



A NEW MICROSCOPE has been presented to the Doshier Memorial Hospital laboratory by the Doshier Volunteers, who raised the necessary \$1,500 through Flea Market sales and the gift shop Present for the giving were (left to right)

volunteers Gertha Ward and Ressie Whatley, Hospital Administrator Lorraine Eichorn, Chief Medical Technologist Dee Thomas and lab technician Kathy Holth.

## Speed-Up Sought In Water, Sewer Work

By BILL ALLEN  
Staff Writer

The Southport Board of Aldermen, meeting in special session Monday afternoon, took action to speed up the long - delayed Water, Sewer and Storm Drainage project. The board voted unanimously to notify the two contractors and their sureties of the intent to terminate their contracts under Section 23 of the General Conditions. Hilco, Inc., and Pierce Ditching Company of Florence, S.C., will have ten days from Monday to work out a satisfactory agreement with the city to complete the project. If the agreement can't be worked out within ten days, another registered letter will be sent to the surety, with a copy to the bonding company, that the contract has been terminated and that the surety is required.

Charles Davis of Henry Von Oesen and Associates, Inc., the engineers on the project, recommended the course of action in a letter to the board. "After reviewing the work progress to this date, we now think it is advisable for the town to proceed with notifying the contractors and their sureties of intent to terminate," he said in the letter. Davis pointed out that he recommended at the November and March meetings that the board not

take the action to call in the contractors' bonding companies to take over the work. The contractors and surety companies are being called on to correct listed violations and to make satisfactory arrangements for completion of the work within the ten days or the contracts will

cease and terminate. Davis said it is hoped that the bonding company, U.S. Fidelity and Guaranty Company, will involve itself within the ten days. If it does not happen, the surety will be served notice to take over the work and complete the contract upon termination.

Under the contracts, the completion date for the city project was December 14. It was 128 days over contract on April 21. Davis estimated that it will take Hilco 90 days to complete the work and Pierce Ditching 60 days at the current rates.

Reasons for sending the notice to Hilco include:

1. For the past three months progress has gradually slowed almost to a standstill at the present with only one crew on the job;
2. Repeated requests for months to repair pavement and driveway cuts have gone uncorrected;
3. No work has been started on installing house service laterals and connection to new mains. This is the system's means of collecting revenue and the town is losing revenue with this

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## Hospital Bond Vote Is Called

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners has filed the required legal notice for Smithville Township residents to vote in the August primary on establishing a hospital tax district. Residents will vote for or against having an annual tax levy, beginning in 1976, for the establishment, maintenance and improvement of a public hospital for Smithville Township at the site of the present Doshier Memorial Hospital.

If approved in the referendum, the annual tax to be levied only in Smithville Township shall not exceed four cents per \$100 valuation for a period of time not exceeding 25 years.

The maximum amount of money proposed to be spent from the tax levy in purchasing, building and improving the hospital will be \$2.1 million. A total of \$84,000 will be spent annually for the maintenance and operation of the hospital.

## Beach Council Discusses Dogs, Erosion And Water

By BILL ALLEN  
Staff Writer

The county dog ordinance will be enforced in Long Beach, town board members agreed during their regular monthly meeting last Wednesday night. Town Manager John Berry presented town commissioners with copies of the county dog ordinance, which he said was "adequate" for the town to use. County Dog Control Director Ed Clemmons was on the agenda to discuss dog control with the board, but he did not attend the meeting. Berry said he and Police Chief James Hamlett had discussed the Long Beach dog problem with Clemmons. "He has assured us that he wants to work with the town," the manager stated. Berry said he told Clemmons about the packs of wild dogs running at - large on the island. "Some of the dog packs are in their second and third generation," he added. If the pet dog of a resident is picked up, it can be claimed at the county dog pound at Supply for a minimum fee, Berry told the board. In other business, Mrs. Libby Hussey, a cottage owner from Virginia, told the board that some property

owners in the eastern section of the beach were making plans to act in the battle against erosion. She said her group was gathering signatures from property owners who want to spend their own money to

construct walls to stop erosion on the beach. Mayor Harold Crain said it was a "hopeful sign" that people were willing to finance the project themselves rather than waiting for the federal or state government to act.

Commissioner Russell Morrison, who heads the Erosion Control Committee, said the town has a project ready to go but was unable to obtain state funds for the work. He reviewed the work the board has been doing since voters defeated an erosion control project in January of 1974. After the town did the work to obtain state funds for an erosion control project, he said it was learned that the money had been withdrawn. "We have been told that the state does not have one thin dime to spend on beach erosion at this time," Morrison stated. "We will continue to apply for aid and hope the state may find funds for this project."

Mrs. Hussey said citizens decided to act "because each Easter we find erosion worse. We need help, but no one cares if our cottages wash away." Morrison said he would be glad to work with Mrs. Hussey's group. Mayor Crain said the town would provide any cooperation it could to help the group solve the problem. The board set in motion the

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## Oratory Event Slated Sunday

The fifth annual Odell and Virginia Williamson Declamation Scholarship contest will be held at West Brunswick High School on Sunday at 3 p.m. The Williamsons, of Ocean Isle Beach, sponsor the competition in an effort to "rekindle interest in composition and public speaking in Brunswick County schools." This year the scholarship fund is providing approximately \$5,000, most of which will be awarded in the competition. All senior boys and girls who have been enrolled in county schools for

the preceding two years are eligible to enter the contest. Cash awards of \$100 each will be provided for the boy and girl winner in each of the three county high schools. School winners will be the finalists in Sunday's county competition, which provides \$1,800 scholarships for the boy and girl winners. Over the past four years the Williamson scholarship fund has provided \$13,200 in scholarships and cash awards totaling \$3,750. The public is invited to attend the county competition.

