

### Class Of '90!

Meet the Class of 1990, nearly 600 strong. A special D Section inside features senior pictures from all three Brunswick County high schools, as well as related stories. Commencement exercises are this week.



### Students Recognized

Brunswick County students have earned accolades for their efforts in areas from perfect attendance to physics at awards day programs held by the three county high schools. The stories are on Page 8-B and 9-B.



### Design A Flag

The Town of Holden Beach could help bring a local artist fame, if not fortune. Leaders are soliciting ideas for their latest project, a town flag. Details on this and other Holden Beach news is on Page 9-A.

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THE HOLDEN BEACH STRAND was sprinkled with sunbathers, swimmers, walkers, shellers and bikini watchers Saturday afternoon.

## Area Merchants Enjoy 'Dynamite' Weekend, Look Forward To Profitable Summer Season

**BY DOUG RUTTER**  
South Brunswick Islands merchants were smiling Tuesday—reflecting on a long Memorial Day weekend that everyone agreed was better than last year and looking forward to a profitable summer tourist season.

"I think it was a dynamite weekend," said Susanne Sartelle, executive vice president of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce. "It's definitely kicked off the summer."

Area real estate agents and others in the business community had nothing but positive comments about the Memorial Day weekend, which traditionally kicks off the summer season.

"We did extra good," said Jeff Conaway, owner of Jeff's Grocery at Holden Beach. "It was the best Memorial Day we've had in three or four years."

Business over the weekend was twice as good as it was last Memorial Day weekend, he said Tuesday. "If this continues on through the summer, I'll be all right."

Terry Barbee of Island Realty at Ocean Isle Beach said the outlook for the summer is promising following a "very good" Memorial Day weekend with "very few" unoccupied rental units. "We turned away a lot of people who wanted to stay this weekend," he said Tuesday.

Bonnie Cox of Brunswickland Realty at Holden Beach added that, instead of leaving after the long weekend, more people rented cottages for the full week after Memorial Day this year than ever before.

"More and more people are booking weeks rather than weekends," she said. "This is something new, and it's kind of surprising."

Ms. Sartelle said the high number of people renting beach houses for full weeks has been a "pleasant surprise," because schools are still in session across the state.

But she added that the high occupancy in rental units this week didn't come as a complete surprise.

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—Susanne Sartelle,  
Executive Vice President  
South Brunswick Islands  
Chamber of Commerce

There were 7,500 inquiries last month through the Brunswick County Travel Package, which is 900 more inquiries than last April and nearly 5,000 more than April 1988, she said.

Local real estate agents weren't the only businesspeople who enjoyed an increase in activity over the weekend. Employees at area restaurants were busy feeding the tourists.

Lisa Abshire of Dos Amigos at Ocean Isle Beach said she noticed more families and children this year than in 1989.

"Business was definitely up from last year," she said. "It was a great weekend, and we're looking forward to a great summer."

John Frink, owner of Capt. John's Seafood House at Calabash, said the restaurant traffic over the weekend was "standard" for Memorial Day. "Saturday and Sunday were the big days," he said.

There should be even more big days ahead this summer, based on rental reservations at the local beaches. Real estate agents said this week that homes are booked pretty solid through late August and that there are more reservations for early June than in the past.

"It looks like a stronger June than in past years," Ms. Cox said. "Early June is usually slow until schools let out, but this year it's better."



TRACY STOWE of Charlotte and her 9-month-old daughter, Casey, cool off in the Atlantic Ocean Saturday at Holden Beach.

Ms. Sartelle said early reports from real estate agencies and the high number of inquiries from out-of-towners indicate the summer season will be a good one for the Brunswick County economy.

Some rental agencies are booked solid for a couple weeks in a row this summer. But Ms. Sartelle said there are still plenty of openings and there should be room for people who decide to visit at the last minute.

Through the middle of May, the Chamber of Commerce had handled

19,000 inquiries, Ms. Sartelle said. There were 23,000 inquiries through all of last year and 16,000 in 1988.

"People are finding out about the South Brunswick Islands, and it's all because of the promotions and advertising we do," Ms. Sartelle said.

Since the local economy already receives such a boost from tourism in the summer, promotions in the future should focus more on attracting visitors during the spring and fall seasons, she said.

## Statement Stirs Dissent Among GOP

**BY BOB HORNE**

Malcolm Grissett, chairman of the Brunswick County Republican Party, and Warren "Bud" Knapp Tuesday gave conflicting explanations about a statement they and Tom Pope took to *The Beacon* Monday and which Grissett attempted to withdraw Tuesday.

