

# THE STATE PORT PILOT

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## Season finale

South Brunswick  
Fairmont Friday

## Keep on

Wheels were turning  
heads at Vehicle  
Southport Elementary

Southport Elementary  
W. MOORE STREET  
SOUTHPORT, NC 28461

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W. MOORE STREET  
SOUTHPORT, NC 28461

## Brunswick

## Voters back

## incumbents

## Oak Island Bridge decision possible

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

A meeting of the minds on where to site a corridor to a second Oak Island bridge may come as soon as next Thursday.

"It is conceivable we could reach consensus at this meeting," said Gail Grimes, an engineer with the Planning and Environmental Branch of N. C. Department of Transportation. "We have updated land suitability and aerial photography. We could reach agreement."

An agreement on a path for the road to a second Oak Island bridge would end a tremendously frustrating phase of proposed bridge development which began in early 1997 when DOT released its first corridor preferences. Critical decisions apparently were delayed by political shakeups on the N. C. Board of Transportation and possibly even by local political squabbling.

The November 12 meeting in Raleigh at which agreement may come is one of many interagency meetings DOT holds routinely with representatives of some 17 or more environmental agencies asked to comment on NCDOT projects. At this interagency meeting, DOT's planning and environmental branch will present updated information, gathered to address concerns the review agencies expressed earlier this year over a DOT preliminary decision to select one of three corridor alternatives linking, in direct fashion, a proposed bridge at Middleton Street to the mainland opposite it with the N. C. 211 and Midway Road area.

Transportation engineers involved say data collected recently advances the argument for a road corridor from Midway Road to Middleton Street and a Sunset Harbor Road alternative does not address the real transportation needs of the people of Oak Island and Brunswick County. Long Beach mayor Joan Altman and Brunswick County commissioners' chairman JoAnn Bellamy Simmons have been invited to the interagency meeting to present a local perspective on the proposed bridge project.

DOT presented three Middleton-to-Midway corridor alternatives in a February 10, 1997, report which contained an environmental assessment of five route alternatives. Two other western alternatives, which would

See Bridge, page 7

## ON THE AIR



From a news van to a fire truck, students at Southport Elementary School saw it all Thursday during Career Vehicle Day. These students gave television journalism a try and seemed like naturals, but if they didn't like it there were no strings attached. They could just move on to the next demonstration. (Photos by Laura Kimball)

More on Career Vehicle Day  
Page 1B

## Brunswick Voters back incumbents

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Incumbents won. That's the big news from Brunswick County elections Tuesday.

But the margin of victory in some races was about as tight as local political leaders can recall.

District 1 incumbent Brunswick County commissioner Don Warren of Ocean Isle Beach defeated Republican challenger Debbie Rupp, also of Ocean Isle Beach, by less than one percent with unofficial totals at 9,468 to 9,313.

District 2 incumbent commissioner David Sandifer of Holden Beach trailed through the first 16 of 23 precincts reporting but pulled out a win in similar fashion over Democratic challenger Allan Dameron of Holden Beach, 9,294 to 9,145, unofficially.

It means political control of the five-member Brunswick County Board of Commissioners will not change as Democrats retain three of the seats and two seats stay in Republican hands.

The race for sheriff wasn't as close. Democrat incumbent Ronald Hewett easily won reelection over Republican challenger and former deputy Robert (Mike) Allen of Leland, 13,653 to 5,627. Hewett, who was elected to his first term in 1994, will serve another four-year term and swept in with 70.8 percent of the vote.

Now back to the close races. District 3 school board member William D. (Billy) Carter of Yaupon Beach survived the closest race of the night in narrowly fighting off a challenge from Republican Patricia (Patt) Carney, 9,365 to 9,259. Carney, of Southport, a

See Election, page 7

## ELECTION RESULTS

### State House

Hill (D) 8971  
Redwine (D) 10619  
Babson (R) 7769  
Quinn (R) 7419

### Sheriff

Hewett (D) 13653  
Allen (R) 5627

### Commissioner

District 1  
Warren (D) 9468  
Rupp (R) 9313

### District 2

Dameron (D) 9145  
Sandifer (R) 9294

### School board

#### District 3

Carter (D) 9365  
Carney (R) 9259

#### District 5

Browning (D) 10472  
Bright (R) 8064

### Clerk of Court

Morgan (D) 11338  
Hardee (R) 7289

## Precinct-by-precinct, page 6

## Modular homes build as Lakes controversy

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Prospects for easing current restrictions on placement of modular homes in the city have rumors running rampant through Boiling Spring Lakes and the issue has exposed a big rift in the city's board of commissioners.

Though a public workshop session to be facilitated by former mayor Mark Stewart was scheduled for next Monday night at City Hall, commissioner Jack Redmond Tuesday night broke ranks with fellow commissioners and said he

See Modular, page 7

## Russell to be reassigned

# New ferry will serve Southport-Fort Fisher run

The motor vessel *Southport* will get a new sailing partner with which to split duties on the Southport-Fort Fisher Ferry run.

The U. S. Congress last week adopted a spending bill which included \$2 million for the N. C. Department of Transportation to have a new ferry built for the route connecting major transportation arteries in Brunswick and New Hanover counties on opposite sides of the Cape Fear River.

The State of North Carolina is expected to pick up the \$3-million balance for construction of a modern, 180-foot river class ferry boat which will replace the M/V *Governor Daniel Russell*, the ferry now on the Southport-Fort Fisher line which was named for the only governor of the state native to Brunswick County. The *Russell* will



The M/V *Southport* will be joined by a similar vessel, replacing the M/V *Governor Daniel Russell* on the Southport-Fort Fisher route.

be relocated to the NCDOT Division of Ferries operation.

The new Cape Fear River ferry is expected to be ready for service about one year after contract for its purchase is awarded. The Southport-

Fort Fisher Ferry Line last year transported about 400,000 persons and 130,000 vehicles across the river. Ferry traffic in recent years has been targeted by downtown Southport merchants as an impor-

tant market on which to capitalize. Ferry traffic this year is expected to exceed last year's record level.

Seventh District U. S. congressman Mike McIntyre announced the federal appropriation last week.

"This is welcome news for residents and visitors of the Cape Fear region," McIntyre said. "The North Carolina ferry system is a vital link to the transportation needs of our coastal area and this new ferry will

be a great complement to the state's system."

The M/V *Southport* was added to the Southport-Fort Fisher line as a new vessel only a few years ago. When plans for its purchase were announced, great local interest was shown in selection of the new vessel's name. Southport aldermen quickly fired off a resolution to NCDOT requesting the name M/V *Southport* and a considerable campaign on behalf of that name was waged.

State transportation officials say they will talk to public officials in the Cape Fear region before naming the new vessel.

The two ferries on the Southport-Fort Fisher line leave from berths on opposite sides of the Cape Fear River every 45 minutes May through October.