

THE STATE PORT PILOT

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Homecoming

After a series of near misses and a close win, South blows by East Columbus 40-14 on Friday - 1C

October 20, 1999/ 50 cents

IN YOUR FACE



South Brunswick lineman D. Force put forth extra effort to gain the right to pie football coach Bob Sapp at the Homecoming Day pep rally last Friday. His diligence paid off, the pep rally worked, and the Cougars

defeated East Columbus 40-14. More on the game in Sports; more on the Homecoming in Neighbors.

Photo by Jim Harper

Referendum Nov. 2

County voters asked to meet obvious needs

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Students built molecules — at times chasing beads that rolled off their slanted classroom desks — as their chemistry teacher squeezed through the crowded room to check their work.

It's not the ideal way to run a science lab, said Gary Cavender, chairman of the science department at South Brunswick High School.

But it's all they've got at South, where most of the classrooms haven't changed a smidgen — with the exception of a coat of paint every now and then — since the school was built in 1972.

Science labs are outdated — there are no gas lines into the rooms for experiments, the six lab stations don't offer enough space for the 25-plus students in each class, and

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Oak Island mainland site Donation brings 'Y' to us

By Laura Kimball
Staff Writer

With donation of ten acres of land by the Town of Oak Island, Brunswick County is closer to having its first YMCA.

The land, located on the mainland side of the Intracoastal Waterway, will accommodate a 45,000-square-foot facility complete with lap pool, therapeutic pool, gym, free weight room, cardiovascular area, treadmills, aerobics room and other meeting rooms.

Expected cost for the facility is approximately \$4 million.

The momentum for building a Brunswick County YMCA came from Jim and Connie Enyart, St. James residents who drive to the Wilmington YMCA three or four times a week to swim. By chance, Jim met Bob Caldwell, chief executive officer of YMCA, page 19

"This is not a standard 'Y.' There will be more focus on the senior population."

Kate Pysher
County coordinator

Contraceptives, commandments board concerns

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

Thou shalt not distribute contraceptives to minors.

That's what Brunswick County commissioners want to see established as law for the state's public health departments.

The board of commissioners also adopted a resolution Monday which asks for legislation that would allow

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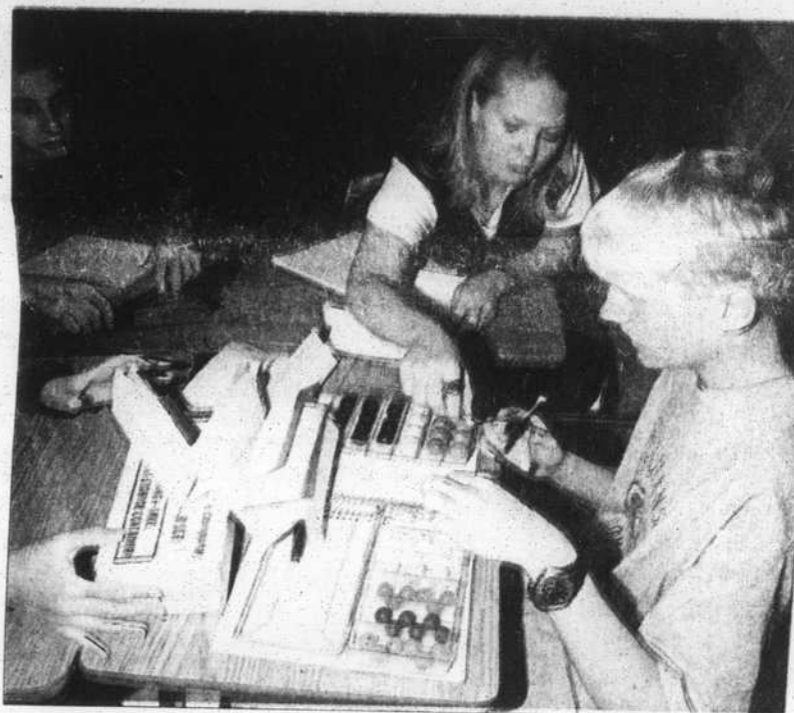


Photo by Jim Harper

Students in Gary Cavender's chemistry class at South Brunswick High School practice making molecules using beads. Because of limited space at science lab stations, the students use their desks for many experiments. Under the bond referendum, money is budgeted to build labs at all high schools.

Strand accesses in limbo

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

A program of beach access — public and private — is a work in progress in Oak Island.

When Hurricane Floyd took away the town's frontal dune system, it also took with it the street-end public access crosswalks taxpayers had built and the numerous private dune crosswalks and staircases oceanfront property owners had built to their homes.

With the dunes gone, the town now finds itself in need not only of the protection dunes afforded, but also the legal points of reference dunes provided. In the next days and weeks the N. C. Division of Coastal Management (DCM) will set a line from which building setbacks will be measured. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials will set a line at which agency will develop a new protective berm. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will set a line at which it will begin its Sea Turtle Habitat Restoration Project and its delivery of beach-nourishing sand from the Wilmington Harbor

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Hurricane Irene Oak Island, county report little damage

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

She was a lightweight threat to begin with and dealt only a feather's blow to the storm-weary Southport-Oak Island area.

Hurricane Irene ambled her way up the East Coast from Florida Sunday afternoon with winds reaching 80 miles per hour at times, but took a merciful jog to the northeast in the late afternoon, just brushing by Cape Fear.

Irene was the third hurricane of the 1999 season to challenge Southport-Oak Island and Brunswick County. While she dumped an estimated six inches of new rain on already saturated Brunswick County, winds were light and storm surge was no more than a couple feet.

Though Irene proved unworthy of all the attention, cautious Brunswick County officials ordered a mandatory evacuation of all beach towns, including Oak Island and Caswell Beach, at 6 p.m. Saturday, but far fewer fled the weak Category 1 storm than did when powerful Hurricane Floyd approached for its September 15-16 appearance here.

About 100 persons sought shelter at South Brunswick High School in Boiling Spring Lakes and at North Brunswick High School in Leland. Only four sheltered themselves at West Brunswick High School in Shallotte.

Still suffering the effects of a roof See Irene, page 5



Photo by Jim Harper

This was Oak Island on Monday morning after Hurricane Irene passed — Yaupon Pier intact, houses exposed by Hurricane Floyd still standing, town and contract workers out on East Beach Drive moving new sand pushed well inland by Sunday's surging waves. More photos on page 3.