

The State Port

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COUNTY CHAMPIONS

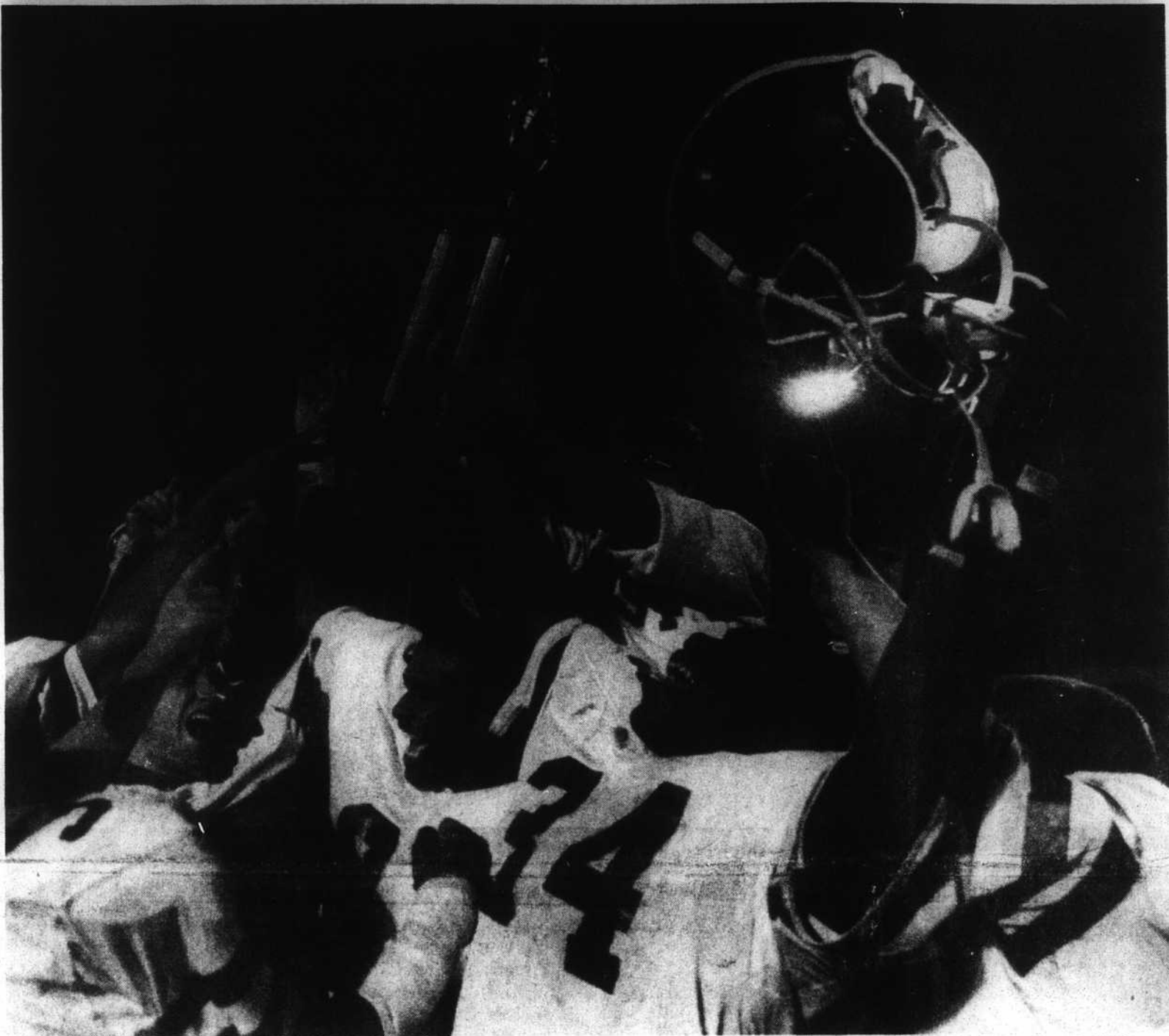


Photo by Ed Harper

West Brunswick advanced to the state 2A playoffs Friday night by virtue of its 22-0 win over South Brunswick, and also got to take home

the spoils of victory: the Pilot Trophy, symbolic of Brunswick County football supremacy; and bragging rights for the coming year.

Schools' air quality poor, not dangerous

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

Indoor air quality is poor at several Brunswick County schools.

It's bad enough to cause allergic reactions but not so bad that it will cause illness. And it won't be easy or inexpensive to remedy.

That was the latest word Monday night from William Service, an industrial hygiene consultant with the N. C. Department of Human Resources, who spent a day and a half surveying three schools.

Addressing concerns voiced by parents, teachers, administrators and school board members, Service said he did not identify any illnesses "directly attributable" to poor air quality, but he said the biological contaminants found in Lincoln Primary, Leland Middle and Southport Elementary schools could aggravate upper respiratory allergies in children and teachers who spend the day in that environment.

"All the schools I looked at are safe," Service assured those crowded into the board room. The problem is with biological irritants, which are not carcinogenic; when the irritants are removed the symptoms will abate.

'Air quality in schools tends not to be great. What you're seeing is an elevation of contaminants that are already there.'

William Service
Hygiene consultant

he explained.

