

July 3, 1996

The State Port PILOT

Sports

Quinton McCracken has hit his stride as a member of the Colorado Rockies --1C

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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Festival begins

Fair skies and temperatures in the low-90s greeted early visitors to the N.C. Fourth of July Festival in Southport Monday and Tuesday.

Opening ceremonies for the state's official celebration of Independence Day were conducted Monday evening at the festival's traditional headquarters building on West Moore Street. Actual operations this year, however, have been shifted to a temporary headquarters in a commercial building on South Howe Street as the Moore Street building continues to undergo renovation. Programs and other material are available to festival visitors at the South Howe Street location near the food booths.

"We're off," 1996 N.C. Fourth of July Festival president Karen Sphar-Hope said enthusiastically Monday. Already this weekend Yaupon Beach volunteer firefighters emerged victorious in the festival's annual Firemen's Competition. A community worship service was conducted Sunday night at Southport Baptist Church under sponsorship of the

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Program
on page 7

'Smart start' finish?

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Brunswick County children and families will lose nearly \$1 million a year if the N.C. General Assembly takes no action to expand the Smart Start program, said Lori Bates, Brunswick County Partnership for Children director.

State legislators adjourned last week without action on the budget and Bates said she is pessimistic about Smart Start's future funding.

"Right now, it's a dead issue," she said. "We still have a prayer of a chance, but I'm not optimistic."

Brunswick County Partnership for Children was one of 12 new Smart Start programs selected by the North Carolina Partnership for Children to receive \$100,000 for planning this year and \$995,000 annually in future

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Festival visitors enjoy the arts and crafts exhibits in Franklin Square

The darnedest questions Can we get here...?

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

ONE WAY

"Can you get seafood here?"

Duh...

Ah, the tourists. You've gotta love 'em.

Without those wonderful thousands who flock here to Southport-Oak Island each summer, the rest of us just couldn't afford to live here in Para-

dise year-round.

But, let's face it. When you've faced the hassle of packing up half of all your worldly belongings, loaded two or three kids into the back of the station wagon, dug out the map and made sure everyone has made his last visit to the potty, it's understandable

that you may have accidentally left your brain somewhere in a pile of scrap iron back in Sandusky.

We love them, but tourists ask some of the darnedest questions when they get here.

"We get them all," said Long Beach police dispatcher Nancy Sanders. "I like this one: 'We rented this house on the oceanfront. Does the beach in

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On the November ballot

County voters to decide term limit

By Terry Pope
County Editor

As expected, a special bill which calls for a referendum on changing terms for Brunswick County commissioners and school board members from two years to four years was approved by the N.C. General Assembly on June 21.

Voters will head to the polls November 5 to decide whether to revert back to staggered, four-year terms for county officials or keep electing all five board members every two years. Both boards are composed of five members each which represent their individual electoral districts, but all seats are elected by the entire county voter population.

The system was changed by special legislation after a 1991

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vote that called for two-year terms. In 1994, all five seats for the school board and commission were up for election to two-year terms.

House Bill 1385, introduced by 14th District representatives David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach) and Dewey Hill (D-Lake Waccamaw), would change that but only if approved by voters in November. It was approved by the House with no opposition.

The language stipulates that the three highest vote-getters on the school board and commission shall receive four-year terms and the remaining two will get two-year terms. Those two will face re-election in 1998 while the other three won't face re-election until the year 2000.

In the year 2000, and quadrennially thereafter, those three seats on the board will be four-year terms. If voters don't approve the referendum, the term limits will stay as they are.

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Forecast

Hot and humid are what we have in store for the rest of the week and weekend. Temperatures will be in the upper 80's and low 90's with heat index readings up to 110.