



Sports

The fall sports season kicks off Friday night with UCB's Football Jamboree -- 1C

The State Port

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VOLUME 65/ NUMBER 52

SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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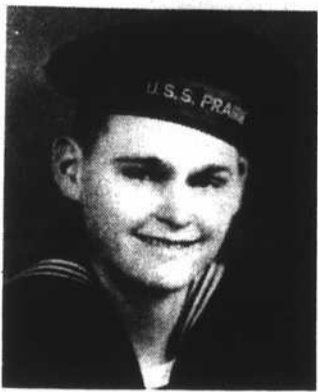
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MEDAL COMES 52 YEARS LATER

Broken Heart



Milton Domler points to the Purple Heart medal he received 52 years after he was injured in World War II. Photo by Holly Edwards

'Sometimes one word in a conversation will bring back everything so clearly, and then the tears just start coming. But I'm not ashamed to cry. We didn't have time to cry during the war.'

Story by Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Fifty-two years after he was gouged with a bayonet by a Japanese soldier during World War II, Milton Domler found a Purple Heart medal in his mailbox.

It was enclosed in a brown padded envelope. There was no letter of explanation nor commendation.

For Domler, the medal brought back memories and emotions he would rather forget.

"If it took them that long to give me the medal, hang it up," said the 74-year-old Boiling Spring Lakes resident. "When I got that thing it brought back a lot of rancid things that happened, and it brought them back so fresh. What happened to me is be-

side the point. It brought back memories of what happened to other people. They don't know they got a Purple Heart because they're not here."

A faded picture of Domler's platoon hangs on his living room wall. The men are smiling, dressed in crisp white U. S. Navy uniforms and black kerchiefs. Of the 72 men in the platoon, Domler said 53 were killed in action.

"That's a hell of a loss," he said. "These are men that you sleep with, work with, sweat with. On board a ship you get pretty close. I'm thankful I'm here and I don't feel sorry for myself, but I lost a lot of friends that were good people. The war

See Broken, page 10

Long Beach
Vote ordered to determine term lengths

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Three hundred eighty-eight qualified voters have forced an initiative referendum that will return Long Beach voters to the polls to decide if town council members should be elected to two-year or four-year staggered terms of office.

Council voted 3-2 Tuesday night

to set a referendum on the matter November 5, Election Day. Voting to set the referendum on a return to two-year terms of office were councilors Frances Allen, Helen Cashwell and Kevin Bell. Councilors Jeff Ensminger and Horace Collier voted not to set a referendum date. Councilor Doris Hertel was not present at Tuesday night's council session.

Council earlier this year voted a return to a procedure which would establish four-year staggered terms of office, but in July the town was presented a petition containing the signatures of at least ten percent of all registered voters which sought a referendum on a proposition to reestablish two-year officer terms.

From 1969 until 1991 members of the Long Beach Board of Commissioners, and later town council, were elected to four-year staggered terms of office. In 1992, petitioners forced a referendum on a proposition to establish two-year terms of office. That referendum was overwhelmingly approved and in elections of 1993 and 1995 all six members of town council were elected.

Proponents of the two-year term say it allows voters to more quickly remove councilors with whom they disagree. Opponents of the two-year term say it takes elected officials at least that long to learn their jobs and invites instability in local government by creating the possibility no experienced member of the board could be returned to office.

It is impossible to stagger two-

See Long Beach, page 10

Victim remains critical

A Southport man remained in critical condition at New Hanover Regional Medical Center Tuesday afternoon, the victim of a personal watercraft injury.

Donald Bolduc, 37, of Stuart Avenue was admitted to NHRMC in critical condition Thursday afternoon from a head injury he sustained when thrown from a personal watercraft in the Lockwood Folly River.

Brunswick County Emergency Medical Services director Tracy Jackson said county EMS was summoned to Colonial Landing Road at Supply around 1:15 p.m. Thursday. Bystand-

See Critical, page 10

Back-to-school is special today

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Summer vacation came to an end today for 9,700 Brunswick County young people.

About 500 more students than last year filled county classrooms.

While rapid growth rate has caused some schools to become overcrowded, schools at the northern end of the county have been granted some relief by the addition of Belville Elementary School.

Lincoln Primary School was changed from a kindergarten through third grade school to a kindergarten through second grade school and experienced a student population drop of about 130 students. And, Leland Middle School was changed from a fourth through eighth grade school to a sixth through eighth grade school and experienced a student population drop of about 350 students.

Belville Elementary School will serve over 600 students in third through fifth grades.

One of the fastest-growing schools in the county is Supply Elementary, with a student population of at least 790 and a maximum design capacity

See School, page 10

STUDENT POPULATION

	1995-96	1996-97
Southport Elementary	843	820
Bolivia Elementary	610	650
Belville Elementary	N/A	601
Lincoln Primary	750	620
Supply Elementary	772	790
Union Primary	790	792
Waccamaw Elementary	463	490
South Brunswick Middle	740	783
Leland Middle	1000	650
Shalotte Middle	967	975
South Brunswick High	700	814
North Brunswick High	509	621
West Brunswick High	964	1022
Brunswick Learning Center	104	61
TOTAL	9212	9689

County rules put wraps on adult business

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Some residents said they were willing to increase county taxes to pay for a legal defense of an outright ban on adult businesses.

But it wasn't a safe option for county commissioners to consider, explained county attorney Huey Marshall, just before the board voted unanimously Monday to allow adult and sexually oriented businesses in heavy manufacturing zones. The commission also trimmed the Brunswick County Planning Board's recommended 2,500-foot setback requirement from homes, churches, daycare cen-

ters, schools, parks and public facilities to 1,500 feet instead, in fear of jeopardizing the rules.

Banning them altogether was a message delivered by numerous residents who spoke at the public hearing. Do so and the commissioners would have support of residents should the ban be challenged in court, they indicated. But the board accepted the advice of counsel.

"You would probably not survive the motion stage," explained Marshall. "There is a fundamental right for that person to operate. When you lose a suit, what the court says is that you don't in fact have an ordinance, and it would give free

See Business, page 8

ST. JAMES

Sewer plan is approved

By Terry Pope
County Editor

St. James Plantation has received approval for its new 600,000-gallon-per-day sewage treatment plant, ending a building moratorium that has been in effect there since July 15.

The N. C. Department of Water Quality issued the permit last Tuesday, August 13, for a spray-irrigation treatment system that will eventually accommodate up to 2,500 homes at the residential and golf course community near Southport.

Brunswick County health officials put a halt to new septic system taps last month when a transition between county and state permitting agencies delayed the process for St. James to receive its operations permit for a larger plant. Although the capacity of an existing plant, which uses a drain field, had not been reached, the number of homes allocated to that capacity had already maxed out.

"The waste flow would have eventually overloaded our drain field,"

See Sewer, page 8