

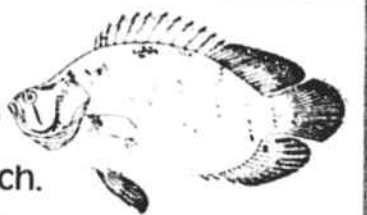
Class Of '88 To Graduate

Photographs of county high school graduates and information on commencement exercises and awards programs are included in a special tabloid Section C this week. You'll meet six graduates — two each from North, South and West Brunswick high schools.



Mystery Fish?

It could be a tripletail, or at least that's what several Beacon readers say after learning of R. H. Maultsby's unusual catch. The story's on Page 15-D.



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SUN WORSHIPERS packed the strand near Holden Beach Fishing Pier Sunday afternoon as the temperature climbed into the 80s under bright skies.

Despite the rainy weather that started the weekend, many local businessmen said the Memorial Day holiday was one of the best in recent years.

DESPITE EARLY RAIN

Local Businesses Enjoy Weekend

BY DOUG RUTTER

Tourists came in the rain and held their ground for half the weekend before the sun started to peek out from behind the clouds. But when it finally did break through, it shone on local businessmen as well as beachgoers.

Despite the rain which fell Friday and Saturday morning, many local businessmen still said the Memorial Day weekend was just as profitable or better than any before.

Several contacted Tuesday afternoon said the rain had little or no effect on business because weather forecasters had called for a sunny and warm weekend right until the last minute. And throughout the period of rain, meteorologists continued to predict clearing skies.

"Everybody showed up and we were jam packed for three straight

days," said Gil Bass, manager of Holden Beach Family Campground and Holden Beach Fishing Pier. "In spite of the weather, it was an excellent weekend."

He added, however, that it could have been better, if cloudy skies and rain hadn't ushered in the first big holiday weekend of tourist season.

"It was good that everybody stayed and weathered it out," continued Bass. "It ended up being a real nice couple of days."

Several realtors also said the holiday weekend was a very good one in terms of business.

Alan Holden, owner of Alan Holden Realty at Holden Beach, said the rain caused a few people to change plans but added, "I don't really think it ended up hurting that much. When the sun did come out, I think everybody was in such a good mood

that they forgot about it a few hours."

He said sales and rentals did equally well, adding, "There wasn't any one thing particularly outstanding about the weekend. I was just very pleased overall."

Chauncey Cooke was also very pleased. He said every unit rented through Cooke Realty at Ocean Isle Beach was occupied over the weekend.

And despite a few cancellations, he said walk-ins took care of whatever wasn't booked ahead of time.

"We were filled up as good as we can ever remember," he added. "It was a great success, this weekend." Cooke added that he's already looking forward to the Fourth of July weekend business.

While most visitors stayed for the (See BUSINESSES, Page 2-A)

Hankins Wins Spot On Ballot For District 3 School Board

BY SUSAN USHER

Voters Tuesday assured retired high school principal Jonathan Hankins of Southport a spot on the November Democratic ballot for the District 3 Brunswick County Board of Education seat.

In the second primary the 61-year-old Hankins led incumbent James Forstner, chairman of the school board, almost two to one. He claimed an 835-vote margin.

In November Hankins will face Republican Robert Slockett of Yaupon Beach.

Approximately 62 percent of those voting cast ballots for longtime educator Hankins, compared with about 32 percent for Forstner, who had called for the run-off on May 3 after losing to Hankins by 251 votes in a three-way race.

Tuesday, with only the one local and one state race on the ballot, a very light turnout had been predicted. When the polls closed at

7:30 p.m., 19 percent, or 3,278 of Brunswick County's 17,182 Democratic voters had cast ballots.

That was better than expected and better than the average turnout statewide, according to Board of Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt. "I had said I would be tickled pink if we voted 10 percent," she added.

Hankins' nomination means that at least two of the school board's current five members—Forstner and District 4 member Marvin McKeithan—will be replaced when their terms end on the first Monday in December.

