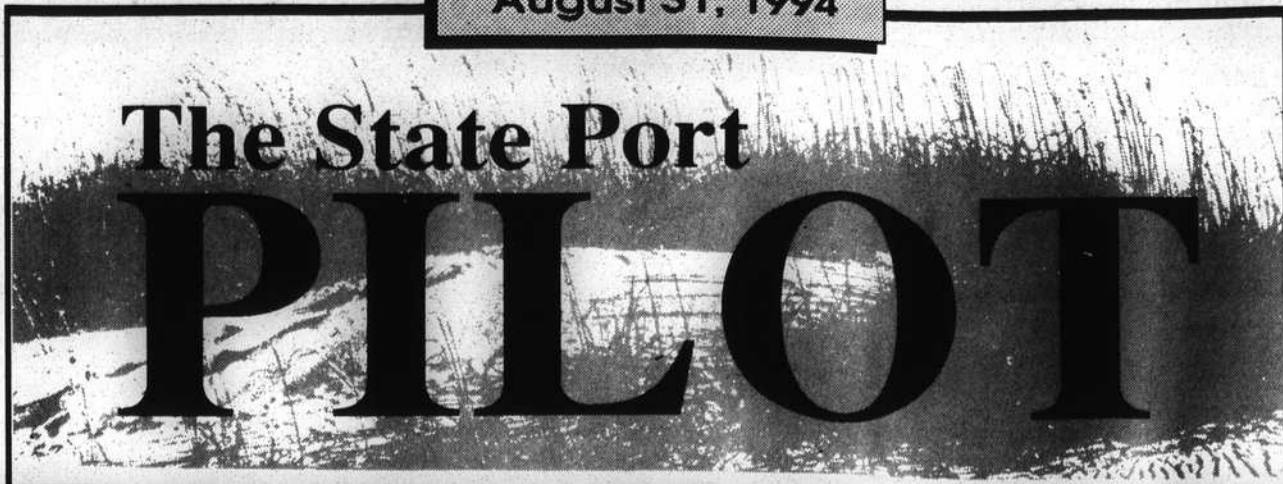




Sports

The Cougars look for their first win of the season against East Duplin -- 11B



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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

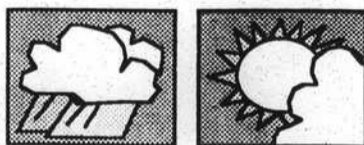
50 CENTS

Our Town

Southport must first 'consider' annexation, part of lengthy process -- page 2

Neighbors

Foster parents provide a worthwhile service, and gain satisfaction as well -- 1B



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for cooler weather for the Labor Day weekend. Thursday, expect highs in the 80s under cloudy skies. The Friday and Saturday forecast anticipates partly cloudy skies with highs near 80 degrees and lows in the 60s.



Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1	LOW
4:46 a.m.	11:01 a.m.	
5:19 p.m.	11:45 p.m.	
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2		
5:42 a.m.	11:55 a.m.	
6:10 p.m.	----- p.m.	
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3		
6:34 a.m.	12:34 a.m.	
6:58 p.m.	12:46 p.m.	
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4		
7:23 a.m.	1:20 a.m.	
7:44 p.m.	1:35 p.m.	
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5		
8:11 a.m.	2:04 a.m.	
8:29 p.m.	2:23 p.m.	
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6		
8:58 a.m.	2:47 a.m.	
9:14 p.m.	3:10 p.m.	
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7		
9:46 a.m.	3:31 a.m.	
10:01 p.m.	3:59 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.

PRESSING MATTERS



After 38 years of service to their customers, Lorenzo and Margie Clemmons closed HiWay Cleaners for their retirement. The business was started in the late 1930s by Lorenzo's father, one of the best-met men in Brunswick County.

HiWay Cleaners is a part of the fabric of our history

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Southport loses one of its institutions this week. It's a place as comfortable as a freshly pressed pair of pants, as crisp as a newly starched shirt.

After 38 years of warm smiles, easy and familiar conversation and a quality of service neighbors came to take for granted, Lorenzo and Margie Clemmons closed HiWay Cleaners for their retirement. The business and its owners will be missed.

"It's kind of sad in a way," Lorenzo Clemmons said Thursday as he and Margie stood by, waiting for the last plastic-wrapped and neatly hung parcels of laundry to be picked up. "Your customers are your business. Without your customers you have no business. I've had some real good customers over the years. That's one of the reasons I hate to close up."

"We were like family," Margie said, describing the Clemmons' relationship with their customers.

Closing the family business which has sustained three generations of Clemmonses is an emotional experience for Lorenzo and Margie, but the time is right in their lives.

"I'm going fishing," Lorenzo, 65, said. "All this water around

here and I know God intended for somebody to fish in it."

This landmark business on Howe Street has a venerable history, the roots of which were formed in 1932 by Lorenzo's father, the late Dexter Clemmons, as popular a man as any Southport has ever known.

Born in 1907 to Alan and Sarah Clemmons in a home on West 11th Street, Dexter Clemmons spent his entire life in the laundry business. In 1932, at the age of 25, Dexter Clemmons opened his

first laundry at the corner of Howe and Brown streets. Fire destroyed that building some three years later.

For the next several years, Dexter Clemmons worked for others in Southport laundry businesses, first for Carrey Reece and Harold St. George in a Moore Street building next door to what is now the Pharmacy restaurant.

