

**BUDGET DOESN'T COVER IT**

# Teachers' Checks Won't Show Higher Supplement Next Month

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County teachers will receive the same supplement this year as last, rather than the extra \$179 in local funds they were expecting.

Citing budget shortfalls and a lack of documentation that the increase was ever approved, Brunswick County Board of Education members froze the supplements Monday night and took steps to clarify its action relating to the previous year.

In making the motion, member Doug Baxley said, "The money is apparently not there." His motion ratified—after the fact—the board's payment of the supplement increase last year.

The actions came as part of an extended special meeting held at Southport Elementary School. The session, which was preceded by a fried chicken dinner served by the cafeteria staff, was called to deal with finance, construction, travel and attorney-client matters that needed to be addressed before the board's next meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 13. That post-election meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Union Primary School in Shallotte.

The board's decision froze supplements at \$1,074 for teachers with an "A" certificate and at \$1,250 for those with a "G" certificate and at least six years of experience.

The decision freeze was not received well by a representative of the local unit of the North Carolina Association of Educators, to which many local teachers belong. "All we can do is lobby the board next spring and try to get it unfrozen," said Tom Simmons, president, who said he understood the problem with the shortfall but didn't appreciate notification one month before the first installment of the supplement increas-

was to have been paid.

The board's action isn't likely to break teachers' morale or result in them "teaching any less," he said, though it could be seen "as another slap in the face to teachers" who he said are "just beginning to feel good" about working for the Brunswick County Schools.

Simmons' wife, Janis, a teacher at Union Primary School, was NCAE unit president at the time the school board adopted the supplement schedule in March 1988 following an intensive letter-writing campaign by teachers. As adopted, it called for annual increments of \$179 per year for four years, to be paid in two installments in November and May.

Rudi Fallon, the system's new finance officer, said formal board action is needed each year for the plan to be carried out. However, minutes of the board did not reflect a vote to carry out the next step of the plan in 1989-90 or in 1990-91, she said.

Ms. Fallon told the board that the system overspent on instructional supplements last year. She said \$4,500 was needed to finish compensating for that shortfall. Also, she said, another \$108,000 is needed in addition to the \$620,981 in the current budget just to maintain the supplements at the same level and to pay related benefits.

The school system has been operating on an interim budget, awaiting reconciliation of its state fund and local fund balances. Ms. Fallon said Monday she is beginning work on a revised budget and needed the board's direction. If the school board decided to pay the higher supplement, she said, it would have to come from the schools' reserve account and would have to be approved by county commissioners. The budget has already been trimmed to reflect \$300,000 in the proposed budget that the county did not approve.

Supplements for instructional staff alone cost the school system \$587,359.65 last year, \$80,000 over budget. Of that, all but \$4,500 was made up from related line items.

Ms. Fallon said that minutes also did not reflect the board's intent to pay teacher assistants a supplement equal to 1 percent of their pay this year or last.

**Who Goes To Atlanta?**

With tight money on their minds, board members wavered Monday between recognizing staff for their work on an accreditation self-study and holding a tight line on funds. In the end, they compromised, sending five people instead of 13.

The interim budget included funds to send the superintendent, assistant superintendent, three central office staff member and principals of the county's eight primary and elementary schools to Atlanta, Ga., for the Dec. 9-12 annual convention of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), at an estimated cost of \$6,580. Attendees would participate in workshops and programs and the principals would receive accreditation certificates for their schools.

Instead, after debating a series of motions, the board voted for Baxley's compromise proposal to send Assistant Superintendent William Harrison, who oversaw the self-study, Teacher of the Year Victoria "Torie" Williamson and one representative from each of the three school districts, to be chosen by the superintendent.

"Why not let three people accept the awards and use the rest of the money for the teachers, to do something in the schools," said member Donna Baxter, who started the debate.

Various suggestions from members James Clem-

mons, Robert Slockett and Chairman Dorothy Worth would have had a teacher from each school, or each district, attend in addition to the 13 people on the original list, or in place of several who did not plan to attend.

**More Travel Planned**

However, the board quickly approved sending Robert A. Rhyne, principal of South Brunswick Middle School, to the National Middle School Association Annual Conference, Long Beach, Calif., Nov. 13-17, at an estimated cost of \$1,234. He will be representing the N.C. League of Middle Schools.

