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NOTICEABLE PROGRESS is being made this week on the Oak Island Bridge as concrete supports are raised on the south side of the Intra-coastal Waterway. The northern approach had been advancing far more rapidly than the

marsh side; now the work will center on the elevated roadway leading from the island to the actual waterway crossing. In the photograph, the two support sections closest to the camera are on the south side of the channel.

## Bray, Childs On Ballot; Roberts Effort Is Short

By BILL ALLEN  
Two Republican candidates for the board of commissioners earned places on the fall general election ballot after all votes cast in last Tuesday's primary were officially tabulated Thursday by the Brunswick County Board of Elections.

Incumbent John H. Bray of Smithville and newcomer John J. Childs, Sr., of Northwest were both declared victors in the battle for the final two places on the GOP ballot for the board of commissioners.

Both men, who finished fourth and fifth in the race, had a majority.

Herman Strong headed the three-man field for the Democratic nomination for sheriff. But he lacked six votes of having a majority

and could have faced a run-off primary. However, D.E. Tripp, who could have called the second primary, declined.

After the official vote was tabulated, Tripp was quoted as saying he did not want to put the county and state to the added expense of a second primary unless more than one race was at stake.

The official canvass, conducted by the Board of

Elections at the courthouse in Southport Thursday, showed no change in the position of any candidate in the primary Tuesday.

The unofficial victors held onto their places in every race with minor adjustments both up and down.

All candidates who won statewide contests also earned victories in Brunswick County.

After all county votes were officially tabulated, the Board of Elections, composed of Chairman L.C. Babson, Secretary John N. Mills and Member H.H. Bellamy, announced that Tripp, the only county candidate eligible to call a second

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## McHose To Fill Martin Vacancy On City Board

A former Southport alderman has been named to fill the board seat of Al Martin, who resigned his post Thursday night.

Mary McHose, who was defeated in the city election last November, will occupy a seat on the board at least until the next municipal election. Martin asked that Mrs. McHose serve on all committees he did, including that for the Frying Pan

Lightship. Aldermen accepted "with regret" the resignation of Martin, who will move his place of residence to Bolling Spring Lakes within two months.

In other business, Mayor Eugene Tomlinson noted the city was in "good financial condition." The current budget is \$728,149; to date, collections total \$651,998; and expenditures \$607,935.

Effective June 1, the name of East West Street east of Bonnett's Creek will become "Longleaf Drive." The possibility of a city curfew is under study by Town Attorney James Prevatte and Police Chief Herman Strong; and a street sweeper for the city is on order, according to Alderman Robert Howard.

A "tree ordinance" similar to one enacted for Wilmington is not needed by the town, reported Alderman Pierce Horne. Work on the bulkhead at the foot of Howe Street was "looking real good," according to City Manager Alvin Kornegay, who said 12 loads of broken cement have been used as reinforcement.

Mayor Tomlinson reminded board members of a May 28 public hearing concerning an update of Gov. Jim Holshouser's seven-year highway plan. Among items of local interest is the possible widening of Howe Street from the hospital to Sawdust Trill.

The city has committed "up to \$250" to be matched by the local art association for the purchase award in this year's July 4 Arts Festival. Gilliam Hornstein said the purchaser "needs to offer more prize money," and needs more selectivity in which works to purchase. Alderman Harold Davis was named to represent the city on a three-member purchase

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## Bowers Drops Plans To Run

T. David Bowers, who won the nomination to run for a seat on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners in the Democratic primary last week, announced Tuesday that he was withdrawing from the race.

Bowers, who heads Brunswickland Realty at Holden Beach, said he was withdrawing from the race for "several reasons."

One of the main reasons, he told The Pilot, "is the added demands of my business. This is my own decision. I am taking this step because of the added burdens which have arisen since I entered the race for a seat on the board from Lockwood Folly Township."

Bowers told The Pilot that he mailed a letter regarding his decision to withdraw to the Brunswick County Board of Elections Tuesday.

Bowers' letter withdrawing from the race was received by the Brunswick County Board of Elections Wednesday.

"I hereby respectfully tender my resignation as the Democratic candidate for the office of County Commissioner in Brunswick County," Bowers said in the letter. "At this time increasing demands of my business, which I did not count on when I first filed as a candidate for the

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## Commissioners Meet Thursday

# Board Moves On School Vote; Creates 'Authority'

By BILL ALLEN  
Brunswick County commissioners took the first step towards implementing the \$6 million school bond request for construction and improvement Thursday at a special meeting in Southport.

The board instructed County Manager Neil Mallory to set up a meeting for commissioners and members of the Board of Education to discuss the proposed bond issue with the Local Government Com-

mission. "We should not drag our feet on this matter," Chairman William A. Kopp, Jr., told his fellow commissioners.

County Manager Mallory said he had talked to officials of the Local Government Commission about the school bond matter. He was told that a three-way meeting between the commissioners, education board members and the Local Government Commission was the first step towards implementing the bond issue.

**HIGHWAY NEEDS**  
Commissioners made plans to discuss highway needs in Brunswick County at a Board of Transportation public meeting in Raleigh May 23. The public meeting, one of three being held in the eastern part of the state, will

be devoted to discussing the seven-year road construction program of the department.