## 'Revolution!' Audition Set

Auditions and preliminary interviews for the outdoor musical drama "Revolution!" will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport this Thursday and Friday.

"Should it be necessary, due to conflicts, some auditions will be held Saturday," said casting director Mrs. Dallas Pigott. Mrs. Pigott said anyone interested should contact her at 457-5466 or 457-6806, or Mrs. Connie Ledgett at 457-6333.

Lewis Hardee, Jr., will be here to hold the auditions. "Please be prepared to give a five - minute performance. Bring your own music, instruments, readings, etc. Also, a recent black - and - white glossy photograph if possible," Mrs. Pigott said. Auditions will begin at 12 o'clock and continue throughout Thursday afternoon. They will begin again Friday morning at 10 a.m.

## Charges Filed After Brutal Church Death

By BILL ALLEN  
Staff Writer

A Lumberton construction worker has confessed to stabbing a Holden Beach woman to death in a church last Wednesday afternoon, Sheriff Herman Strong reported.

Howard Dowless McNeil, 20, was charged with murder in the brutal death of Mrs. Jackie Lou Sullivan Webb, 25, of Rt. 2, Supply in the Sabbath Home Baptist Church building. She was stabbed eight times with a six - inch pocket knife.

"This is the most senseless murder I have ever investigated," said Sheriff Strong, who reported that no motive for the crime has surfaced. "It was the first time in 22 years of law enforcement work that I have



investigated a murder in a church." McNeil has been sent to the state hospital in Raleigh for

mental observation after receiving a pre - trial hearing in District Court in Shallotte on Friday with Judge Lewis Sauls presiding. He is being represented by court - appointed Attorney Ray Walton. Sheriff Strong said McNeil confessed after he and another unidentified construction worker had gone to Greenville to take polygraph tests. He confessed about 30 hours after the murder was committed.

Mrs. Webb had gone to the church Wednesday morning to feed the kittens of Rev. Douglas Worley, church pastor, who was on vacation. Her body was discovered by her mother, Mrs. Mercer Sullivan, about 1:30 Wednesday afternoon.

Sheriff Strong said he "understood that McNeil has a past juvenile record and was on probation at the time of the crime."

McNeil was employed by Benton Construction Company of Lumberton, which was building a parsonage next to the church. The eight - man crew had been working since Monday.

Mrs. Webb, who is a native of the Supply section of Brunswick County, was married to County Sanitation Inspector Jerry Webb. They had no children.

According to reports, Mrs. Webb borrowed her mother's car to drive to the church, which is located only about a block from her home near the Tri - Beach Volunteer Fire Department. She left the key in the car when she parked it in front of the church.

She entered the kitchen of the church and reportedly found McNeil opening the refrigerator. When she asked him what he was doing, he

## Parade Will Close NC 87

A section of NC 87 will be closed approximately two hours Saturday for the Loyalty Day Parade at Boiling Spring Lakes.

The parade, part of the day's activities sponsored by Post 10400 of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), will use a portion of the highway beginning at 11 a.m.

The highway will be closed to all but emergency traffic from the Sunny Point intersection (NC 133 and 87) to the turn - off to Bolivia (SR 1513) north of the community. Upstate traffic using NC 87 should use US 17 to Bolivia, then cut through to NC 211 on to the beaches.

## School Budget Request Jumps

The Brunswick County Board of Education will need \$6,981,531 in local funds to balance their proposed \$9,596,367 budget for 1976 - 77. The budget, proposed by Supt. Ralph King and his staff, was presented to the board during a special meeting Monday night.

The proposed budget is \$2,996,000 more than the board received last year, King told Member William Sue. Last year, the school board requested \$5,645,000 and received only \$3,985,000. King said the board should consider the new budget in

light of the request made last year rather than the amount received. He said the new budget is only \$1,336,000 more than last year's request.

The board spent most of the meeting Monday night reviewing the request for \$3,259,963 in current expenses in the proposed budget. Since the board will receive \$976,622 in available funds, the local balance needed will be \$2,283,341.

The board will review the request for 16,336,404 in the capital outlay section at the regular meeting Monday night. A total of \$4,698,190 will

be required in local funds since the board has \$1,638,214 in available funds.

Sue noted that the capital outlay section includes about \$1.5 million to complete the Leland Middle School project and start funding the proposed new Shallotte Middle School.

The proposed budget includes a five - percent salary increase for employees paid with local funds. But King said it may have to be increased another five percent if the state grants teachers a ten - percent pay increase. Supplements paid in the

county will increase ten percent in the budget.

King and Associate Supt. Robert Elkin said they had been informed that County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., wants the budget May 1 to begin the review May 15.

Since board members said they could not complete their work by May 1, they said they would have the school budget to the county by May 15.

Chairman Wilbur Earl Rabon said it seems like the board receives new "demands" from the county manager and county commissioners at every meeting.

"I am getting damned tired of all these demands," he declared. "We will meet the schedule according to law."

Elkin pointed out that the new budget includes 13 new positions in the middle schools to bring the student - teacher ratio in line to meet accreditation requirements of the Southern Association.

Member Barbara Yount questioned whether hiring special teachers - art, music, etc. - will work to reduce the regular teacher's classroom size.

Elkin said it was the "logical approach to reduce

class size" since the special teachers will be in charge of classes. "It will work, I swear it," Elkin stated.

The budget includes \$113,000 for instructional supplies and services for the 13 new teachers.

Per diem for members to attend meetings and conventions were being increased from \$7,000 to \$12,000 because the two are being combined, King told Mrs. Yount. He said no increase was involved.

Sue expressed alarm that

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