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Volume 68, Number 49

Published every Wednesday in Southport, NC



Photo by Jim Harper

Turn me up, Buttercup

One of the summer's coolest maneuvers came on the summer's hottest day — Yaupon Exxon wrecker (and a little body-english from bystanders) at the at 10:30 a.m. Friday when an overturned ice cream truck was righted by a Sacred Heart Catholic Church corner.

Voters must help Dosher opens key campaign for expansion

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Freshly armed with legislation that may allow most favorable financing options, Doshier Memorial Hospital trustees Monday said they would set in motion procedures necessary to a major upgrade and expansion of Smithville Township's hospital.

Hospital administrator Edgar Haywood reported he would next week begin, with a consultant, drafting a certificate of need application for the planned \$4.5-to-\$7-million Doshier expansion. Certificates of need (CON) are issued by the N. C. Department of Health's Division of Facility Services to health care facilities authorizing capital expenditures of \$2 million or more.

The facility upgrade — the biggest at Doshier since the new patient care and administrative areas of the hospital were added in 1980 — will afford the hospital more space in four critical areas: surgery, emergency room, rehabilitative services and imaging.

Haywood said he would meet Tuesday with hospital volunteers and challenge them to take the lead in a petition drive needed before county commissioners can call a public referendum to approve continuation of the hospital district's taxing authority.

The administrator said he thought Smithville
See Doshier, page 9

'The most important thing is the vote. If you've got the (certificate of need) in hand, it clears up some of the murkiness.'



HAYWOOD

Consolidation Caswell voters may have a say

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

A desire to "deannex" Oak Island Beach Villas from Caswell Beach and have the 172-unit condominium complex annexed by the Town of Oak Island may have propelled the issue of "consolidation" at Caswell Beach into a bona fide election year issue.

Incumbent mayor Joe O'Brien thinks so.

"We will be electing three commissioners and a new mayor this fall and I am certain consolidation will be an

election issue," O'Brien said this week in a statement on the Oak Island Beach Villas and consolidation issues. "It is vital that we let the public-debate process take its normal course."

O'Brien, who will not seek reelection this year, says he opposes the "deannexation" of OIBV, but is willing to hear debate of consolidating Caswell Beach and Oak Island as one municipality.

But Arboretum resident Frank Bausch, the only declared mayoral candidate in Caswell Beach, says he flatly
See Caswell, page 3

BRUNSWICK SCHOOLS

Year-end scores mixed

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

There are ups and downs — that we know.

We know that more students in Brunswick County are excelling in subjects like chemistry, physics and civics, but fewer are passing state tests in biology and freshman English.

We know that despite major decreases at South Brunswick High this year and major increases at North Brunswick High, South still exceeds North in the number of students passing overall.

But what does that mean? That we don't know — at least not yet.

Preliminary test results released from Brunswick County schools this week show no pattern of ups or downs at county high schools on state end-of-course tests, though as a whole the county saw growth on eight of ten tests.

"We're seeing positive growth in the majority of our subjects, but we still have
See Scores, page 6

'You will have spikes and fluctuations in the high schools because you are not dealing with the same group of kids every year.'

Supt. Marion Wise

How safe are schools?

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Teachers know what steps to take if a tornado warning goes off in school. They know how to shuffle their kids out of the classroom when the fire alarm rings. But there's no step-by-step practiced plan in place if gunfire should erupt in a Brunswick County school.

And that's what teachers and parents want, according to the prevailing opinion at a Safe Schools Workshop for school officials and community members last Wednesday.

"I know what to do with my kids if there is a tornado or a fire, but what do I do if a situation like in Columbine occurs — I want step one, step two, step three," said LaVerne Hargrove, a teacher at South Brunswick Middle School.

The workshop was a chance for folks — teachers, princi-

pals, city officials, sheriff's deputies, parents and high school students — to brainstorm ways to make schools safer.

"Our primary focus is on academics," said Marion Wise, superintendent of Brunswick County schools. "They came to school to learn, and they have a right to learn, but we can't teach them until they feel good about where they are."

"If students feel good about their school, good things will happen. If they don't feel good about it, bad things will happen."

Elaine Wright, a teacher at Shallotte Middle School, told the group about her recent trip to Colorado, where she visited Columbine High School where two students opened fire on their classmates, killing many before taking their own lives.

"It was so quiet and so sobering to look at it and say, 'There it is,'" Wright said. "To see it on the news, it looked so far
See Safe schools, page 7



HARGROVE

Hargrove new Union principal

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

There will be no familiar faces in the principal's office at South Brunswick High School this year. The last of its time-honored administrators, assistant principal William Hargrove, has taken a job in the other end of the county.

Hargrove will lead Union Elementary School as its principal this year, taking over for Zephia Grissett, who left to take a job in the central office as human resources supervisor.

He follows the exits of principal Sue Sellers, who was trans-
See Principal, page 7

County thoroughfares Billboards sign of things to come

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

Mary Hawes owns 600 feet of road frontage along busy U. S. 17 three miles north of Bolivia.

Her son owns an outdoor billboard business, Hanover Sign Co., but zoning regulations won't allow him to place a sign on his mother's property.

Another company rushed to obtain sign permits for adjacent land after the county's moratorium on billboards was lifted. The Brunswick County zoning ordinance regulates the placement of billboards and won't allow them within certain distances of one another on major thoroughfares such as the four-lane Highway 17.

"We feel that it was unfair that we were skipped over, and now they have a monopoly," said Ms. Hawes.

The competitor's billboards can be erected on each side of Ms. Hawes' 600 feet of property, but her son can't place one on the family parcel. She told the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners last week that she carefully kept up with action regarding the county's billboard ordinance but wasn't informed when county officials decided to start issuing permits again.

"We were assured there would be no binding decisions," said Ms. Hawes.

Commissioners asked county attorney Huey Marshall to investigate how the billboard battle

ensued and to report back on the complaint filed by the Hawes family.

It is just one example of what county planners and commissioners expect to face in the growing battle over billboards, especially along U. S. 17 and N. C. 211 from Supply to Southport. Officials are bracing for a wave of new permit applications.

County planning director Leslie Bell has recommended the county's sign ordinance be restudied as more land between Supply and Southport becomes rezoned from rural or residential to commercial low-density, which opens the door for more requests for billboards. Those requests for C-LD zones have included acreage near the entrance to St. James
See Billboards, page 9



Photo by Jim Harper

Summertime

Creatures great and small — from bypassers to honeybees — appreciate the Brown farm sunflower patch on Highway 211 these days.