September 2, 1998

# THE STATE PORT PILOT

Phone 910-457-4568/Fax 910-457-9427/e-mail pilot@southport.net | Volume 68, Number 2 | Published every W... | Southport, NC

**Tattoo**

Not even a tattoo las
but you'd better be c

**Grid opener**

Hoggard storms to a
then holds off South

SOUTHPORT LIBRARY
W. MOORE STREET
SOUTHPORT NC 28461
CAR-RT SORT *C001
W 8P

# Bonnie bye-bye

## Towns intact; inland areas most affected

**By Richard Nubel**
Municipal Editor

She was messy. She was wet. She took too long to get here and refused to leave.

Say what you will about Hurricane Bonnie but, thankfully, she was not the devastating storm many believed she would be.

Southport-Oak Island, Boiling Spring Lakes and Bald Head Island residents discovered Thursday morning they had survived Hurricane Bonnie in extremely good condition. Damage estimates in southeastern Brunswick County's municipalities were light.

In Yaupon Beach, for instance, the $65,000 hurricane damage estimate is less than the cost of the average home in town.

Other reports pages 2 & 3

"It was messy and inconvenient," Yaupon Beach mayor Dot Kelly said, summarizing the experience of Hurricane Bonnie.

Municipal officials in all of southeastern Brunswick County were relieved Thursday morning as damage assessments were compiled quickly. Damage to public property was minimal. Damage to private property most often was lost shingles or lost siding.

Residents, who Thursday morning began returning to their homes in Southport and on Oak Island after evacuation was ordered, were relieved to find little damage to their homes. The Oak Island bridge was reopened for all to return just after 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

Most importantly, no discernible damage was done to area beaches. In fact, hurricane Bonnie actually may have deposited more sand on some eroded sections of Oak Island beachfront.

"The beachfront appears to have fared very well," Long Beach town manager Jerry Walters said. "As far as we can tell ... we had a change in the profile of the beach, but the dunes we built and pushed-up fared very well."

Some overwash of the dune line did occur in the critically challenged sections of East Beach Drive, but overwash was no more severe than it has been during non-tropical storms.

Damage assessment teams returned to Oak Island at first light Thursday morning. Damage assessors were amazed to find no sand cover on Beach Drive in Long Beach, on Ocean Drive in Yaupon Beach nor along Caswell Beach Drive.

