



Sports

Cougars, Scorp lose in Seashell first round, but North bounces back -- 1C

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Our Town

Confused about beach, but certain Southport -- Page 2

Neighbors

Something hot about the chili, as well as the area -- 1B

Yelton may sue county

Former manager prefers settlement

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Former county manager Wyman Yelton says the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners violated federal law aimed at protecting workers with physical disabilities when he was fired from his job last year.

His attorney, W. Harrell Everett Jr. of Goldsboro, plans to file a lawsuit in U. S. District Court this week against the county in hopes to negotiate a settlement to reward Yelton back pay plus a job in county government.

"All they've done so far is delayed this," said Yelton on Monday. "I think the public needs to know. But I've tried. I'm embarrassed to be doing this, to have to file a lawsuit against the county."

Yelton was severely injured in a car accident April 3, 1994, in which his wife was killed. He was hospitalized and out of work for five months before returning in September, 1994, but with physical impairments that required daily therapy in the mornings at Doshier Memorial Hospital. It was a schedule that commissioners cited in their vote to fire him last March.

Commissioners Jerry Jones, Leslie Collier, Doug Simmons and Bill Sue led the 4-1 vote to fire Yelton. District 4 commissioner Tom Rabon Sr. voted no.

Everett will argue that the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) protected Yelton, 59, from losing his job when he was making an effort to cope. He was unable to perform his duties at the same pace but worked long hours to compensate for arriving late from morning therapy sessions.

The accident left him with limited movement in his right hand and arm. He has also undergone an artificial socket implant in his shoulder.

Commissioners asked Yelton to resign due to a "lack of leadership and direction" in county administration, but when Yelton refused he was fired. In a letter to commissioners just days before the firing, Everett warned the board that as a handicapped person resulting from injuries in an accident while employed by the county, both

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Photo by Jim Harper

Passersby at the Sacred Heart Catholic churchyard on Monday morning were reminded of Sunday's Easter celebration, the most important event in the Christian calendar, and of a world just ready to burst into full springtime bloom.

The 'War on Drugs'

Government on losing end, says DEA agent

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Looking back on the major stings and near-death experiences of 24 years in federal drug law enforcement, Michael Grimes cannot explain why he has repeatedly risked his life

and is pessimistic about prospects of the U. S. government's "war on drugs."

"No, we won't win the war on drugs because the federal drug effort is in my opinion a shambles," declared Grimes, agent in charge of the DEA office in Wilmington. "It's chaotic, it's a free-for-all, it's a shambles and it's a disgrace."

No less than 42 federal agencies currently are involved in drug law enforcement investigations, he said, ranging from all branches of the military to the Department of Agriculture.

Although the U. S. Attorney General has mandated that all agencies work together, Grimes said, most agencies work independently and do not share information.

Individual agencies and individual agents seeking self-glorification compound the problem, he added.

"We could put a stranglehold on drug dealers, but that's not going to happen because there's no central indices of information," Grimes said. "The price of drugs has dropped and the supply is going up because we

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Growing pains

County must deal with its future now

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Dealing with projected growth over the next 20 years will be a task mostly assigned the county planning department.

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners divvied up roles last week to implement a list of 16 recommendations drafted earlier this year by a long-range planning committee. The list suggests how the county should handle its expected population boom.

Planning director Wade Horne said at least seven of the recommendations presented in February fall under a comprehensive plan his department is drafting. Other topics were assigned the county school superintendent, community college leaders, economic development staff and engineering office to guide.

"What I'm looking at with a comprehensive plan is to cover every aspect of the county," said Horne. "I'll be looking at not just other departments in this (government) complex, but I'll involve the county and other

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End-of-grade

Test scores up, but gap widens

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

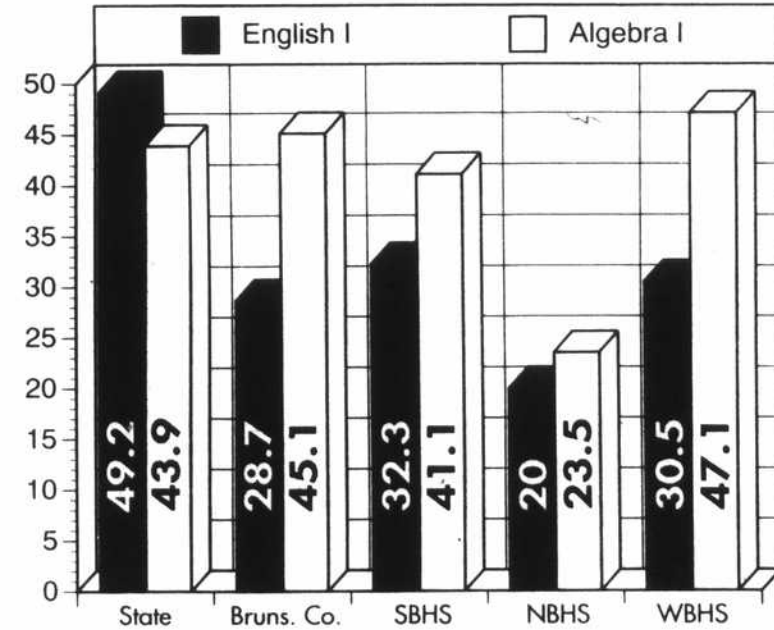
Student performance in Brunswick County during the 1994-95 school year improved in some areas but declined in others, and continued to fall short of average student performance statewide, results of the annual assessment report indicate.

"Even though we've gained a little bit, everybody else is gaining at a greater pace than we are," said Glenda Browning, vice-chairman of the county board of education. "My bone of contention is we still have the same areas of weaknesses we've had for the past three years."

The annual assessment report is

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STUDENT PROFICIENCY



Set builders on the "Morning Glory" crew build medians to be wheeled into place in downtown Southport streets to provide a small-town atmosphere.

'Glory' begins filming here

Moore Street is central location

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

The CBS television movie "Morning Glory" will be filmed in Southport now through April 20.

Described as a lighthearted comedy, the movie will star TV personalities Joanna Kerns of "Growing Pains," Ann Ramsey of the "Mad About You" series and Tom Amandas, and will tell the story of a reporter who comes to a sleepy town and tries to cope with the change of pace.

Moore Street shops were transformed Tuesday in preparation for filming.

Filming was conducted today (Wednesday) at Franklin Square Gallery and on Moore Street. Moore Street will be closed to traffic between Howe and Davis streets this evening and two condor lifts with lights will be moved in for filming of a night scene inside the Crow's Nest.

Filming will continue at the same location Thursday morning

and a portion of Moore Street will again be closed to traffic until 11 p.m.

Filming also will be conducted Thursday at Franklin Square Gallery from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.

On Friday, film crews will move to the interior of the Callari residence on East Bay Street and traffic may be held up intermittently while sound recordings are completed.

A funeral scene will be filmed at the Old Smithville Burial Ground on Saturday between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Interior filming at the Callari residence also will be conducted Saturday until 9 p.m.

A portion of Atlantic Avenue will be closed Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. while film crews work at the Eagle residence, and traffic may again be held up on Bay Street as filming continues at the Callari residence on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of next week.

On Friday, filming will be conducted at K&M Fuel Sales on

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Forecast

Warmer weather is moving into the area and we can expect to see temperatures in the 70's for the period Thursday-Saturday.

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