

Sports

South Brunswick girls and boys defeat cross-county rival North Tuesday -- 1C

The State Port

PILOT

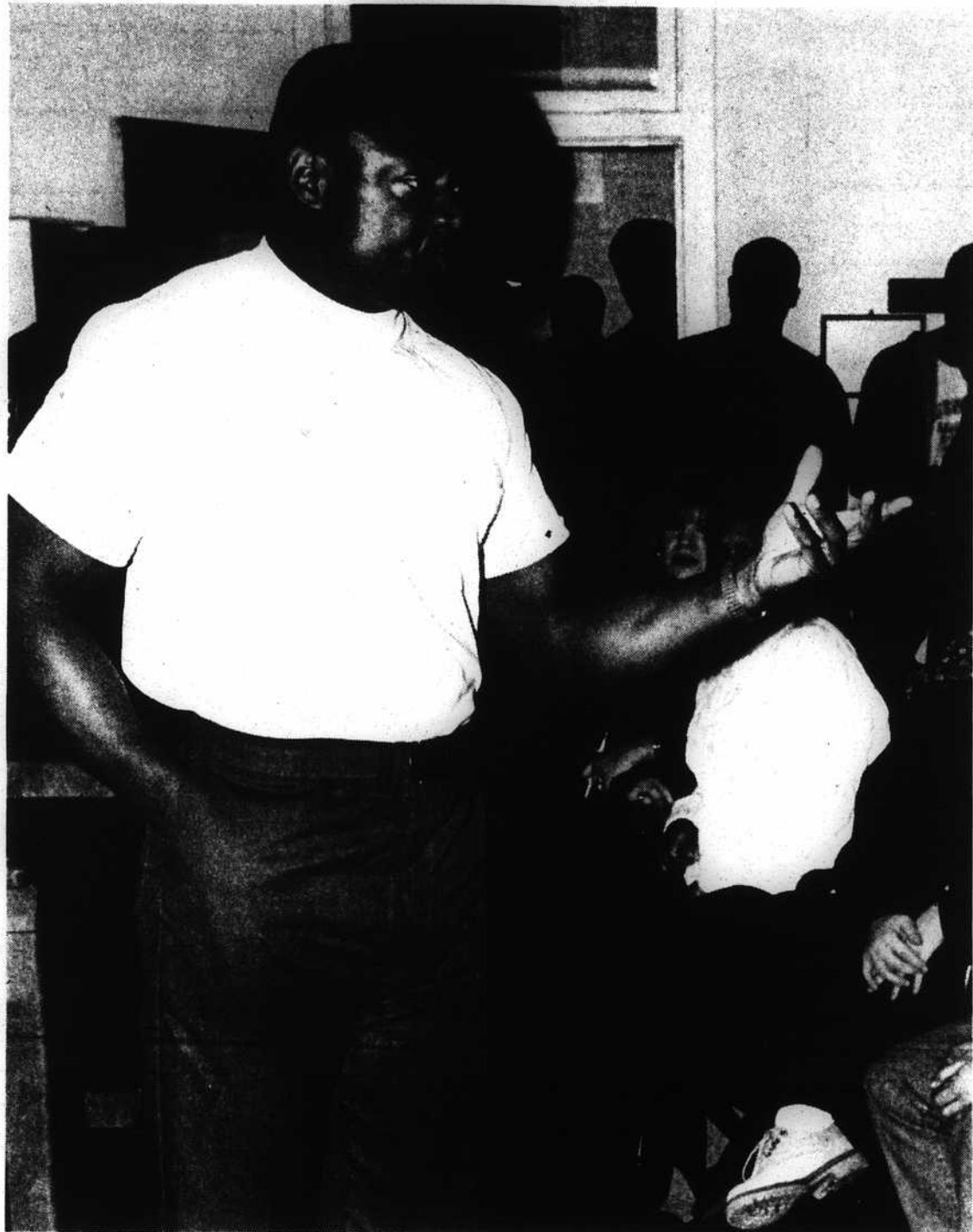
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Neighbors

It's a lot like Christmas all over Brunswick with lights, parades, good cheer -- 1B

Our Town

New government is sworn to duty in Southport-Oak Island this week -- Page 2



Photograph by Holly Edwards

Convicted crack cocaine dealer Michael White presented a riveting account of the horrors of prison life last week at the Brunswick Learning Center, and warned students with misdemeanors on their records that they could quickly find themselves in his shoes.

Doing time

'You guys that think you're cool gotta start thinking smart, because I see the cool guys crying all the time in prison.'

Michael White

By Holly Edwards Feature Editor

Students sat in rapt attention as convicted cocaine dealer Michael White powerfully described his fall from a successful Army captain, husband and father to an inmate at New Hanover Correctional Center who lives in fear and anguish and cries himself to sleep each night. 'I've been in jail four and a half years now and I hate this stinking hole,' White told Brunswick Learning Center students last week. 'You guys think it's a joke. They don't show you what happens in prison on the evening news. I hate this place.' White, 34, said he quickly lost his 'tough-guy attitude' when he was first incarcerated at Central Prison in Raleigh and discovered that he could be killed or seriously injured by another inmate and the event could be written off as an accident. 'I saw a big guy throw a little guy down four flights of stairs head first, and he was killed on impact,' he said. 'But nobody said See Time, page 8

A drop in the bucket

Asking CP&L's help might not be a waste

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

Local governments can build wastewater treatment plants, but

'We're accountable for what is discharged through the canal. The responsibility and liability is ours.'

