



Sports

North Brunswick caps its best season ever with coach, player of year honors -- 1C

The State Port

PILOT

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Neighbors

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Minority hiring is the goal

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

An aggressive program to recruit minority teachers, administrators and counselors in the Brunswick County school system was presented the school board Monday night by assistant superintendent for operations Clarence Willie.

"It's very difficult to recruit minorities without an aggressive approach," declared superintendent of schools Marion Wise. "We hope to extend early contracts to a minimum of ten minority candidates for teaching positions each year."

Wise said about 50 new teachers are hired by the school system annually.

In June, the Brunswick County chapter of the NAACP filed complaints about the lack of minority professionals in the school system with the U. S. Education Department's Office for Civil Rights. The office reviewed the complaints, but concluded there was not enough evidence to pursue a civil action against the school system.

A survey of Brunswick County school employees showed that 16 percent of all teachers, 19 percent of guidance counselors and 25 percent of administrators are minorities, while 100 percent of the system's unskilled laborers are minorities.

Minorities make up about 24 percent of the student population.

To recruit more minority professionals, Willie said he has written all 47 institutions of higher learning in the state that train teachers and requested an "association" with them. He said the school system will conduct recruitment activities at these institutions and will attend campus

See **Minority**, page 6



Photo by Jim Harper

Marching troops. Happy clowns. Sad ones too. Princesses. Flags and banners. Santas. Santa hats, a bunch. Flying candy. Smiling faces. The occasional tiger. They all turned out for the Christmas-by-the-Sea Festival parade on Oak Island Saturday afternoon. Upcoming at 11 a.m. this Saturday is Bolivia's third annual Christmas parade, and the northern Brunswick parade is next weekend. More photos on last Saturday's doings in the Neighbors section.

State review

Case is made for expanded court facility

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Brunswick County's courthouse may have been an architectural showcase of the '70s, but it is far too small and will need some major renovation work or even replacement as we head into the future.

That's the analysis of a facility review of Brunswick County's courthouse recently conducted by the N. C. Administrative Office of the Courts, which also studied four other North Carolina county facilities under a grant from the State Justice Institute.

It recommends a plan to almost double the current size of the courthouse at the Brunswick County Government Center near Bolivia to relieve overcrowded conditions of the courtrooms, its waiting areas, judges' chambers, clerk of court's office and district attorney's space.

The courthouse contains 23,450 square feet, of which approximately 19,500 is usable space. Of that, 15,000 is assigned to judicial functions while the other 4,500 is occu-

A study recommends a plan to almost double the current size of the courthouse at the Brunswick County Government Center to relieve overcrowded conditions

pied by the register of deeds office and other county functions.

One option recommends moving the register of deeds out of the courthouse and assigning that space to court functions. Brunswick County clerk of court Diana Morgan's facility was also surveyed during a two-

See **Facility**, page 8

Rezoning sought on 131-acre tract northeast of city

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A Florida-based real estate development firm will ask Southport aldermen Thursday to rezone a 131-acre parcel now owned by Pfizer Inc. for single-family residential development.

If that request is granted, Oleander Development Company will ask aldermen to extend sewer service out of town to the development which may initially be subdivided into 120 lots south of Princes Creek.

Gretchen Peoples, of Long Beach, serves as local agent for Oleander Development, of Moore Haven, FL. She said the firm is eager to make the first 25 to 30 lots in the parcel between Moore and Leonard streets opposite

Ferry Road available for purchase by spring.

"The developer has in mind a really nice upscale subdivision," Ms. Peoples said. "They are talking about lots of 15,000 to 20,000 square feet."

Meeting November 21, the city planning board unanimously voted to recommend the rezoning request to the board of aldermen. The tract is currently zoned I-1 and I-2 for industrial use. Oleander Development, which proposes to buy the parcel, has joined the present parcel owner in a request to assign the property R-1, single-family residential, designation.

"The owner's intention is to develop the property as a well-planned and professionally designed community of single-family homes," the zon-

See **Rezoning**, page 5

But initiatives in place

School violence rate is up

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

The crime rate in Brunswick County schools increased during the 1995-96 school year and remained higher than state average, according to a report released last week by the state Department of Public Instruction.

A total of 89 criminal or violent acts were committed in Brunswick County schools during the 1995-96 school year, while 68 acts were committed during the 1994-95 school term.

The rate of criminal acts committed was 9.8 per thousand students in Brunswick County during the 1995-96 school year -- up nearly three incidents from the previous year -- and 7.2 per thousand students statewide.

See **Violence**, page 11

'Students need to know our expectations of them both academically and socially. And parents and school personnel should make sure students understand the consequences of their behavior.'

Supt. Marion Wise

Service station owner's wife charged

Oak Island shocked by Warren death

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Family friends and employees of the Town of Yaupon Beach Monday and Tuesday mourned the death of former town commissioner and popular Yaupon Exxon service station owner J. M. Warren, describing him as an exceedingly generous man who gave much to many.

Flag flew at half-staff over Yaupon Beach Town Hall where Warren served as a town commissioner between 1977 and 1987.

Warren, 60, succumbed to gunshot wounds of his chest Sunday night. His wife, Varie Warren, 59, surrendered herself at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Tuesday at 11 a.m. in an arrangement made between Yaupon Beach police chief Van Eddinger and her attorney Bonner Stiller.

Warren issued late Monday charge Mrs. Warren with murder

'She voluntarily told a detective she had shot him, that she didn't mean to do it, she didn't know what she was doing, and she hoped he would be all right.'

Van Eddinger
Yaupon Beach police chief

She will make first appearance before the District Court. At first appearance a judge will decide if there is probable cause.

is probable cause to bind the case over to the Superior Court for trial. If probable cause is found, it is likely the case will be presented to a grand jury for indictment.

"Right now, it's just a basic murder charge," chief Eddinger said Tuesday morning. "There's no degree or anything. The warrant just says murder."

Shock and disbelief were the most frequently expressed emotions at Yaupon Beach early this week. The Warrens were backbones of this small community. For more than 20 years J. M. Warren operated Yaupon Exxon, bringing his sons James and Mark into the business and adding a NAPA auto parts store, Oak Island Cab Company and a wrecker service to the businesses run from the corner of Yaupon Drive and Barbee Boulevard.

Mrs. Warren operated Varie's Family Hair Care, a beauty salon, in a building next door to the service station. The couple lived only a block away from the businesses in a two-story

See **Death**, page 7



Forecast

After the cold temperatures earlier this week the extended forecast calls for mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid to upper 60's.

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