



Sports

West Brunswick's Trojans, defending 3A state champs, were surprised Friday -- 10B

# The State Port PILOT

VOLUME 64/ NUMBER 12

SOUTHPORT, N.C.

50 CENTS

Our Town

Yaupon Beach must prove its wastewater plant can handle the load -- Page 2

Neighbors

An 'A' for art is the key to expected success this year at Southport Elementary -- 1B

## Bus-car collision Tuesday

24 students go to hospital

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Twenty-four South Brunswick Middle School students were taken to Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport Tuesday morning after a passenger car collided with their school bus at the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point intersection.

Three of the students were taken to the hospital's emergency room by ambulance for treatment. They were brought to the hospital in satisfactory condition and all were released that day, hospital spokesperson Margaret Minuth said.

Eleven of the 41 young passengers on bus number 141 were brought to the hospital by a second school bus, dispatched to the scene by school officials. Ten more student passengers asked to be taken to the hospital after arriving at school.

N. C. State Highway Patrol troopers on the scene had not filed a report at the Wilmington station Tuesday and phone calls to them were not returned.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Ford Escort driven southward on N. C. 133 entered the Sunny Point intersection just after 7:30 a.m. and collided with the bus at a point near its right rear axle. The driver of the car was pinned for nearly an hour before Southport emergency volunteers using the "Jaws of Life" extraction device could free her.

Ms. Minuth said the driver was admitted to the hospital from its emergency room in good condition, but suffered orthopedic injuries.

Assistant middle school principal Tom Simmons said he was at school when he received word of the accident. He and several other school personnel went to the scene as rescue personnel began treating students. School officials then began the task of notifying parents, first those taken by ambulance, then those taken by bus to the hospital.

Willie Holland, 13, of Southport, suffered bruises to his right leg, hip and chin. He said he watched as the oncoming car made its way into the side of the bus.

"The car went up on two wheels and when it landed it went under the bus," Willie said. Upon impact, he said he heard "horrible screaming and crying" from his

See Collision, page 6



Photo by Jim Harper

Emergency crews worked for over an hour to free the driver of a compact car who struck school bus 141, bound for South Brunswick Middle School, Tuesday morning at the Sunny Point intersection. Twenty-four students and the driver were taken to Doshier Memorial Hospital. All but the automobile driver were treated and released.

## Council pushing for ban

Long Beach gets tough on pogeys

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Finding themselves more and more frequently thrust into debate of regional and state issues, Long Beach Town Council members Tuesday night signed on to a new draft of a proposed agreement with menhaden fishermen, offered comment to state officials drafting saltwater fishing license regulations and responded to a state Coastal Resources Commission proposal to alter erosion responses.

The town has spearheaded efforts to regulate menhaden fishing off Brunswick County shores, first by rule of the state's Marine Fisheries Commission and, failing that, by agreement between county beach towns and the fishermen themselves.

By a 5-1 margin Monday night, town council approved a draft agreement which contains several key provisions not in earlier agreements the pogie fishermen have agreed to observe. (See related story, page 3.)

Only councilman Horace Collier objected to the new draft of the agreement proposal. He said menhaden interests would never accept Long Beach, page 13

## School employees share bounty

# \$300,000 up for grabs if test scores improve

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

A state-funded bonus pay program, designed to reward teachers, principals and administrators for improved student performance, has been expanded to include non-certified school employees.

Secretaries, maintenance workers, mechanics and teacher assistants, among others employed by the Brunswick County school system, will soon receive additional training or bonus pay as a reward for student improvement.

This comes thanks to a new state law that expands the differentiated pay program to school personnel who do not hold state certifications in education.

These employees, known as non-certified or non-classified employees, may receive approximately two percent of their annual income as a reward for additional work they perform and

for significant improvement in test scores at the schools in which they work.

However, each school has designed its own plan for the allocation of differentiated pay. In some schools, both certified and non-certified employees use all of the state funding for training, while others use a combination of pay and training. In all schools that award bonuses, additional pay is contingent upon improved

See Scores, page 13

## Yaupon utility fees stay same

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

There will be no increase in water and sewer rates at Yaupon Beach for the time being.

Commissioners, on a 3-2 vote Monday night, balked at a proposal to hike administrative fees for both water and sewer service in an attempt to replace revenue lost to a state-imposed sewer moratorium.

Commissioners Joe Broyles and Dot Kelly supported an immediate increase in water and sewer rates.

Commissioners Bill Smith, Mac See Utility, page 13

# Davis' retirement plans are locked up

11-year veteran faced turbulent times at first

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Top law enforcement officers aren't always the product of selected candidates from family trees filled with men in blue.

And they don't always build that framework for allegiance, loyalty and integrity from within an inner fraternity of political buddies.

When John Carr Davis was asked in August, 1975, about becoming a sheriff's deputy he was employed by the Southport-Fort Fisher ferry, as a deck hand and quartermaster.

He traveled back and forth across the Cape Fear River each day -- "no complicated job, to say the least," says Davis -- parking cars and attending to the passengers in his patented and friendly manner.

But sheriff Herman Strong steered Davis in another direction. The newcomer's only prior

police activity was in military shore patrol, and he would have a lot to learn. However, in quick time, Davis was promoted from his Leland-area deputy assignment to line sergeant, and then to chief deputy.

By 1983, Davis was in charge of the uniform division, but all around him the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department was falling apart at the seams. The man who hired him was among those indicted in the Operation Gateway marijuana drug smuggling scheme. Strong was convicted of providing cover while bales of the Colombian-grown weed were imported by shrimp trawlers into Brunswick County and then shipped to other points across the United States.

When picked from among eight candidates by the Democratic Executive Committee to succeed Strong on June 28, 1983, Davis began the long road to recovery -- though not for himself, but for the depart-

ment, the county and its shocked residents. History would write it as perhaps the most difficult period a sheriff has ever faced.

"I would think so," said Davis. "I guess the last six months of Herman's term, and the first year of my first term, was a turbulent time. I don't want to dwell on his situation; I don't want to bring all of that back up. It was just the uncertainty of what was going to happen. Then in the first year of my term, I think there was some lack of trust that people had in law enforcement in general.

"The first thing I did, my first job, was to go to the other state and federal agencies to develop a working relationship with them. And I did not do what the public wanted at first. They wanted everybody in the sheriff's department fired. I did not. Most of them were good law enforcement officers and good people. I think that has been proven over the

See Davis, page 6



Election of deputy Lt. Ronald Hewitt to succeed him, says sheriff Davis, is proof residents have regained confidence in the department.