McKeithan was defeated in the May primary by Donna M. Baxter of Boiling Spring Lakes. Baxter will face Republican John Walkins of the Town Creek community in the general election.

A third member, Doug Baxley of Shallotte, will be seeking a reelection in November, when he will be challenged by Republican Diane

Grissett of Grissettown.

Serving his first term, Forstner, a family physician, has been chairman of the county board of education since taking office in December 1984.

Tuesday, he and fellow school board member Baxley were among the 15 voters who turned at the county complex in Bolivia to watch the returns come in. As he tallied the votes by hand, he described the outlook for his campaign as "dismal, almost two to one."

Hankins arrived with friends shortly before the last results, from Fry-Pan Precinct, were posted. He attributed his success to hard work by family members and supporters, adding, "We're going to get in there and work even harder for November."

His wife, Irene, said that she and other workers called and hauled voters in their all-out effort to get out the vote Tuesday. "My phone was smoking," she said.

(See HANKINS, Page 2-A)

County Gets Set To Test Readiness With Arrival Of Hurricane Season

BY RAHN ADAMS

In two weeks a "hurricane" will hit the North Carolina coast—a simulated storm, that is, dreamed up by local, state and federal agencies to test revised hurricane plans in the state's 18 coastal counties, including Brunswick.

A statewide hurricane drill will be held Wednesday, June 15, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., as part of the state's annual Hurricane Preparedness Week, June 13 through 17, according

to Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan.

If long-range weather forecasts hold true, the drill will offer a taste of things to come during the current hurricane season, which began Wednesday (June 1) and runs until the end of October.

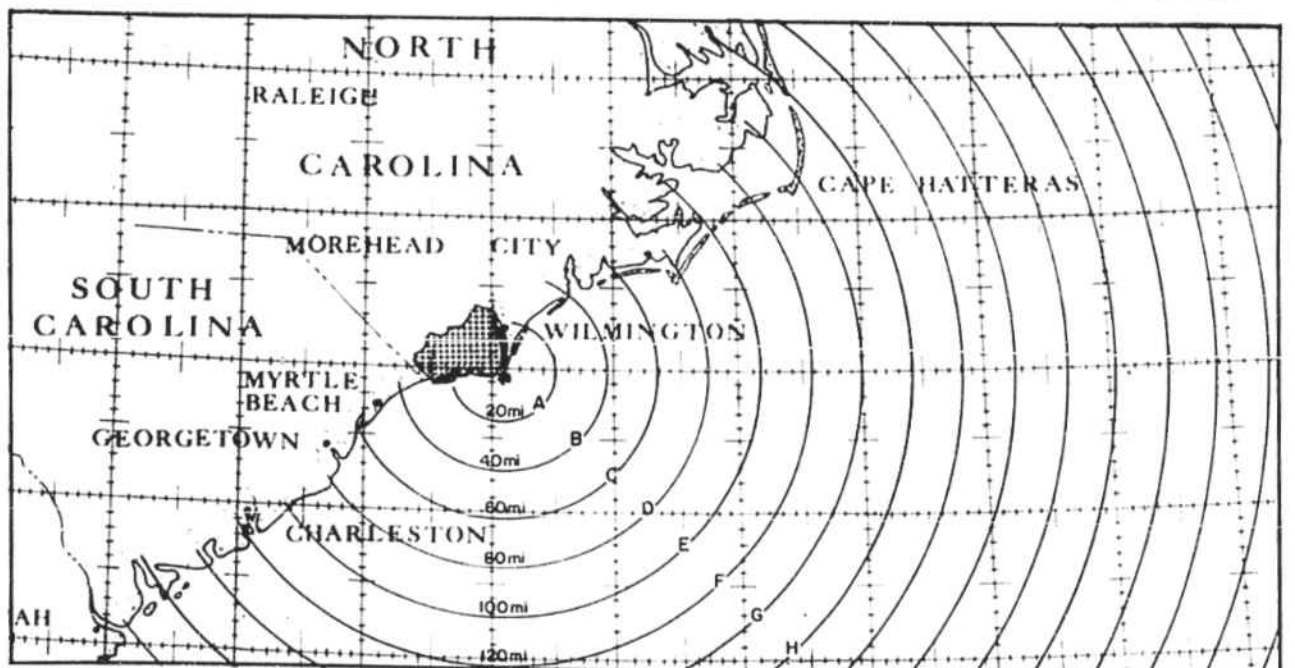
Logan, who recently attended the National Hurricane Conference in Atlanta, Ga., said Tuesday that officials are predicting an "active"

hurricane season this year.

