

THE STATE PORT PILOT



Finally South

A trick play, a last-second field goal, and the season looks brighter for the Cougars; homecoming next - 1C

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SURVEYING THE LOSS



Photo by Jim Harper

Mayor Joan Altman briefed Congressman Mike McIntyre and government relief officials on hurricane damage Monday amid toppled homes along the Oak Island beachfront. McIntyre was on a tour of beach communities and the flooded rural area in the western part of the county.

Oak Island

Soon, could say to get back to normal

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Raising concerns about everything from post-hurricane beach access and debris removal to water quality and sewer needs, residents of Oak Island had one overriding question on their minds Tuesday night:

When will their town get over Floyd and return to normal?

Soon, soon, they were reassured.

But it will take a lot of effort from outside forces like the federal government, which is now considering a \$2.2-billion request from Gov. Jim Hunt to aid towns like Oak Island who need a boost in one way or another.

The package request — half of which is for agricultural needs — includes

money for beach nourishment and sewer system repairs, which could be a major benefit to the town, co-mayor Joan Altman said at Tuesday's town council meeting.

Of the emergency appropriations requested, \$50 million would go to repair water and sewer systems. Locally, that could mean money for wastewater collection and treatment for the oceanfront area and low-lying flood areas that can no longer support a septic system.

And \$76.7 million would fund beach renourishment projects in places like Oak Island that don't already have a federal nourishment project in place.

The U. S. Congress will consider the

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EMERGENCY SESSION, Page 3

BRUNSWICK Fire fee sought by two

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

Two more fire departments are rushing to establish fee districts, where property owners will pay annual assessments to better fund volunteer units.

Boards of directors at the Winnabow and Tri-Beach volunteer departments gained approval from the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners last week to set up fire fee districts in their communities as allowed under special legislation adopted in July by the N. C. General Assembly.

Tri-Beach, which serves the Lockwood Folly and Holden Beach communities, was one of the first to support the fee district plan and actually voted among its members in March to participate if legislation were approved. Board president William C. Todd notified county commissioners by letter September 20 of the department's plan to help county officials establish a fire district.

Winnabow volunteers also gained approval from commissioners last week to map a district for their service area at Winnabow and Town Creek.

Petitions from the two departments have been forwarded to county tax supervisor Boyd Williamson so his office can start mapping district boundaries.

The two departments join two others that already have been approved for fee districts — Boiling Spring Lakes and Sunset Harbor-Zion Hill. Public hearings must be held for each proposed district so residents can have a say in which fire tax district they prefer to be placed. It is expected that each of the volunteer departments will petition the county for fee districts because that is how county commissioners plan to start funding them in the 2000-2001 fiscal year budget.

In some areas of the county fire service districts actually overlap, so county commissioners must draw specific boundaries with the help of county See Districts, page 10

County schools 'Contract' plans are accountable

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Parents should be held accountable for their child's success or failure in the classroom just as teachers and principals are, Brunswick County school officials suggested Monday.

Under a proposed revised policy on student accountability, parents, students and teachers would have to sign a contract for each academic class that states they all are committed to promoting the child's achievement in the classroom.

The policy was presented at Monday's school board meeting and was approved on first reading.

"This holds all stakeholders accountable," said Katie McGee, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. "It holds the student accountable and sends the message that, 'You're here not because the state makes you be here but because you are ultimately accountable for your success.'"

"It also gives guidelines for teachers to talk to parents. They can tell the parent, 'This is what I'm accountable for, what your child is accountable for and

See 'Contract,' page 12

Head Give underway

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Wearing large "YES" pins on their suits, Cynthia Tart and Rex Gore are making the rounds through Brunswick County, giving presentations and making speeches, all in the name of conjuring up positive votes for the \$83.5-million school bond referendum.

Tart and Gore, who co-chair the school bond steering committee, have filled their calendars with presentations to city councils, church groups and schools through the November 2 election.

"Where two or more have gathered, we are presenting information about the bond referendum," Tart told the Brunswick County Board of See Bond issue, page 13

Worst-case scenario

Skeeter spraying help, but no cure

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

An aerial assault on a thriving infestation of mosquitoes ended Sunday, but planes that sprayed overhead apparently had little impact on the local pest population.

They are still around — all 34 varieties of the species said to be thriving in Brunswick County in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd.

"We're all praying for a frost up here," said Brunswick County Mosquito Control supervisor Rick Hickman, who has been closely watching long-range weather forecasts. "It looks like we might get it."

Planes began spraying last Tuesday to try to subdue the infestation, and by Sunday evening approximately 300,000 acres had been treated in the county. State officials sent two old C-47 planes loaded with pesticide into the air to treat densely populated areas from the coast to the See Mosquitoes, page 10

'We've done everything as close to right as we could have. The main thing is this population is just so huge.'

