct at any time or place has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools.
Prosecution Possible
Violation of the rules covered by the policy can in some instances lead to short- or long-term suspension, expulsion and/or referral to a law enforcement agency for criminal prosecution. In fact, under the code, any time a school official learns or suspects that a student has violated a policy or rule that might also be a criminal violation, such as firearms, drug or trespass policies, the apparent violation is to be reported to the proper law enforcement agency for action independent of any disciplinary measures taken by the school system.
A student in grades 6 through 12 would be suspended long-term (more than 10 days and up to the remainder of the school year) if found to have possessed, handled or transmitted a weapon (or look-alike) other than a firearm, knife or explosive. Mitigating information submitted by the student will be considered in determining the length of the suspension.
Suspensions for the remainder of the school year are mandatory for seven other code violations governing disruption, assault with a weapon, assault of a school employee, student against student attack or fight, threatening actions, possession, transmitting or handling of a firearm, knife or explosive and, unless the student agrees to certain conditions, first violation of the board's drug and alcohol policy. Conditions may include requirements for substance abuse counseling.

Alternative Sanctions
Except where firearms, explosives or knives are involved, alternatives to long-term suspensions are possible if a student is able to convince the school system that he or she has "seen the light" and changed, said Schwartz. Under these circumstances a principal may agree to allow a student to return to school sooner than scheduled if certain terms and conditions are met.

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