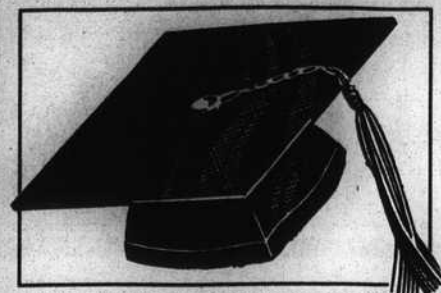


June 8, 1994



Graduation

A 16-page special section honoring South Brunswick graduates is in this issue

The State Port

PILOT

VOLUME 63/ NUMBER 41

SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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Sports

"Hail to the Redskins" -- Maybe the Panthers -- is her battle cry -- Page 12

Our Town

Is Long Beach's recycling center a waste? It could be put to better use -- Page 2

Pilot tops ad contest

The State Port Pilot received 12 NCPA Best Ad Contest awards Friday, the most of any weekly newspaper in North Carolina.

Included in the total were a Gold Star Award, four first places, four seconds and three thirds. The newspaper also received the Metro Plus Business Award for the most awards overall.

The awards were presented at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill during an advertising seminar sponsored by the North Carolina Press Association. The Pilot was represented by Kim Adams, Debi McKellar and Sue Parker.

"The recognition given our advertising staff is gratifying," said Ed Harper, editor of the Pilot. "The awards judged by our peers this year -- both in advertising and editorial contests -- represent the hard work of our staff, and reflect the support of our subscribers and customers."

In January, the Pilot won seven awards in the North Carolina Press Association editorial contest. That was the highest total among North Carolina weekly newspapers.

First-place awards presented Friday included:

- Best Institutional Ad (Associated Artists of Southport), Adams, McKellar, Cindy Aldridge;
- Best Spot Color Institutional Ad, Adams, McKellar, Aldridge;
- Best Spot Color Retail Ad (Stewart Hardware), Adams, McKellar, Aldridge.
- Best Spot Color Apparel, Jewelry and Accessory Ad (C&S Jewelers), Adams, McKellar, Aldridge.

Second-place awards included:

- Best Classified Section/Page, Harper, Parker, Diane McKeithan;
- Best Newspaper Promotion (Pilot Line), Adams, McKellar, Aldridge;
- Best Spot Color Real Estate (Coldwell

See Contest, page 7



Photo by Jim Harper

Sparky, the Southport Fire Department mascot, explains to Southport Elementary School kindergarteners how one of the city fire engines works. Sparky was on the SAFETY program sponsored by the county parks and recreation department and

emergency medical services last Friday. The project was designed to encourage safety among youngsters through the vacation time ahead. More photos on page 1B.

County looks at 58.5-cent rate, round two with schools

By Terry Pope
County Editor

An eight-year revaluation will allow the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners to lower the tax rate in the proposed 1994-95 budget if spending is kept about the same as last year.

But the allocation given to county schools falls far short of the 29.5-percent increase education officials had asked for in current expenses.

Instead, the proposal allocates a four-percent increase to the schools over last year and \$260,000 in capital outlay building needs.

"The capital part of the budget I really haven't studied yet," said Don Warren, chairman of the board of commissioners, "but I'm sure we'll be having some discussions on it."

Last year, the school board fought for more funding after receiving a seven-percent increase and later carried commissioners to arbitration in a dispute over operating needs. A settlement resulted in more funds to begin construction of the new Leland Elementary School.

'The capital part of the (school) budget I really haven't studied yet, but I'm sure we'll be having some discussions on it.'

Don Warren
Board chairman

Interim county manager Charles McGinnis trimmed the Brunswick County Board of Education's requested \$11.2 million in current expenses to just \$8.7 million. That represents an increase from \$8.4 million from last year.

McGinnis also chopped away at a requested \$2.4 million in capital outlay building maintenance and repair needs for the schools, setting aside just \$260,000 instead, or \$15,000 for each of the county's 12 schools. The total school budget is \$9,027,275, when the school board had requested \$13,784,041.

But overall commissioners said they were pleased with the proposal that will go to public hearing Monday, June 13, 7 p.m. in the public assembly building at the county government center near Bolivia. Commissioners will meet in regular session again June 20 and plan to recess then until June 22 to officially adopt the budget. A workshop may be held before then, said Warren.