Chairman Kopp suggested that the board put together a package to present at the Raleigh meeting. The package, dealing with future highway needs in the county,

will be discussed at the next board meeting May 20.

He said he knew the board should recommend that improvements be made to Highways 17 and 133. Board members were urged to make other suggestions at the

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## Sheriff Deputy Dies Suddenly

Funeral services for Melton Davis McCumbee of Ash, chief deputy of the Brunswick County Sheriff Department, will be held Thursday afternoon at three o'clock at Zion Baptist Church at Waccamaw. Burial will follow at Mintz Cemetery.

McCumbee, 35, a member of the sheriff's department for the past 8 years, died late Tuesday night at Doshier Memorial Hospital. He died from a heart attack after working a full day Tuesday.

"The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department has not just lost a man but the people of Brunswick County have lost a man who has been of great service," Sheriff Harold Willetts said. "You can't replace a man like Chief Deputy McCumbee, who had the knowledge and personality to do an outstanding job for the people of Brunswick County."

Chief deputy McCumbee, a native of Brunswick County, was a 1966 graduate of Waccamaw High School. He was a farmer before joining the sheriff's department on December 20, 1966 and shortly afterwards was appointed chief deputy. He attended numerous law enforcement schools and seminars while a member of

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## Condominiums Coming Soon

# Yaupon Okays Zoning, Paves Way For Units

By ED THORNDYKE  
The Yaupon Beach Town Council adopted a residential zoning ordinance at a special meeting Monday night and then approved a triangular strip of land adjacent to NC 133 as a residential apartment zone.

The ordinance will permit the construction of residential, duplex condominiums, and multi-family dwellings in approved zones and will open the door for construction of two five-story condominiums on the specifically zoned triangular site, pending planning board approval of the project plans.

The ordinance was presented, at the request of the council, by town attorney Obie Lee of Lumberton and approved, after spirited debate by the council on a 3-2

vote. Council members Jack Allen, Gib Barbee, and Marvin Watson supported adoption of the ordinance while Bill McDougle and William Smalley were in opposition.

According to Lee, the ordinance that was adopted was the same one he presented to the original Yaupon Beach Town Council, with the addition of specific application procedure guidelines, when they approved initial zoning ordinances for the town. The council struck the residential apartment zone clause at that time.

The specific site that was zoned is owned by Southport businessman John Barbee and is earmarked for sale to Venture Management, Inc., of Winston-Salem and Atlanta. Venture proposes to use it for

the construction of two five-story condominiums.

The council voted 3-1 to approve the site as a residential apartment zone, with members McDougle, Allen, and Watson voting for approval. Smalley opposed the motion and Gib Barbee disqualified himself from the vote. Barbee is the brother of owner John Barbee.

The zoned site has been the subject of some controversy with various local citizens voicing their displeasure at the possibly of the construction of condominiums on the beach. Other displeasure stems from the developers' wish to purchase water for the townhouse complex from Yaupon Beach. There is concern among the citizens

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## 'Sheriff Has Right Much Influence'

# 'No' Vote On Cars Hurt Clemmons

His voting not to accept 14 overdue sheriff's cars cost J.T. Clemmons his seat on the Brunswick County board of commissioners.

And a negative vote on the same issue nearly erased the name of John Bray from the Republican slate in the November general election.

These observations were made during a Monday interview by Clemmons, Lockwood Folly Township commissioner who was not renominated for office in the May 7 GOP primary.

"I was told if the sheriff ever put out a ticket against me that I would lose," Clemmons said. He cited "them stinkin' sheriff's cars" as playing a "very major part" in his defeat.

Clemmons said that "the disagreement came when the cars got 30 days behind." That was on Feb. 6 when Clemmons introduced a motion to void the contract with Willetts Ford of Bolivia.

The vote was 3-2 in favor of the motion, Commissioners John Bray

and Robert Simmons voting with Clemmons, and William A. Kopp, Jr., and Vardell Hughes voting to accept the cars when they arrived.

Clemmons said, "I think there might have been one or two members of the board that didn't want to talk about it, didn't want it to come up. But it had to come up."

He said the contract may already have been broken, and "I didn't want to pop up in another lawsuit."

Commissioner Simmons changed his vote on Feb. 20 and the tally was 3-2 in favor of accepting the cars. Clemmons and Bray voted no.

The Lockwood Folly commissioner, who insisted he was not opposed to purchasing the cars, met with sheriff's deputies when he found out he "was somewhat in dutch with them for voting against the cars."

"They didn't buy my position," Clemmons said.

He said he dropped out of the race temporarily on March 26 because "I had canvassed the county ... and had seen things happening within my

party that didn't look just exactly right to me." He said he talked with several Republican leaders and was told if he wasn't on the sheriff's ticket, he'd lose.

"It was the thought of the sheriff's ticket I did not like."

About the "anti-Clemmons" ticket, the commissioner said, "I knew there was little or nothing I could do about it, and by staying on it there was the possibility of me dragging another real good, qualified commissioner down the drain with me."

He said he re-entered the race because of a commitment to the 4,700-plus voters who elected him in 1972.

"I feel like I was politicked to death," Clemmons said, "and I also feel that there were some members of the party being sure I wasn't back on the ticket."

Clemmons would not say whether he felt some members of the board of commissioners campaigned

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