"According to a professor from Colorado who studies hurricanes, we should have an active year," Logan said. "This should be the most active year for hurricanes during the 1980s."

Logan noted that weather conditions this summer and fall are expected to be warmer and more unstable than usual, increasing the potential for hurricanes.

(See READINESS, Page 2-A)



LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES devised this "decision arc" map to help emergency management officials in coastal counties determine when to begin hurricane evacuation procedures. By using a

transparent overlay representing the hurricane with the map, officials can closely calculate the length of time until the onset of sustained gale-force winds—the point when evacuation should be completed.

Officials Say Land Transfer Tax Is Viable Way To Lessen Growing Pains

BY RAHN ADAMS

Three years ago when Dare County—the state's fastest-growing county—was faced with having to raise property taxes, county commissioners there opted to take a different route to offset the expense of serving its expanding population.

"We have growth problems just like Brunswick," Dare County Assistant Manager Terry Wheeler said in a telephone interview Friday. "We had gotten to the point where commissioners could no longer increase property taxes."

One measure Dare County chose to take, he explained, was to implement a one-percent real estate transfer fee, which generates about \$3 million a year from the sale of property.

"I don't know what we'd have done without it," Wheeler said.

Brunswick County, which is second to Dare in development, now faces much the same situation. With about a month to make up their minds, commissioners

here must choose between cutting their proposed budget, raising property taxes or finding some other means to increase revenue.

Commissioners were scheduled to begin budget work sessions Wednesday (June 1). A public hearing on the proposed budget is set for June 7 at 7 p.m. in Bolivia.

Brunswick's Situation

Last week, Brunswick County Manager John T. Smith presented commissioners with a proposed \$31.8 million budget, which included a whopping 16½-cent increase on the county's current 50½-cent (per \$100 of valuation) property tax rate.

Even though expenditures in the proposed budget rose by only five percent, Smith said the nearly 33-percent rate hike was needed mainly because of insufficient revenue.

In the 1987-88 amended budget, commissioners allocated \$4.6 million for on-going expenditures from the county's fund balance—monies that were carried over from the previous year. The coming year's proper-

ty taxes would have to generate \$24.5 million at a 95.2 percent collection rate to cover those allocations and the additional \$1.5 million increase in proposed expenditures.

The county manager last week suggested that commissioners "explore" other means of producing additional revenue, such as increasing user fees where service is provided on request; implementing new user fees for specific services being provided; and implementing a real estate transfer fee with revenues to be shared with towns where the transfer takes place.

Current User Fees

According to Smith, the only user fees currently charged by the county include a \$20 fee for health department site evaluations, which is refundable if the piece of land is determined to be unsuitable for a septic tank; building and electrical inspection fees; and charges by the parks and recreation department for certain activities.

In an interview Friday, Smith said his recommen-

dation to commissioners concerning user fees was based on a 1985 study in Brunswick County by David M. Griffith and Associates, a Raleigh consulting firm.

The study pointed out that the county could increase revenue by \$639,200 if current fees were raised and new user fees were implemented in areas including public inspections, planning, parks and recreation, landfill, environmental health, animal control, public health and mosquito control.

At the time of the study, no revenue was being generated in the areas of planning, landfill, environmental health and animal control.

Dare's Transfer Fee

In 1985, county officials in Dare County not only increased user fees, they also requested a three-percent real estate transfer fee, Wheeler said. The idea came from Pennsylvania, where transfer fees had been used since the 1950s.

The proposal initially was opposed by the local (See LAND TRANSFER, Page 2-A)