



Sports

North Brunswick sweeps cross-county baseball rivals for bragging rights -- 1C



VOLUME 65/ NUMBER 31

SOUTHPORT, N.C.

50 CENTS

Neighbors

A tradition of community theater continued last weekend with 'Fiddler' -- 1B

Our Town

Long Beach council keeps pace with Oak Island Drive improvements -- Page 2

Dosher project

60-bed nursing home proposed

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Dosher Memorial Hospital will seek public support for a plan to construct and operate a 60-bed nursing home facility.

Dosher trustees approved a plan of action Monday to generate letters of support for the project from the community.

"I want a stack of letters of support thicker than the Wilmington phone book," declared hospital administrator Edgar Haywood. "And we're going to give every entity in Brunswick County a chance to tell us no."

Trustees voted unanimously last month to appropriate \$25,000 to seek a state license to operate the facility. Dosher will compete for bed allocation with neighboring Ocean Trail Convalescent Center and Autumn Care nursing home in Shallotte.

However, not all members of the community think Dosher's plan is a See Dosher, page 6

Does GOP have the ticket?

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Brunswick County Republicans rallied behind their slate of candidates Saturday at the GOP's annual county convention near Supply.

With presidential hopeful Sen. Bob Dole leading the May ballot, Republicans also hope to post gains in their local races as well.

"We know who's going to be at the top of the ticket," said Tom Pope of Sunset Beach, vice-chairman of the Brunswick County Republican Party. "We know he's a veteran legislator. We have got to continue the 1994 revolution. We've got to give them a president to sign those bills."

Keynote speaker Saturday was state Rep. Carolyn Russell of Wayne County, speaker pro-tem of the N. C. State House. She won her seat as a write-in candidate, gathering 5,500 names to earn her way onto the ballot when given just ten days initially to collect 3,500 names.

In 1994, Republicans gained a majority in the State House and began presenting their agenda which included a number of "Contract with See Ticket, page 12



Forecast

A comet graced the clear skies this past weekend but Monday evening saw clouds rolling in. We can expect much of the same for Thursday-Sunday with highs in the low 70's.

INSIDE

Opinion	4
District Court	13
Business	14
Obituaries	15
Church	3B
Schools	3B
Plus TV	6B
Classified	1D

