

The State Port

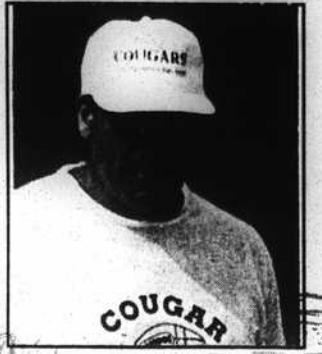
PILOTON

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Southport, Oak Island's most complete listing of available real estate properties



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July 14, 1993/ 50 cents

Overused systems reviewed

Septic tank rule is unprecedented

By Terry Pope
County Editor

State officials will study the county's plan to crack down on overused septic tanks at area beaches.

There is no precedent for citing property owners, based on real estate advertisements, who allow their beach cottages to exceed occupancy limits.

Overuse of septic tanks where there is no public sewer system is blamed for groundwater contamination and pollution of estuarine waters and shellfish nursery areas.

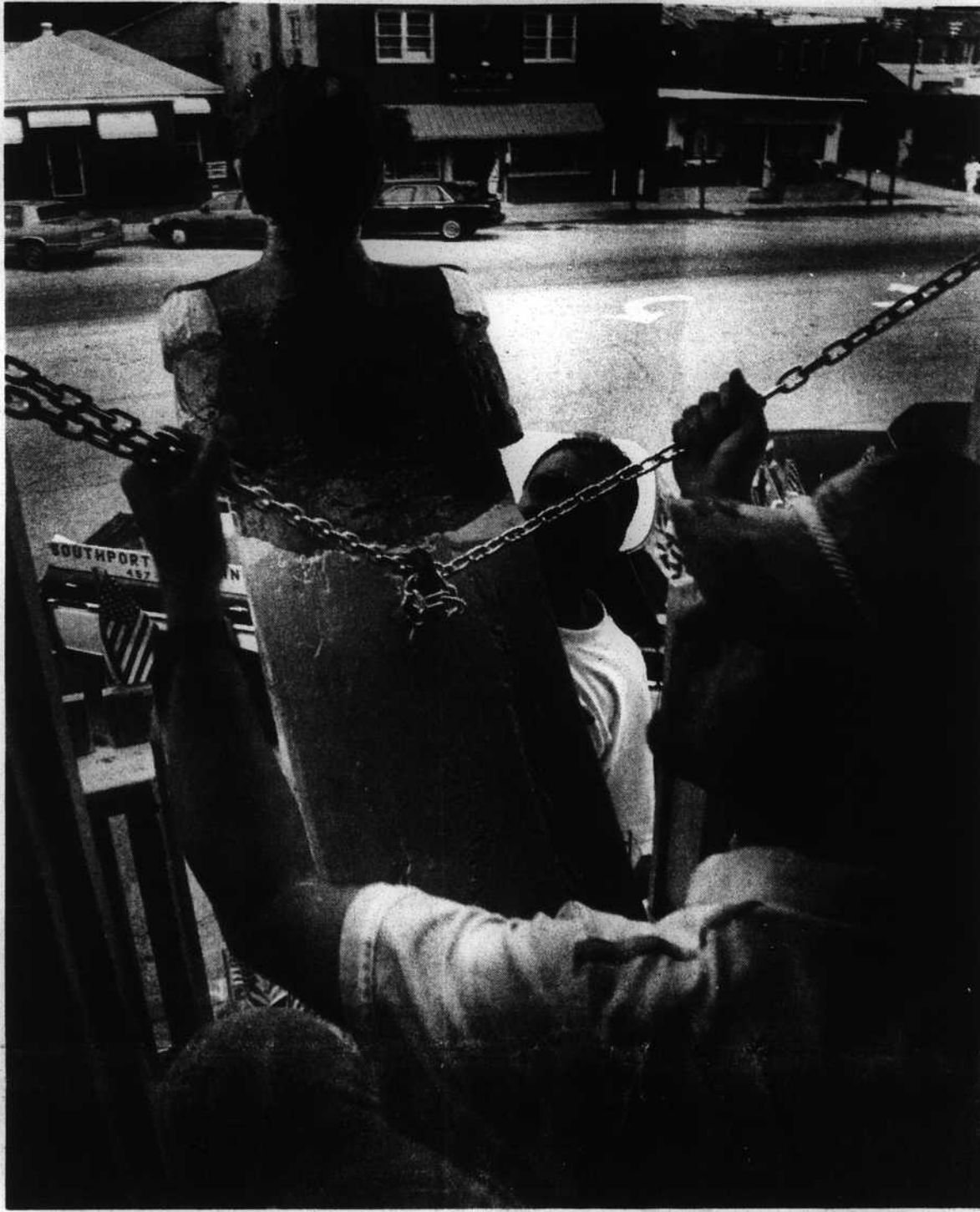
Beach cottages are sometimes allowed to be packed by vacationers, who in effect overwork the septic system.