When that business closed, Dexter Clemmons went to work for Pierce Crammer at a laundry on West West Street, behind the lot on which First Citizens Bank now sits.

And, when that business ended in the early 1940s, Dexter Clemmons set out on his own again, starting his laundry business in a small wooden building on a lot between the Southport Motel and the present-day HiWay Cleaners building. He

See Cleaners, page 8

'It's been a wonderful experience. It's had its ups and downs, but I've enjoyed it. I figure it must have been my calling.'

Brunswick SAT scores fall sharply

'Obviously we're missing the mark somewhere'

Jan Calhoun
Assistant superintendent

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Brunswick County school officials blame a 30-point drop in this year's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores on the low priorities given education and rigorous academic study by both students and parents.

"This is another indicator that there must be an increased emphasis on academics," declared superintendent of schools Ralph Johnston. "More of our students must take more academic courses that are rigorous, challenging and tougher."

Graduating Brunswick County seniors who took the SAT this year scored an average of 776 points, compared to last year's average score of 806. The highest total score possible is 1,600 points, while students who merely sign their names on the test earn 400 points.

North Carolina ranked 48th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia with an average score of 860. The national average was 902.

Although SAT scores are widely used to measure the success of educational systems across the country, Johnston said he does not believe SAT scores alone provide a complete picture of the quality of education.

"Staff and administrators continue to believe that our students are getting a better education than the SAT scores indicate," he said.

The keys to improving SAT scores are complex and the changes required must begin at the kindergarten level, said Jan Calhoun, assistant superintendent for instructional services.

Right from the beginning, he said, it must be made clear to students that their goal should be to pursue a higher education.

"I'm not sure we know why our kids score so low," Calhoun said. "Part of it is that higher education is not a primary goal of a lot of our students, and that has to change. It's going to be a matter of changing attitudes and beliefs."

Calhoun noted that school districts in which parents have higher levels of education tend to have higher average SAT scores among the students. For example, Chapel Hill had the highest scores in the state, with an average of 1,026 points.

And, he said, 89 percent of the graduating seniors in Chapel Hill took the test, compared to 39 percent in Brunswick County.

"We need to begin with the parents, and teach them to emphasize education and academic learning," Calhoun said. "It's going to take years and years of work."

Calhoun conceded that the school system
See SAT scores, page 6

Comparisons by schools, race, sex - page 6

Schools hearing delayed

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

A hearing that will determine whether the Brunswick County school system receives a \$14-million jury award has been postponed until Thursday, September 1.

County attorney Mike Ramos requested the delay Monday, and told Superior Court judge Jack Thompson he had reached a mutual agreement to postpone the hearing with school board attorney Glen Peterson.

The request came as a result of the death of Peterson's father on Friday.

Autopsy reports indicate Henry Oscar Peterson, 78, died of a heart attack. Three days prior to his death, Henry Peterson was tied up in his home on Mt. Misery Road by two men wearing ski masks, beaten severely and robbed, according to a Brunswick County Sheriff's Department report. No arrests have yet been made in the case.

Capt. Phil Perry said he did not believe the robbery led to or hastened Henry
See Schools, page 6

Pogey policy will be left to towns, fishermen

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Without even discussing the petitions of six Brunswick County beach towns, the N. C. Marine Fisheries Commission Saturday ordered the formation of a committee to hammer-out an agreement between the municipalities and three menhaden fishing companies which work local waters.

Spurred on by the Town of Long Beach, municipal spokesmen have said they are tired of seeing their beaches littered with menhaden spills as the fishing companies deny culpability. The fishing companies say if they are forced beyond the breaker line of the oceanfront their industry will be ruined.

The committee is to have its first meeting September 21 at Brunswick Community College. Long Beach mayor Joan Altman says the agreement may be all the towns can hope for now, but it's not quite good enough.

"I feel it's probably the most reasonable outcome," Altman said Monday.

"However, no, I am not satisfied with it because I don't think the Marine Fisheries Commission had time to study (proposed menhaden restrictions) and think about it as much as they should have. I think they do understand the problem. I think they do take it seriously. I'm a little distressed that this is just a continuation of the gentlemen's agreement of the past."

The gentlemen's agreement of the past held that when a spill littered area beaches with pogey carcasses, the company responsible for the spill would pay for the clean-up. Clean-ups at Long Beach alone have cost \$20,000 since 1984, Altman estimates.

But, meeting with state Rep. E. David Redwine at Brunswick Community College August 17, representatives of the three menhaden fishing companies working locally and the municipalities reached accord on several key sources of irritation to the towns.

The new agreement ordered by the Marine Fisheries Commission is likely to contain these elements agreed upon tentatively then:

• **Fish spills.** The menhaden companies will pay for clean-up of any fish spill that occurs when their boats are in Brunswick County waters, regardless of whether or not they feel responsible. Ranking representatives of the fishing companies said they would fly to the site of a spill immediately.

• **Notification.** By facsimile passed through N. C. Fisheries Association executive director Jerry Schill, the companies will notify county towns when they are working local waters.

• **Foaming.** If the product is permitted by state environmental officials, the companies will begin deploying a petroleum-eating foam when working near shore. Oil slicks are blamed on equipment used to pump menhaden from purse seines to fishing vessels.

• **Piers.** Menhaden fishermen are not to operate vessels within 750 feet of a recreational fishing pier, if pier owners mark the boundaries on shore.

Formation of the committee to formalize these and other agreements
See Pogey, page 6