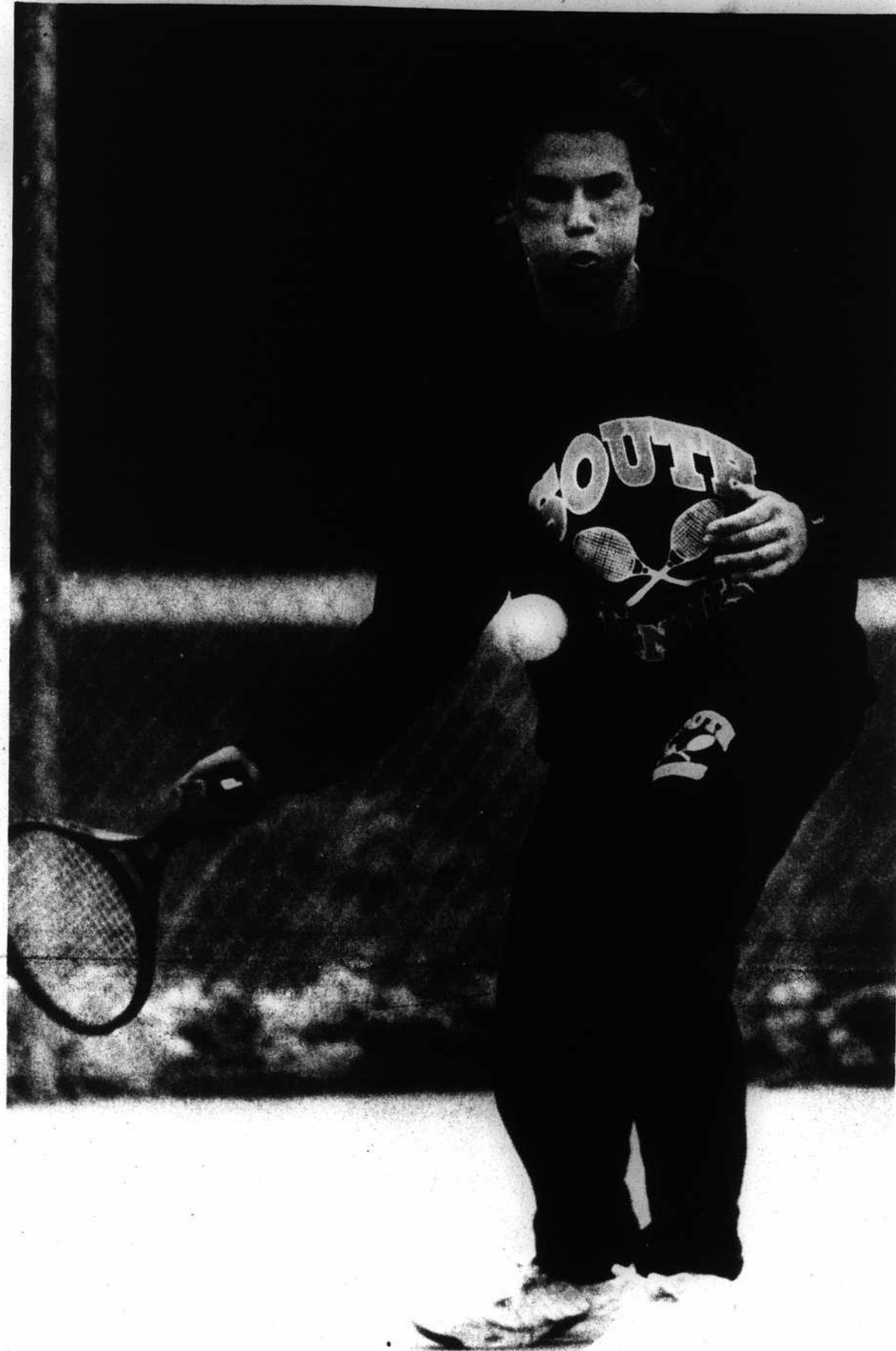


Photo by Jim Harper

Ryan Johnson undoubtedly gave this ball a good smack in his match with a Cape Fear Academy opponent last week at South Brunswick, but Cougar attention lapsed and the match slipped away. Other tennis results, along with golf, baseball and softball, beginning on page 1C.

Schools trim requests

'Identify our needs, prioritize them'

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Trimming a \$45.5-million budget proposal for fiscal year 1996-97 will dominate the Brunswick County Board of Education agenda when it meets in budget workshop session Wednesday, April 3, 8:30 a.m.

Principals and school staff are reassessing their needs and are expected to make alternate proposals next week.

"They told us the first day we were way over budget, so principals are now prioritizing," said school board chairman Clara Carter.

The budget proposal includes about \$25.6 million in state funding, \$2.2 million federal funding, \$3.4 million for child nutrition and \$14.3 million in local funding.

The board must whittle down the local funding proposal to about \$12.7 million.

In a funding dispute settlement reached last year, county commissioners agreed to allocate 23 cents of the county tax rate to the school system. This year, the county finance office expects that to equal about \$12.7 million, said school finance officer Mary Hazel Small.

In paring the budget, school board

members say they will stick to their primary goal -- to improve teaching and learning in the classroom.

"I think we need to look at the cost-effectiveness of each program, and the effect it is having on teaching and learning in the classroom," said board member Billy Carter. "We need to identify our needs and prioritize them."

Chairman Carter agreed. "We want to be sure the funding is divided equitably among each student and we need to focus on teaching and learning," she said.

She said she "red-flagged" several See Schools, page 12.

Horse-a-thon this weekend

Approximately 500 horses and their riders will be hoofin' it to Long Beach this weekend for the fifth annual Long Beach Horse-a-Thon.

The event is an annual fund-raiser for the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department and last year netted about \$23,000. Most riders will stay at the Long Beach Campground Friday and Saturday nights.

A variety of equestrian competitions will be held at the King's Lynn point Saturday beginning about 10:30 a.m. Hot dogs, drinks, sweatshirts and T-shirts will be available for purchase. Also on Saturday, at 10 a.m., Rusty Gaaney and Lori Fowler will wed on horseback

at the Long Beach cabana.

The public is invited to attend a worship service Sunday at 8:30 a.m. conducted by First Baptist Church of Oak Island pastor the Rev. Douglas Huff.

Horses and riders will leave town Sunday afternoon following another short ride. Gardeners in need of fertilizer are invited to stop by the Long Beach Campground Sunday after 3 p.m.

"Actually, we beg you to come get it because we have to clean the campground after the event and we need all the help we can get," declared Long Beach fire chief Tim Pittman.

'Early 1998'

SBSD hopes for sewerage are renewed

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

With the Friday execution of a \$387,220 contract for W. K. Dickson & Co.'s engineering services, Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District can expect construction of a wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system to begin by November.

"Everyone wants to know when the first flush will take place," Dickson senior vice-president David L. Pond said. "I think you are looking at early 1998."

A timeline presented by engineers calls for wetland delineation to begin on the proposed treatment plant and disposal sites this week. SBSBD plans to dispose of up to 400,000 gallons of treated wastewater per day by spray-irrigation of a golf course to

'Everyone wants to know when the first flush will take place. I think you are looking at early 1998.'

David Pond
Dickson vice-president

be developed immediately adjacent to Arbor Creek subdivision. A treatment plant will also be sited there. Another See SBSBD, page 9

City of Southport

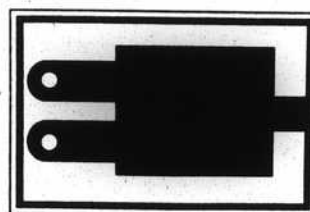
Electric cost savings rest with the user

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Residential, light commercial and commercial-demand customers of the City of Southport electric system may all trim their electric bills substantially by participating in one or more load management options, if aldermen adopt a staff proposal to restructure electric rates beginning in July.

But participation in load management -- and the lower electric bills that would result -- carries with it two big customer responsibilities. Under terms of a proposal public services director Ed Honeycutt will make to aldermen, customers will be asked to pay for installation of load management switches and will be responsible to see these switches are not tampered with.

The entire proposed new rate struc-



ture is aimed at limiting the use of electricity at times of peak electric demand, when the cost of electricity Southport buys from its wholesaler jumps 2,000 percent. Peak demand occurs here when the Carolina Power and Light Co. electric grid is taxed greatest -- usually on cold winter mornings and hot summer afternoons.

The CP&L grid sometimes reaches new times of peak demand four to six times a month from December to February and from June to August.

The proposed new rate structure is See Electric, page 10

In this issue...