In May, county health inspectors announced plans to bring the owners into compliance with permits on file.

"Whatever is decided must be approved by the state and the attorney general's office," said Michael Rhodes, director of the Brunswick County Health Department.

Representatives from the attorney general's office and the N. C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources will meet with county health officials Thursday, July 15, 7 p.m., at the health department to review the proposal.

Health inspectors used printed rental brochures and vacation guides that list homes along Brunswick County's beaches and compared them with actual septic tank permits on file. An See Septic, page 6



One of downtown Southport's more outstanding citizens was back in place above the door at The Curiosity Shop on Howe Street last week. The wooden figurehead, decorated in the garb of a French marine, had been taken down for refurbishing several months ago.

Photo by Jim Harper

Blacks protest hiring, might boycott school

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

As a way of protesting the perceived lack of minority representation in the Brunswick County school administration, about 500 Leland area students may start the 1993-94 school year attending classes in local churches.

Board member Freeman Gause said Leland area residents, upset by the transfer of Joe Butler from principal of Lincoln Primary School to director of migrant education and parent involvement, plan to keep their children out of school for at least the first ten days of class, a period of time the state uses to allot funds to local school systems based on enrollment.

Gause said Tuesday the state pays \$1,200 per student, so if enrollment is down by 500 the school system could face losing a substantial amount of funding in a year when money is particularly tight.

"That's going to put a hurt on it. The county commissioners need to be involved. It's going to hurt everybody, but something has to be done," Gause said. "I don't know of anything else to do."

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Freeman Gause
Board member

Serving his first term on the board of education, Gause said, "I have done all I know how to do."

He said he has talked with superintendent Ralph Johnston, whom he said promised him and others that more blacks would be hired.

Qualified black candidates have applied for advertised vacancies. in- See Protest, page 6

Schools seek more money from county

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

The Brunswick County Board of Education will be asking the county for more money at the same time the superintendent of schools will be trying to reduce the central office staff.

After a two-hour executive session Monday night, the board approved a resolution which states that it feels the money appropriated by the county is "not sufficient to support a system of free public schools in Brunswick County."

The school system had requested a 26.5-percent increase in funding, a total of \$15,344,782 for both the current expense fund and capital outlay budget. Included in that figure was construction of a new elementary school in the Leland area. However, according to school figures, the county board of commissioners approved just five percent more than last year, plus a one-time \$1-million appropriation for computer technology.

The school system has been able to make significant cuts, reducing the budget to within approximately \$325,000 of the amount the county said it will give the schools for 1993-94 operations.

"Even with the reductions we're short," said school board chairman Donna

See Schools, page 6

Martin Marietta proposal

Opposition rests on water table

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Some residents fear the negative will outweigh the good if a proposed limestone mine is allowed on property just north of Southport.

Martin Marietta Inc. plans to operate a mine along N. C. 133 near the entrance to Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point.

State officials are familiar with Martin Marietta, which operates more than 40 mines in North Carolina. They say the company has one of the best track records in the business.

But it's not what lies on the surface that worries neighbors. They are concerned over potential damage to their

local water supply.

"That's our lifeblood," said

Walter Reinheimer of Oak Island. "That's my primary concern. The other stuff is all secondary."