Caswell Beach residents were

See Bonnie, page 6

## UP IN ARMS

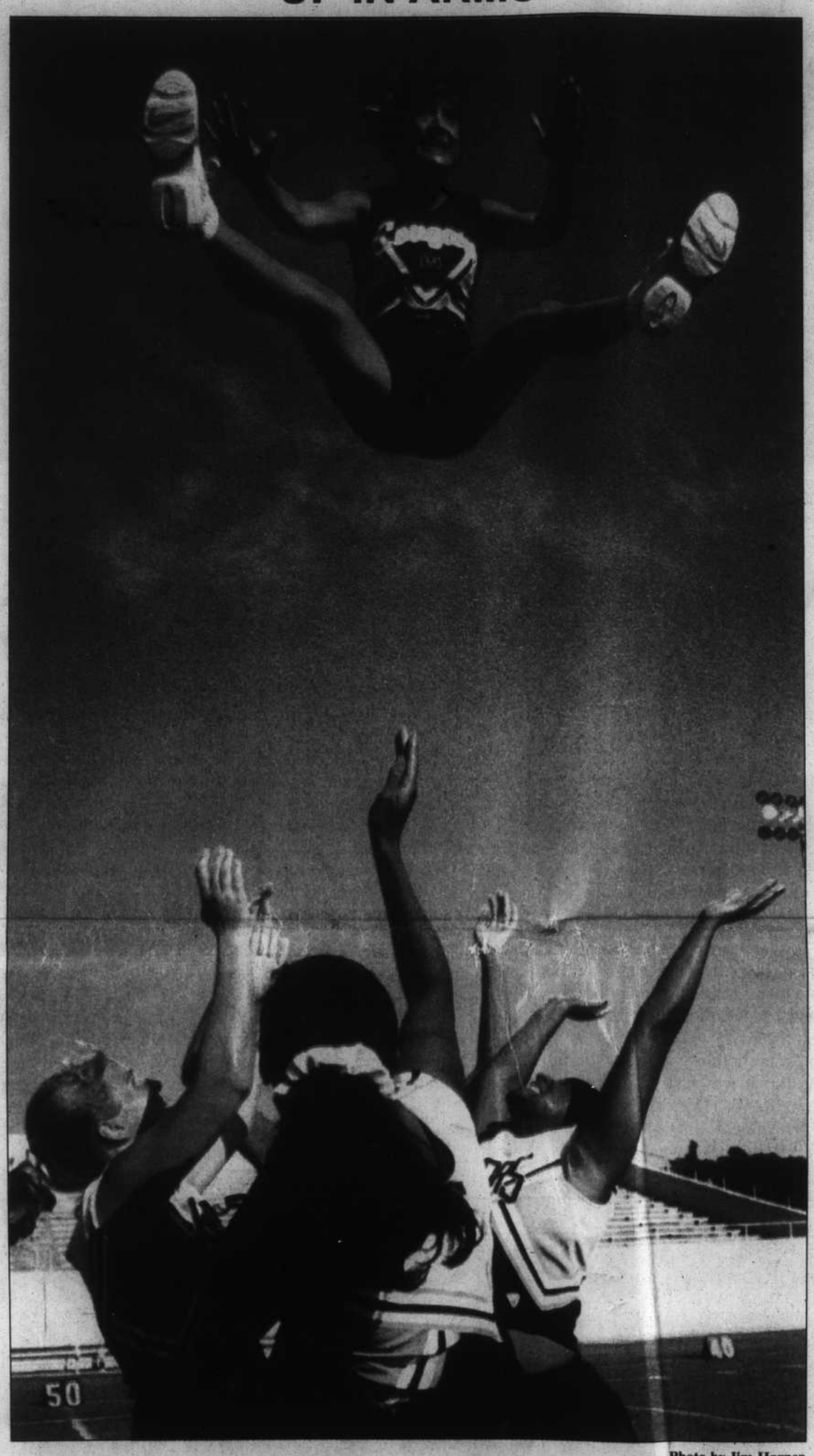

Photo by Jim Harper

**South Brunswick cheerleaders, performing here at the recent BB&T Jamboree, were flying high again Monday night as the Cougars met Hoggard in a storm-delayed football game. The new Cougar Rhythm dance team also joined in the festivities. Details of the game in the Sports section.**

## Possible $10 million

# The verdict: County needs a courthouse

**By Terry Pope**
County Editor

Architects were given the go-ahead Monday for design of a new county courthouse to eliminate a space crunch at the county government center near Bolivia.

A preliminary building study shown by Grier-Fripp Architects of Charlotte to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners indicates the new courthouse should be either two or three stories tall and sit adjacent to the current building and sheriff's department. It also would look more like a traditional courthouse with columns in front and a secure main entrance.

Grier-Fripp just completed a study of county needs that shows the present courthouse is terribly inadequate with its 14,155 square feet of space.

The new building would require 85,565 square feet of space to meet needs for the next 20 years. That design would also be open-ended to allow expansion by another 20,270 square feet after that time.

> 'The general feeling is that we all do the best we can with what we've got, but they're starting to wear out.'
>
> **Steve Allen**
> **Grier-Fripp Architects**

"The general feeling is that we all do the best we can with what we've got, but they're starting to wear out," said Steve Allen of Grier-

See Courthouse, page 16

## Height of storm

# Hospital closing concerns board

**By Terry Pope**
County Editor

A decision to close Brunswick Community Hospital during the height of Hurricane Bonnie last week hasn't set well with county officials.

It was the topic of a closed session by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on Monday to discuss "possible litigation." However, with the reopening of the facility earlier in the day, all that was left to debate was the judgment call of hospital administrator Paul Schulte to shut dow after winds ripped off a 2.5-ton atilation unit and part of the roof during the storm.

"They have not taken any particular action," said county attorney Huey Marshall on commissioners' decision. "I think they are all deeply concerned."

The decision to transfer 23 patients to Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach

> 'He was looking after us also. The criticism he got really has angered us.'
>
> **Glenda Warren**
> **Brunswick nurse**

nc others to New Hanover Reg onal Medical Center in Wilm ington in the midst of the storm has drawn heated criticism. Brunswick emergency operations did not respond to the call to evacuate or close the facility.

Marshall said county officials were very concerned about "weath-

See Hospital, page 14

## Community Building

# Aldermen okay finance package

**By Richard Nubel**
Municipal Editor

A $350,000 loan from Security Savings Bank was approved at a special noon meeting of the Southport Board of Aldermen on Monday.

The loan completes finance arrangements for reconstruction of the Southport Community Building, a project expected to cost the city just under $1 million.

Security Savings Bank offered the better of two proposals advanced by local lending institutions. The ten-year loan will be offered at 4.43-percent interest. It will be set up as a construction loan and no interest will accrue until funds are drawn.

Security has also waived financing costs and attorney fees. There will be no penalty for early pay-off.

The proposed loan package was submitted to the N. C. Local Government Commission for approval at a meeting in Raleigh Tuesday. LGC is an agency of the state treasurer's office which monitors the credit matters of city and county governments in North Carolina.

The $350,000 loan from Security will be coupled with $137,798 in donations the city has received for replacement of the Southport

See Building, page 14

# Lakes system vote off

**By Richard Nubel**
Municipal Editor

A long-planned November referendum on whether or not to establish a public water distribution system in Boiling Spring Lakes will not be held, commissioner Jack Redmond announced Tuesday night.

Redmond said city attorney Elva Jess and Brunswick County Board of Elections supervisor Lynda Britt have determined the city is without statutory authority to ask voters the open-ended question, "Do you want the board to proceed with plans for a water system?" Referenda may only be conducted, Jess says, on specific issues defined

See Lakes, page 7

Photo by Jim Harper

**Southport alderman Wayne Hewett was in great demand after Hurricane Bonnie passed, plying his usual trade with his bucket-hoe, and here clearing a toppled oak on Rhett Street. Generally, broken limbs and dropped trees did not cause great delay in restoration of power.**

## INSIDE


| | |
|---|---|
| Opinion | 4 |
| Police report | 11 |
| Obituaries | 13 |
| District Court | 16 |
| Church | 3B |
| Calendar | 4B |
| TV schedule | 6B |
| NASCAR | 7C |
| Classifieds | 9C |