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Filing deadline Monday

Prospects for excitement in the federal, state and county primary elections of 1998 intensified this week when first-term sheriff Ronald E. Hewett picked up opposition from within his party.

Former sheriff's deputy and current Belville mayor Kenneth D. Messer, 50, has filed notice of intent to challenge Hewett, 36, of Supply for the Democratic party nomination to be sheriff of Brunswick County.

Messer was fired from his job as a detective with the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department by Hewett early last year. Hewett asserted Messer had released sensitive information about the death of a county resident to the press, before the deceased's family was notified.

If no others file to run for sheriff, the winner of the Democratic primary will face Republican Mike Allen, 48, of Leland, the only GOP candidate to seek the post of highest law enforcement officer in the county.

Hewett goes into the election well-armed. He reportedly has amassed a campaign war chest in excess of \$46,000. Hewett spent over \$70,000 to win election in 1994, upon the retirement of former Democratic sheriff John Carr Davis.

Brunswick County voters will elect candidates for U. S. House of Representatives and U. S. Senate this year and will elect one state senator and two members of the state House. Two county commissioners and two school board members are to be elected and a Brunswick County clerk of Superior Court will be elected.

Those wishing to file notice of candidacy to seek election to any federal, state or county office to be decided this year have until noon, February 2, to do so. Primary election has been scheduled May 5. Should run-off primary elections -- necessary when no candidate emerges from a primary contest with 40 percent of the popular vote -- become necessary, they will be held June 2.

In other races in or affecting Brunswick County:

■ **E. David Redwine**, 50, of Ocean Isle Beach and Dewey Hill, 72, of Whiteville, both Democrats, are at this time unchallenged in their bids for nomination to succeed themselves as members of the N. C. House of Representatives from the 14th District. The Pilot in recent weeks inadvertently reported a primary challenge to the two, but the candidate identified lives outside the 14th House District. Republican Shirley Babson, 56, of Bolivia is the only GOP candidate in the race for one of the district's two House seats at this time. Veteran Democrat R. C. Soles of Tabor City is the only announced candidate of either party seeking election to the N. C. Senate from its 18th District.

■ Incumbent Democratic clerk of court **Diana Morgan**, 45, of Long See Filing, page 5



Four Brunswick Learning Center students were carried to Doshier Memorial Hospital on stretchers last Wednesday after their homeward-bound bus was rammed by an auto on Highway 87-133 at Bethel Church Road. All were examined for back and neck pain and released.

Photo by Jim Harper

Doshier invites local financing for new facility

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Rising interest rates within the state Division of Facility Services' loan pool have prompted Doshier Memorial Hospital trustees to seek proposals from area financial institutions to fund construction of a \$3.75-million, 60-bed skilled nursing facility and dietary section.

Trustees Bill Sizemore, Gib Barbee and Bill Newnam excused themselves from voting Monday night because of their association with local financial institutions. The official board vote was unanimous.

A revised construction schedule calls for design documents to be ready for bid by July, bids to be awarded and construction to begin in August, and construction to be complete in December, 1999.

"In about 22 months from now, we should have an operational facility and start generating some revenues," said hospital administrator Edgar Haywood.

Trustees last month hired the Charlotte architectural firm Wilkerson and See Doshier, page 10

Hospital finances reported

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Doshier Memorial Hospital generated \$13.2 million in revenue during the 1996-97 fiscal year, including \$12.7 million in patient service revenue and \$504,350 in rent and other revenue, according to an audit report presented hospital trustees Monday.

Non-operating income included \$665,017 generated by the four-cent Smithville Township property tax levy and a \$458,779 insurance gain on the fire-damaged Hood Building. The hospital purchased the See Finances, page 10

Three-day retreat

Solid waste proposal tops board agenda

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A proposal to collect household refuse from curbside at each and every home in Brunswick County will dominate the attention of county commissioners as they begin a scheduled three-day retreat session today (Wednesday).

Over the course of the next three working days, county commissioners have blocked off an hour for representatives of each of the 18 municipalities in Brunswick County to bring their questions and concerns before the county governing board. While a variety of concerns will be given air, it is solid waste management which tops each list.

Under terms of a proposal formulated by county commissioners' chairman JoAnn Simmons and commissioner David Sandifer with representatives of Waste Industries Inc., Brunswick County would provide once-weekly curbside refuse collection at every home in Brunswick County -- including

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homes in municipalities.

Towns and cities already in the solid waste management business will either cease their operations or modify them greatly, if they sign-on to the county plan. If municipalities choose not to sign-on to the countywide program, they may See Proposal, page 6

Southern schools

'Year-round' plan opposed

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Opponents of a proposed year-round school calendar for elementary and middle schools outnumbered proponents at a public forum held this week at Southport Elementary School.

Complaints about the proposed year-round calendar were greeted by rounds of applause from most of the 100 parents who attended the forum. Some parents said they didn't want their children riding a school bus during tourist season, others said they didn't have enough evidence to support the notion that year-round schools improve student performance, and some said it would be difficult to plan vacations if another child in the family was on the traditional school calendar.

The calendar would shorten summer vacation from ten to five weeks but include a three-week break after each nine-week instructional period. This year, summer vacation would be shortened by only two weeks because of a revised traditional cal-

'You chose teaching as a profession, and reducing burn-out is why you get weekends off. Some of us parents don't even get that.'

Carol Causey

end.

"I'm one of six teachers at South Brunswick High who will have the opposite schedule of their children in elementary school," said Jill Jones. "You're messing with my time with my kids, and that upsets me greatly. I have a child with See Year-round, page 10

Free tax help offered through AARP

Free income tax assistance will be available for Brunswick County low-income and elderly residents starting Monday, February 2, through the Tax-Aide Program of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

There are volunteer counselors, trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, providing counseling service and assistance at the following times, dates and

locations:

■ **Southport** -- Library, 109 West Moore Street, Wednesdays and Fridays, February 4 through April 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ **Oak Island** -- Barbee Library, 818 Yaupon Drive, Mondays and Fridays, February 2 through April 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ **Leland** -- Library, 487 Village Road, Mondays and Thursdays, February 2 through April 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ **Shalotte** -- Rourke Library, 5068 Main Street, Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, February 2 through April 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ **Supply** -- Brunswick Community College Interagency Building, Tuesdays, February 3 through April 14, 9 a.m. to noon by appointment only. Persons should call Nancy McCrary at 754-6900, extension 400, to make an appointment.

Lois Beddard, coordinator for the tax pro-

gram, said the service is designed to help older persons understand income tax forms and become familiar with special benefits available to them.

"Our counselors, many of whom are retired business people with considerable experience in tax matters, are trained to prepare returns for older taxpayers," Mrs. Beddard said. "Our counselors will provide assistance to suit See Tax help, page 10

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