Southport area residents who use well water tap onto an abundant underground source known as the Castle Hayne aquifer, a supply that is often taken for granted. It is a geological formation of permeable rock, gravel or sand that contains or conducts groundwater.

This quiet underground river supplies potable water to coastal residents, but it also flows along a bed of valuable limestone that stretches from north of Wilmington through

Second in a series

Brunswick County.

Two mines Martin Marietta operates near Wilmington are located along this same rock formation. The company has recently applied for permits to open a site in Onslow County.

Area residents say the price of getting the rock out of the ground could be devastating.

"I know we need jobs and we need industries," said the Rev. Murray Page, "but if you're going to mine limestone you should do so in an area that's not going to destroy the aquifer."

Page lives in the Moore's Creek subdivision about a mile from the proposed site. He gets water from a

50-foot well and is afraid the nine families in his development will suffer from a loss of water and environmental damage.

The limestone lies about 90 feet beneath the surface. Miners must cut through the aquifer to reach the rock.

"Any kind of industry that drains off water, they have to pump it away," said Page. "The only place to pump it is into the ocean."

The mining operation also uses water to control the amount of dust released into the air when stone is crushed. Carolina Power and Light Co. officials have refused to let Martin Marietta discharge water into the utility's eight-mile canal system that

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Hewett is top DARE officer

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A deputy who teaches drug education awareness programs received national honors last week.

Lt. Ronald Hewett of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department was named top officer at the National DARE Officers Association conference held in Las Vegas, July 7.

DARE is the acronym for Drug Abuse Resistance Education, a program that teaches fifth graders in Brunswick County schools to avoid drugs and alcohol. It also aims to increase students' self-confidence and ability to deal effectively with peer pressure.

"It was the honor of my life," said Hewett, who was chosen by a panel of nine board members representing different parts of the country. "We are now a nationally recognized program."

Hewett was previously chosen top DARE officer in North Carolina to earn the right to carry the state flag to the national

conference. There are approximately 4,000 DARE officers nationwide.

"I had no idea I would be chosen," Hewett said. "I was sitting there in the audience. I was amazed, shocked and honored."

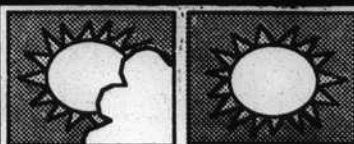
The plaque he received honors the 30-year-old officer for his "outstanding dedication and commitment to the youth of America." When he was sworn in as an officer at Holden Beach in 1983 he was also noted as the youngest in the state -- at the age of 20. Next year he plans to run for sheriff.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the DARE program that started in Los Angeles and was adopted by North Carolina in 1987. It began in Brunswick County in 1990 with Hewett serving as program coordinator and instructor. DARE is also taught in 11 countries and in schools operated by the U. S. Department of Defense.

Hewett teaches approximately 800 Brunswick County students

See DARE, page 6

OUTSIDE



Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JULY 15	LOW
4:58 a.m.		11:16 a.m.
5:38 p.m.		----- p.m.
	FRIDAY, JULY 16	
5:56 a.m.		12:07 a.m.
6:30 p.m.		12:09 p.m.
	SATURDAY, JULY 17	
6:49 a.m.		12:57 a.m.
7:21 p.m.		1:01 p.m.
	SUNDAY, JULY 18	
7:39 a.m.		1:47 a.m.
8:07 p.m.		1:48 p.m.
	MONDAY, JULY 19	
8:30 a.m.		2:33 a.m.
8:54 p.m.		2:38 p.m.
	TUESDAY, JULY 20	
9:21 a.m.		3:18 a.m.
9:43 p.m.		3:25 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, JULY 21	
10:12 a.m.		4:03 a.m.
10:29 p.m.		4:16 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; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly Inlet, high -22, low -8.

Forecast

The extended forecast Thursday through Saturday calls for partly cloudy skies with a chance of an afternoon or evening thunderstorm. Highs will range between 90 and 95 degrees, with nighttime lows in the 70s.