"I'm glad to see no tax increase," said Warren. "There's a lot of work and time involved in

See County, page 6

Bridge chances on rise

State okays funds for right-of-way on Oak Island side

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

The N. C. Board of Transportation allocated \$1.6 million for acquisition of rights-of-way needed to construct a second bridge to Oak Island during the annual update of the state Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Oak Island's representative on the board, Odell Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach, said the state would purchase rights-of-way on the south side of the Intracoastal Waterway only, and that property owners on the north side would likely be expected to donate their land, which he said they have not yet agreed to do.

"If the property owners cooperate, I don't see any problem with that bridge being built," Williamson said. "I'm hoping they will, and I think they might."

The \$1.6 million will be added to the \$4.2 million already allocated for construction of the bridge and the \$200,000 allocated for design and planning.

Williamson vowed to do all he could to ensure the project remained a priority on the TIP update, and in that he was successful. But he conceded that the struggle is not yet over.

"There will be stumbling blocks until it's done," he said.

The second bridge is now slated for construction in 1997, with the planning phase to begin in the fall of 1995.

Williamson acknowledged the important role
See Bridge, page 7

Court dismisses discrimination suit vs. county

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A federal judge Monday dismissed a lawsuit filed last year against Brunswick County and six present or past county commissioners.

Regina Alexander, a former clerk to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, claimed her rights were violated when her position was cut from the budget in June, 1991.

The county manager's secretary was promoted to a joint position which included Ms. Alexander's job. Ms. Alexander had worked for the county since January, 1975.

Chief U. S. District Court judge James Fox
See Court, page 7



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies on Thursday, highs in the 80s and a good chance of a thunderstorm. Partly cloudy skies are expected Friday and Saturday as well, with highs near 80 degrees and lows in the 60s.

The State Port Pilot

Pilot Line
THE TALKING NEWSPAPER

Weather updates are available on Pilot Line. Dial 457-5084, then extension 191.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JUNE 9	LOW
8:47 a.m.		2:49 a.m.
9:04 p.m.		2:47 p.m.
HIGH	FRIDAY, JUNE 10	LOW
9:25 a.m.		3:28 a.m.
9:41 p.m.		3:27 p.m.
HIGH	SATURDAY, JUNE 11	LOW
10:03 a.m.		4:07 a.m.
10:19 p.m.		4:07 p.m.
HIGH	SUNDAY, JUNE 12	LOW
10:42 a.m.		4:47 a.m.
10:58 p.m.		4:48 p.m.
HIGH	MONDAY, JUNE 13	LOW
11:26 a.m.		5:27 a.m.
11:40 p.m.		5:34 p.m.
HIGH	TUESDAY, JUNE 14	LOW
12:03 a.m.		6:10 a.m.
12:15 p.m.		6:24 p.m.
HIGH	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15	LOW
12:28 a.m.		6:57 a.m.
1:11 p.m.		7:21 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.

Coach found guilty of grabbing student

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The picture painted by prosecutor Lillian Salcines was one of a football coach who, after a few too many drinks, intentionally squeezed a high school student's breast while leaving a local restaurant.

Judge Gary Locklear heard both sides of the story in a special criminal District Court session Friday before he found former South Brunswick High School head football coach Bill Hewett guilty of assault on a female.

"I don't believe your client just stumbled and instead of grabbing her arm touched her

breast," judge Locklear told defense attorney Roy Trest. "I find he did do it intentionally."

Hewett resigned from teaching following the allegation and has since lost his North Carolina teacher's certificate. He won a state championship while at Whiteville High School, but is now employed as a car salesman.

He was given a prayer for judgment continued, which means final sentencing will be held open indefinitely unless other charges are filed against him. Another conviction could allow a judge to impose a sentence in this case.

Trest asked for the prayer for judgment, which cannot be appealed to Brunswick County
See Grabbing, page 6

Simple assault charge becomes media event

By Terry Pope
County Editor

It was an unusual circumstance -- a judge from outside the district called to a special session of Brunswick County District Court on a Friday to hear one assault on a female case.

What made it unique was perhaps the community interest generated since the defendant was a respected local football coach charged with touching a female student's breast while at a local restaurant.

"As someone argued, this is not your everyday, run-of-the-mill assault case," said judge Gary Locklear of Robeson County.

Bill Hewett, employed as a high school teacher and coach in North Carolina for the past 17 years, had earned a state football
See Assault, page 6