Rick Hickman
Mosquito Control

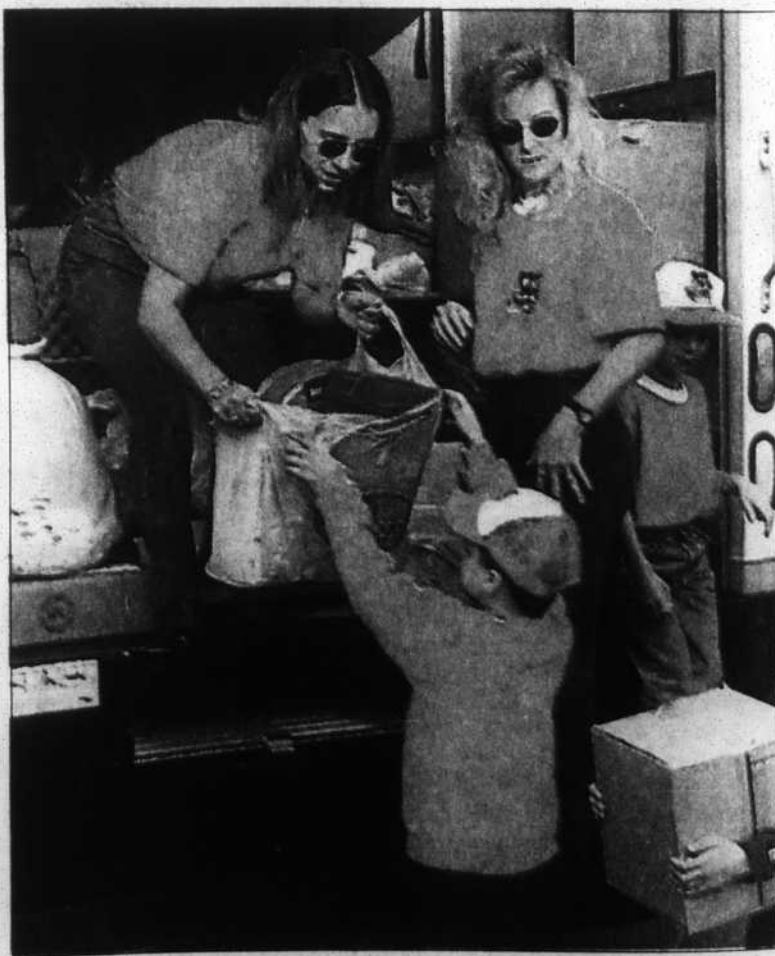


Photo by Diana D'Abruzzo

Dressed in their orange tiger paw shirts, Tiger Cubs from Pack 238 in Southport load a moving van with bags of clothing and toys and furniture Friday at Southport Elementary School.

Hurricane Floyd relief

'Mom, let's give them this'

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Justin Smart was supposed to be asleep. But when mom peeked into his room to check on him, the first-grader wasn't in his bed — he was digging through his closet pulling out toys and clothes to give to a family who lost everything in the flood.

He packed up puzzles and games and other knick-knacks.

"Mom, let's give them this," he told Mandy Smart as she watched her son pull toy after toy out of the closet.

Justin and nine other Tiger Cubs in the Southport area got some first-hand experience in giving last week as they worked to gather donations from businesses and more — left Southport Elementary School headed north.

On Friday, a moving truck filled with goodies acquired by the Cubs — bed frames, mattresses, sofas, clothing, end tables, toys, wall hangings, appliances and more — left Southport Elementary School headed north.

By afternoon, the truck carrying all

'They understood. I think it's something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.'

Rhonda Minor
Assistant den leader

the comforts of home greeted the Brock family — mom, dad and three kids — which was overwhelmed by the generosity of strangers, and little strangers at that.

"They were flooded," said Rhonda Minor, assistant den leader, who made the trip with another den mom and three Cubs. "They had no idea what we were bringing. When they saw it all, it was

just amazing. I don't know who was crying harder, us or them."

The Tiger Cubs — and their respective moms — had planned to send Christmas presents overseas for their winter project. But when the group met a few weeks ago to discuss details, they realized that folks closer to home needed their help even more.

"A family across the street from my parents in Kinston was completely flooded out," Minor said of Ben and Leanta Brock and their children James, Brianna and Simeon. "They only had one hour to get out of their home, and basically they lost everything."

"Even the things they had put on top shelves, up high in cabinets and on top of bunk beds were all gone."

So the project began. The Cubs and their moms asked businesses and local families to donate what they could. The result? A moving truck full of everything needed to begin again.

Minor said she was overwhelmed by the generosity.

"My son wanted to know if he could take his birthday money and buy toys See Hurricane, page 6