



Sports

South Brunswick ran out of gas against Hoggard, now faces the Darkhorses -- 1C

The State Port PILOT

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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SAT scores up, but far short of goal

'As a whole, our community has not placed as high a value on academic learning as other areas. We accept less than what we really expect.'

Dr. Jan Calhoun
Assistant principal

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores increased for all three Brunswick County high schools this year, but the county average score remains over 100 points lower than the national average and over 60 points below the state.

COMBINED VERBAL & MATH SAT SCORES							
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
South Brunswick High School	831	832	830	799	832	807	819
North Brunswick High School	753	737	765	728	720	708	751
West Brunswick High School	751	792	799	794	830	786	801
Brunswick County	784	796	803	781	806	776	797
North Carolina	836	841	844	855	859	860	865
United States	903	900	896	899	902	902	910

And, when compared with average scores six years ago, only West Brunswick High School has shown improvement.

"Evidently, we're falling down somewhere," said school board member Billy Carter. "Maybe we need to look at the situation systemwide to find out where we've lost target. I think Brunswick County, like the state and the nation, has lost focus of what school's about."

Assistant superintendent for instruction Jan Calhoun noted that county high schools have taken steps to raise scores -- such as offering SAT preparatory courses and

more advanced placement courses -- but added that, in general, expectations and standards remain low.

"There are many things high schools can do to provide more rigor, more challenges and higher standards," Calhoun said. "As a whole, our community has not placed as high a value on academic learning as other areas. We accept less than what we really expect."

Calhoun said the key to improving SAT scores is to make sure all students are prepared for school from the start. Between 30 and 40 percent of students beginning kindergarten in this county are developmentally unprepared for

school, he noted.

Without intervention, he said, these students continue to decline throughout their academic careers.

"It's very difficult to jump into the middle of a learning sequence and make any major changes," he said. "To make high academic achievement possible, you need intervention right from the start."

While about 60 percent of seniors statewide took the SAT this year, only 35 percent of Brunswick County seniors, or 207 students, took the test, Calhoun said.

The average score in Brunswick County was 797, compared to the state average of 865 and the national average of 910.

"I know we have some quality teachers and some quality students, and I don't know where the breakdown is," said school board chairman Clara Carter.

While she did not blame parents for low test scores, she stressed that parents can play an important role in laying the foundation for their children's education.

"Parents must provide solid ground upon which their children can grow," she said.

Board member Glenda Browning agreed that any major change in the county school system will require a

See SAT scores, page 6



When the Marine Corps agreed to land a C-130 at Brunswick County Airport to pick up some Air Force passengers Monday evening it was on condition that fire apparatus would be standing by. Yaupon Beach

firefighters gladly made an appearance to make it a three-service training exercise.

Sometime this fall

Rod shipment gets feds' okay

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A second shipment of highly radioactive nuclear fuel rods will arrive at Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal north of Southport sometime this fall.

"We don't expect we're going to begin accepting shipments before October," said spokesperson Jayne Brady of the U. S. Department of Energy in Washington, DC.

Like the first shipment of 153 elements which passed through Sunny Point last fall, the rods will arrive by ship in protective casks. They will be loaded onto rail cars and transported through Brunswick County to a holding facility in South Carolina.

DOE is bringing the rods back to the United States for safe keeping as

part of a plan to rid the world of bomb-grade uranium, for fear the rods will fall into the wrong hands overseas and be used to produce nuclear weapons. The highly enriched uranium contained in the rods can be used to manufacture bombs.

DOE announced last week that plans are proceeding to accept 151 spent nuclear fuel elements from the Swiss, Greek and German research reactors for storage at DOE's Savannah River site near Aiken, SC. A judgment by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals last week ruled DOE had fulfilled its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act by completing an environmental assessment to cover both the shipment and the storage of fuel rods.

South Carolina state officials had filed suit to block further shipments and had obtained an injunction pending the court's ruling. They argued the assessment did not cover DOE's plan for long-term storage of rods in underwater containers at Aiken.

DOE notified its shipping company
See Shipment, page 7

Psychic sees break in case coming soon

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A paranormalist -- a psychic -- whose services have been used by Southport's police department and others says there will soon be a major break in the case of a missing Southport woman whose body police believe has been secreted just outside city limits.

Pat Sawyer, a registered nurse and paranormalist living in Wilmington, says by September 15 police will discover a personal item, perhaps a piece of jewelry, belonging to Rosalind Wall, on the Pfizer Inc. property northeast of Southport. The item will build on a body of evidence which has led police to focus on that area in the investigation of Ms. Wall's suspected murder.

Ms. Wall, 29, a bartender at Skipper's Lounge in Southport, was reported missing February 12 from the Fodale Avenue apartment she shared with her live-in boyfriend Robert Nichols, after the two had argued. Nichols now lives in a family-owned compound on Nichols Road adjacent to the Pfizer property.

Ms. Sawyer, who visited Southport at the invitation of city police three times in April, says her insights indicate Ms. Wall's body was disposed of on that land and that she had suffered a violent death.

"I think that she was killed before she got out there and was put in one of the ponds where she could be taken care of by the creatures that inhabit that area," Ms. Sawyer said. "I also feel there may be a piece of jewelry. You may find something out there. Very shortly.

See Psychic, page 10

If mediation fails

Registrar, county may battle it out in court

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A lawsuit filed against the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners will head to the courtroom January 29 if out-of-court mediation attempts fail.

Robert J. Robinson, Brunswick County registrar of deeds, filed suit against the board and interim county manager Charles McGinnis over an administrative pay

cut Robinson incurred earlier this year.

The registrar also wants a legal ruling on a hiring freeze imposed on all county agencies earlier this year, a move he says should not apply to elected officials or to their departments.

Sheriff Ronald Hewett also filed suit against the county but later withdrew from that claim.

An order signed by chief Brunswick County Superior
See Register, page 8

McGinnis notebook is closed

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Interim county manager Charles McGinnis' notebook is full.

It includes a lengthy list of issues the board of commissioners has tackled in five months since he arrived. McGinnis doesn't take credit for any

See McGinnis, page 9

County approves manager contract

By Terry Pope
County Editor

County commissioners say the only way they could lure a new county manager to accept the job here was to offer the person a buy-out clause if he is later fired.

Six months of guaranteed salary, or \$35,500, for being fired without cause is part of an employment agreement Jimmy Varner has accepted to trade his Yadkin County job for the Brunswick County manager's position. He is expected to start

See Contract, page 6



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies and a chance of thunderstorms. Highs each day in the mid to upper 80's.

Tide table

HIGH	LOW
THURSDAY, AUGUST 31	
12:27 a.m.	6:03 a.m.
12:27 p.m.	6:46 p.m.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1	
12:36 a.m.	6:56 a.m.
1:28 p.m.	7:47 p.m.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2	
1:38 a.m.	7:57 a.m.
2:34 p.m.	8:53 p.m.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3	
2:46 a.m.	9:05 a.m.
3:42 p.m.	10:00 p.m.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4	
3:57 a.m.	10:13 a.m.
4:48 p.m.	11:04 p.m.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5	
5:04 a.m.	11:19 a.m.
5:49 p.m.	----- p.m.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6	
6:07 a.m.	12:03 a.m.
6:46 a.m.	12:18 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; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.