The statement, in the name of Grissett, called for a moratorium on finalization of the 1990-91 county budget, "pending a re-evaluation of the priorities of projects and county services, as proposed by county officials."

Grissett also called on "all voters of Brunswick County regardless of party affiliation to turn out (at a public hearing on the budget) Thursday, June 7, 1990 at 7 p.m. at Bolivia County complex to support our position of a moratorium on the proposed county tax increase."

The statement said that property owners' taxes "cannot continue to be viewed as a bottomless pit. We as responsible members of our community must start to learn to live within our means."

It stated that if the recommended tax-rate increase is approved, taxes would have increased 30 percent in two years and that such an increase



GRISSETT KNAPP

would have a substantial negative effect on the elderly, others on fixed incomes and low-income families trying to buy their first home.

The three men came to *The Brunswick Beacon* Monday afternoon and discussed the statement. Grissett stayed only a few minutes and left, with Knapp and Pope staying.

Then Tuesday morning, Grissett called and attempted to withdraw the statement from publication.

Grissett said he had not given his consent for the statement to be distributed to other newspapers and that an editor from another newspaper called him Monday night.

He said that he knew his name was on the statement, which was written by Knapp, but that he (See STATEMENT, Page 2-A)

## Easley Is Hoping For High Voter Turnout In Eastern N.C.

**BY SUSAN USHER**

Michael Easley says voter turnout in eastern counties like his home base of Brunswick will be "crucial" if the 13th District attorney is to win the U.S. Senate runoff next Tuesday.

Brunswick County's 22 polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, with one ballot, according to the Brunswick County Board of Elections. More than 16,000 Democrats are eligible to vote.

"If I can get 4,000 to 5,000 votes from Brunswick County, it's possible we could have a senator from the coast," Easley said in a telephone interview with *The Brunswick Beacon* this week. Fresh from a Saturday debate with Gantt, he was preparing for another debate scheduled for Wednesday.

Easley called for the runoff after placing second in the May 8 primary. He received 30.2 percent of the vote while leader Harvey Gantt finished with 37.5 percent, just short of the 40 percent needed to avoid a second primary.

Easley is a Southport resident and two-term district attorney for the 13th District; Gantt, a former mayor of Charlotte and an architect.

"We expected to finish second in



EASLEY GANTT

a six-man race," said Easley, "I did better the first time out than I had thought I would, 6.4 points down instead of 10."

It's a record he intends to improve upon. But Easley said he's not certain what the turnout will be here, given that there are no local races on the ballot to draw a strong percentage of Brunswick County's 16,272 voters to the polls.

"If we take the west and east and can hold our own in the Piedmont, we'll win," he predicted.

The candidate showed well in his eastern home base during the May 8 primary and finished second in the mountains behind westerner "Bo" Thomas and in the Piedmont.

"I feel good about it," he continued. "This 30-day period has given (See EASLEY, Page 2-A)

## Enforcement Joint Effort Nets Charges

A cooperative drug and speeding enforcement program last week in Brunswick County resulted in the filing of 120 charges and the discovery of four packages of drugs on board a Greyhound bus passing through Shallotte.

The joint effort of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and N.C. Highway Patrol ran for four days last week and may be used in the future, said Sgt. John Brooks of the state Highway Patrol.

Charges filed included speeding. (See JOINT, Page 2-A)



STATE AND COUNTY LAWYEN, with the help of two drug-sniffing dogs, found four packages of drugs on a Greyhound bus in Shallotte last Wednesday.

## State Seeks Input On River Marina Proposal

**BY DOUG RUTTER**

The permit application and latest plans for a controversial marina in Lockwood Folly River arrived in Raleigh last week, and people interested in the project have until June 20 to send written comments to the state.

Developers of the Lockwood Folly golf course community near Holden Beach recently applied for a state permit that would allow for construction of an upland basin marina in the lower Lockwood Folly River.

The developers are seeking per-

mission to build 26 boat slips and one boat ramp, which is a scaled-down version of their original plans submitted to the state more than two years ago.

Channel Side Corp., which is developing Lockwood Folly, turned in its original CMAA permit application in April 1988 with plans to build a private 50-slip marina and dry storage area.

Local fishermen, however, objected to the proposal, because plans called for the marina to be built in a section of the lower (See STATE, Page 2-A)