



Emergency workers prepare to move an accident victim to Doshier Memorial Hospital after a two-car crash at Long Beach Road and Highway 211 last Wednesday night. Four people were transported there, treated and released.

County gift of \$250,000 aids schools

Some see funding as political move in election year

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A surprise vote Monday appropriates more than \$250,000 in county funds for school equipment and supplies, mostly to bring science classes up to par.

But not all members of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners voted to go along with the plan, which passed 3-2.

Some question the timing of the move in a year when all five incumbent commissioners face re-election.

Don Warren, board chairman, said he was convinced to lobby for the package after he visited the schools recently and learned first-hand of what he labeled "critical needs" within the classrooms. He and commissioners Donald Shaw of District 5 and Tom Rabon Sr. of District 4 voted to take \$254,498 from the county contingency fund to pay for the items as invoiced from each of the 12 schools.

Items include desks, tables, microscopes, hot plates, computers, body models, botany sets, aquariums, book binding machines and other instructional supplies, ranging in allocations as high as \$44,619 at West Brunswick High School in Shallotte to a low of \$7,279 at South Brunswick Middle School in Boiling Spring Lakes.

Commissioners Wayland Vereen and Jerry Jones voted against the motion. After budget proceedings last year, commissioners at that time refused to allocate money as requested by school officials for those same classroom needs.

The board also later refused to set aside around \$308,000 to pay for the supplies and instead earmarked the funds for a new elementary school

See Gift, page 6

School officials 'pleased'

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

Two top school officials say they are "pleased" with the \$255,000 appropriation approved Monday by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

"I'm really pleased to see that they realized there are areas that need grave help," school board chairman Donna Baxter said Tuesday. "I'm very pleased they came through to give us this. It's

See Officials, page 6

Filing period closes Monday

Several candidates decided to run for political office Monday just before the filing deadline at noon.

But overall, the list of candidates is down this election, the first time that all five seats are open for two-year terms on both the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and the Brunswick County Board of Education.

Previously, the seats were for four-year staggered terms until changed by special legislation.

Two races will have no primary -- the District 2 slot for county commissioner and the District 5 seat for the school board.

Some familiar faces also joined the list of candidates Monday, including former county manager William D. (Billy) Carter of Yaupon Beach, who filed as a Democrat for the District 3 seat on the school board against incumbent Republican Bill Fairley. Carter will face no opposition in the May 3 primary. He ran unsuccessfully for that seat two years ago.

Eric Pfeiffer of Yaupon Beach filed as a Republican and will challenge Fairley.

Former county commissioner M. Rozell Hewett of Shallotte Point, a Republican, entered the race for the

See Filing, page 9

Minority recruitment

'We don't want (just) any black or any native American. We want qualified individuals who can go into a classroom and do an effective job.'

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

"Sick and tired of adults playing the game of 'talk education,'" a member of the Minority Recruitment Task Force said all residents must work together to improve Brunswick County schools.

"We have individuals in our county who do what I call 'talk education.' We've got to stop letting it be a 'talk' show," Maliston Stanley said Monday. The Shallotte businessman and former educator co-chairs the task force with Christine Hall, elementary supervisor for Brunswick County schools.

"We need to rise above petty politics and personal agendas. Student achievement should be at the top.

"We are the foundation. We're all in this together. We need to do everything possible to get along. We cannot continue to fight each other or have the image that we don't have a good foundation," he said.

The task force presented a series of recommendations Monday designed to improve the racial balance of the county school system's teaching staff. State and local statistics show that the percentage of minority teachers has dropped while the number of positions available has increased.

That situation didn't occur overnight and correcting it isn't something that can be done quickly, but Stanley

said he doesn't believe the problem is so serious it can't be solved.

"It's going to take some time. Part of what's happened, happened before most of us were connected to the schools," he said. "If we could get a group of people to dedicate themselves to work on proposals like this we can do all kinds of things in Brunswick County for the boys and girls."

Stanley said a comprehensive team approach must be taken to carry out the minority recruitment plan, which covers not only blacks but also native Americans, Hispanics and Asians.

Although the plan emphasizes minority recruitment, Stanley said the task force doesn't want the school system to show favoritism toward blacks in the hiring process.

"We don't want (just) any black or any native American. We want qualified individuals who can go into the classroom and do an effective job," Stanley said. "It's important to have quality people in the classroom, whether they're minority or Caucasian."

What the task force is requesting is "that the playing field be level and fair" for all individuals seeking employment with Brunswick County schools, he said.

The school system's personnel department hasn't been effective in recruiting minorities, Stanley pointed out, and that's why the task force has recommended

See Minority, page 7

What the plan calls for, page 7

Northern Mayors conference

Regional sewer gains support

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A new spirit of cooperation may help bring three northern Brunswick County towns closer to forming a regional sewer authority.

Mayors from Leland, Belville and Navassa say they will form a sewer commission -- two representatives chosen from each town -- to plan a bond referendum to include voters from all

three.

That decision came at the January 26 meeting of the Northern Mayors Conference held in Leland.

It marked a contrast from previous attempts to form a partnership to provide sewer service to the northern community, with talks that were marred by political differences in the past.

The Brunswick County Board

See Support, page 6

'Caught by the bridge' excuses to be detoured

Leland area highway needs were also a main topic at the Northern Mayors Conference January 26.

The panel voted to ask the N. C. Department of Transportation to install a flashing sign along the eastbound lane of U. S. 74-76 approaching the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge to alert motorists when the bridge is raised for river traffic.

Drivers could then use the U. S. 421 alternate route and the

See Bridge, page 9

OUTSIDE



Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10	LOW
7:52 a.m.		1:24 a.m.
8:04 p.m.		1:53 p.m.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11		
8:32 a.m.		2:06 a.m.
8:43 p.m.		2:32 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12		
9:09 a.m.		2:47 a.m.
9:21 p.m.		3:10 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13		
9:44 a.m.		3:26 a.m.
9:57 p.m.		3:47 p.m.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14		
10:18 a.m.		4:05 a.m.
11:34 p.m.		4:24 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15		
10:53 a.m.		4:44 a.m.
11:12 p.m.		5:02 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16		
11:29 a.m.		5:26 a.m.
11:54 p.m.		5:43 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; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly Inlet, high -22, low -8.

Forecast

The extended forecast calls for windy and cold weather Thursday with temperatures dropping into the 40s. Mostly cloudy and cold Friday with temperatures in the 40s; partly cloudy Saturday and Sunday, highs in the 50s and lows in the 40s.