"Air quality in schools tends not to be great," he said, and Brunswick County schools are no exception.

"What you're seeing is an elevation of contaminants that are already there."

These contaminants include fungi and bacteria, which thrive in moisture and high humidity, and dust mites, tiny arachnids that live in carpeting, all of which create irritants that pro-

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Health personnel policy needs work

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

The Brunswick County Health Department's personnel policy is out of date and has caused the agency problems for years, a representative from the state personnel office told the board of health Monday night.

"We've known it's been a need in Brunswick County for a long time," Sylvia Johnson told the board. "But it only becomes a problem when you have to dismiss someone, and then it's too late."

The health department uses the county's personnel policy, and Johnson said it is usually the county manager's responsibility to periodically review and update the policy.

Johnson agreed to review the policy at the board's request and make recommendations for improvement. However, she said it would be difficult to get the county commissioners to implement a new policy.

Former health department employee Zelma Babson is currently

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'... it only becomes a problem when you have to dismiss someone, and then it's too late.'

Sylvia Johnson
State personnel office

Health fee schedule is revised

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

While admitting that raising prices may not be fair for everyone, the health board unanimously agreed Monday night to implement fee increases in several health department programs, including pregnancy tests and flu vaccinations.

The board also agreed to support the recommendations of David M. Griffith and Associates' (DMG) time management study, which said the agency needs an additional animal control officer and public health nurse.

Board member Bill Rabon pointed out that the fee increases would essentially ask the people who use the environmental health program to subsidize those who use health programs. But, he added, one of the functions of the health department is to help people who cannot help themselves.

'The fairness of it is not right, but I don't know what else we can do.... We all pay tax dollars to try to supplement adequate health care.'

Skip Davis
Board chairman

Chairman Skip Davis agreed. "The fairness of it is not right, but I don't know what else we can do to be fair to everyone," Davis said. "We all pay tax dollars to try to supplement adequate health care."

In a tight economy the health department needs to be more self-suffi-

cient, he said, but it should not raise fees so much that people can no longer use the agency's services. The fee changes will go into effect on December 1.

Despite the increases, health director Michael Rhodes said the department will maintain its policy of pro-

viding services to everybody, regardless of their ability to pay.

"If people can't pay, we still give the service. We just say the next time you come in, please pay," Rhodes said.

The price of a flu vaccination was increased from \$4 to \$5, and the price of a pregnancy test was increased from \$3.50 to \$10. However, teens will still be able to get free pregnancy tests.

The board also approved fee increases for a variety of other services, including septic tank site evaluations, water sampling, cholesterol screening and animal adoptions.

Although it costs the county \$209 per animal bite investigation and \$1,445 per animal cruelty investigation, the DMG study revealed, the board agreed to continue to provide these services for free.

Sheriff, deeds office get salary funds

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Brunswick County commissioners have recommended about \$58,000 in additional funding for salary increases in the sheriff's department and about \$11,000 in additional funding for salary increases in the register of deeds office, about double what each of these departments had originally expected to get.

The sheriff and register of deeds -- both of whom are elected officials -- were recommended to receive no salary increases.

Sheriff John Carr Davis said he has not seen the commissioners' final recommendations and therefore could not say whether or not he would implement them. But he added that he was pleased with anything he could get.

"I'm certainly not going to turn down any raises we can get," Davis said. "I understand the lower-salary people will be raised up to the minimum level, and that's really where we need it. Hopefully

this will make us more competitive with other counties."

The sheriff and register of deeds opted not to take part in the county's employee classification and salary study because they said commissioners were using the studies for political reasons. In June, all county departments were given a 2.5-percent increase in funding for salary increases. The sheriff's department and register of deeds office were promised at least an additional 2.5 percent when the salary study was completed.

However, the sheriff's department will be given about a five-percent increase in funding, and the register of deeds office will be given an additional six percent. As in other county departments, commissioners recommended that the additional funds be used to bring all employees working for sub-standard wages up to the minimum level, and to award a 2.5-percent raise to those employees who have been working at or above the state average.

However, register of deeds Robert Robinson said he was not

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OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for variable cloudiness on Thursday with highs in the 70s. On Friday expect showers with highs in the 60s and lows in the 50s. Partly cloudy skies are forecast for Saturday with highs in the 50s and lows in the 40s. Cold weather arrives Sunday, with highs in the 40s and lows near freezing.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12	LOW
8:51 a.m.		2:34 a.m.
9:09 p.m.		3:17 p.m.
HIGH	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13	LOW
9:36 a.m.		3:19 a.m.
9:57 p.m.		4:02 p.m.
HIGH	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14	LOW
10:26 a.m.		4:07 a.m.
10:51 p.m.		4:51 p.m.
HIGH	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15	LOW
11:21 a.m.		5:00 a.m.
11:51 p.m.		5:45 p.m.
HIGH	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16	LOW
12:19 p.m.		5:59 a.m.
12:58 a.m.		6:44 p.m.
HIGH	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17	LOW
1:20 p.m.		7:04 a.m.
2:03 a.m.		7:44 p.m.
HIGH	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18	LOW
2:22 p.m.		8:11 a.m.
3:03 a.m.		8:43 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made:
Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yauco Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.