Mac Harris CP&L spokesman

does the answer to the biggest problem facing local wastewater management efforts lie with local industry? Is the area's largest industrial concern willing to come to local governments' aid?

Yaupon Beach found it relatively easy to build a wastewater treatment plant and put a sewage collection system in the ground. Even financing the biggest public works project that town will ever face was a mostly comfortable proposition.

Likewise, the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District has for six years believed it could find money to build and support a public wastewater management system, but, as late as last week, found itself unable to move a project forward.

The problem both local government See CP&L, page 11

SBSD plan may not fly

By Jim Harper Staff Writer

Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District commissioners last week set their sights on the Brunswick County Airport as a primary depository for treated wastewater, but indications are that their overtures might not be welcomed, and certainly they would not be accepted soon. 'We're down to two possible

See Plan, page 11

Schools' 'Report Card'

Scores up, but county is failing to keep pace

By Holly Edwards Feature Editor

Student performance in Brunswick County is improving but lags farther behind state average, results of the Brunswick County school system's 1995 report card indicate.

While Brunswick County student performance improved in half of the 16 areas used for comparison, the county scored below state average in all but two areas -- dropout rate and eighth grade writing.

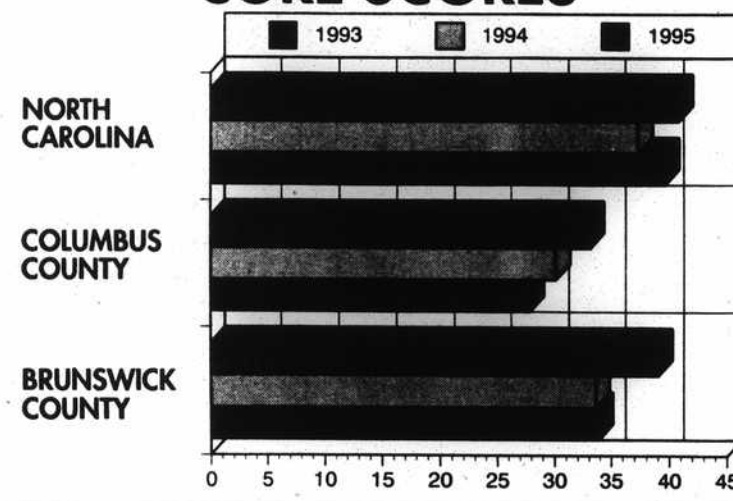
And, despite gains made locally, Brunswick County is not keeping pace with gains made by others in North Carolina.

When compared with average scores statewide, in surrounding counties and in counties with similar socioeconomic conditions, student performance in Brunswick County is 'decreasing rather than increasing,' testing coordinator Bill Detrie told the Brunswick County school board Monday night.

School board member Billy Carter compared the county's report card results to economic inflation.

'It's like inflation. We're falling behind even though we're improving year to year,' he said. 'It's good we're improving, but we have to ask ourselves at what rate are we improving

Neighboring County Comparison CORE SCORES



compared to the rest of the state?' Board member Pat Brown noted that some decreases in county student performance listed in the report amounted to only a few tenths of a percentage point, but vice-chairman Glenda Browning said state gains compounded the county's loss. 'If we have decreased while the state has increased, that's a much greater loss,' Browning declared. The report card is released each

year by the state Department of Public Instruction and lists the percentage of students in each school system that are deemed 'proficient' in key areas of study, including reading, writing, math, science and the high school core courses (algebra I, biology, economics, legal and political, English I, physical science and U. S. history). Proficiency is a state standard de- See Scores, page 8

'Business as usual' for retiring mayor Holden has seen Southport rebound from '70s

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

On December 13, 1979, Norman Holden swore the oath of office and was seated as a member of the board of aldermen of the City of Southport from Ward I.

Immediately, he was thrown into the fire of local government. It was at that meeting of the board of Aldermen, with mayor Eugene B. Tomlinson presiding, that Holden was called on to make his first decision as a public official.

The issue presenting itself that night before the august panel of city fathers was whether or not to reimburse resident Gene Hart the \$938.70 he said he had spent to replace carpet in his home, damaged when a blocked city collection line forced sewage to back up into the structure.

The issue was complicated by promises made to Hart by the previously seated board one month earlier, but Holden sided with two other aldermen in voting "no" to Hart's request.

Mayor Tomlinson overrode that decision with his tie-breaking vote for com-

promise.

That was just the first of hundreds of decisions Norman Holden would make as an elected official of the City of Southport. Over the course of the next 16 years, Holden would make decisions and participate in the planning and execution of plans that have largely crafted the quality of life citizens of Southport experience today.

Holden ends his latest period of service to the city Thursday night when he will swear-in Bill Crowe as his successor.

The voters of the City of Southport have elected Holden to serve them five times -- once as an alderman and four times as their mayor. He has never lost an election in the City of Southport.

It was in his first attempt at gaining elective office that he may have forged his style of tough, personal-contact, campaigning.

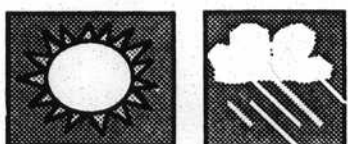
On November 7, 1979, The State Port Pilot reported: "Holden, who campaigned hard, ran away from the five-member field to win one of the seats from Ward I."

That five-member field had not a slouch in it, either. Other candidates vy-

See Mayor, page 10



HOLDEN



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for seasonal weather with a chance of showers and highs each day in the mid 60's.

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