In other travel-related action, the board approved Charlie Speight, a state Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) officer from North Brunswick High School, traveling to Orlando, Fla., to help conduct an effective communications workshop at DECA's Southern Region Conference.

The board also approved three state DECA officers from Brunswick County attending a training session in Raleigh, Nov. 1 and 2. Two of the students are from North Brunswick High School and one is from South Brunswick High School.

**Other Business**

In other business the board:

- Met behind closed doors for two hours to discuss personnel and attorney-client matters, afterwards approving routine personnel actions.

- As requested by the school and its athletic boosters club, approved the naming of the West Brunswick High School football stadium in honor of Dr. M.H. Rourke, who is giving \$25,000 toward the stadium's upgrading.

- Adopted a policy that provides for the board to elect officers each December, rather than every other school following election of new members to the board.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

## King Wins Shotgun

Tammy King of Shallotte, left, was the winner of a shotgun given away by the Supply-Shallotte Dixie Youth Baseball League. The drawing was held Oct. 13 at the Supply baseball field. The league sold 1,460 tickets and raised \$1,204 through its shotgun giveaway. Also pictured is league president David Batten.

## Salt Build-Up Caused Blinks

Salt build-up on Brunswick Electric Membership Corp.'s Oak Island Bridge crossing disrupted power to homes in much of Brunswick County for several hours Thursday night.

While salt build-up has caused occasional problems along distribution lines in local beach communities, BEMC General Manager David Batten said Thursday's incident was the first time he knew of it happening on a transmission line.

Lights flickered on and off in homes and businesses from Winnabow to Supply to Long Beach because of variations in the flow of current that continued from 7:45 p.m. to around 10 p.m.

Higher winds combined with a lack of rainfall to create the problem, said David Batten, BEMC general manager. "This area had received some rain, but the Southport-Oak Island area had not. That and the wind caused the salt to build up on the transmission lines."

Salt is an electrical conductor and caused arcing, which the electrical distribution system's computer relayed as a "fault" to nearby substations and, as the problem worsened, eventually effecting all areas served by the Wilmington circuit, he said, which includes the substations at Winnabow, Midway, Southport, Oak Island and Long Beach.

Once the problem was identified, workers isolated it by shutting down the Southport and Oak Island substations and rerouting current to their areas through the Long Beach and Midway substations.

The substations came back on line Friday after workers replaced insulators that had burned on the Oak Island crossing.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## ADK Marks Anniversary

Shallotte Mayor Jerry Jones (above) signs a proclamation declaring Oct. 14-20 Alpha Delta Kappa week, as members (from left) Brenda Lewis, Hilda Smith and Jeanette Mintz of West Brunswick High School look on. The local Beta Beta Chapter of the international honorary sorority for women educators celebrated its 43rd anniversary last week. Proclamations signed by Jones and by Gov. James Martin were posted in all county schools and charter members were recognized at the chapter meeting. The sorority promotes high standards in education and recognizes outstanding women educators. The state unit gives scholarships and promotes altruistic projects.

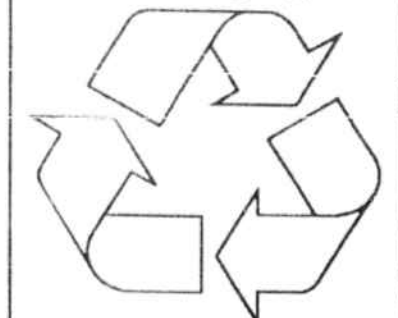
## Deputy Wins Meet



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy George Stanley won first place in the 1990 Eastern U.S. Bench Press Classic championships held in Fayetteville Oct. 6. Stanley participated in the open 242-pound class. He bench pressed 460 pounds to win the event. A recent winner in the bench press at the N.C. Police Olympics, Stanley's next competition is Nov. 10 in Goldsboro. He is listed among the top 20 weightlifters for his class in the country.

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## Festival By The Sea Kicks Off Next Friday

A Halloween carnival next Friday night will kick off Holden Beach's annual N.C. Festival By The Sea.

The weekend festival will continue through Sunday. Highlights will include a parade and street dance.

Children are invited to help kick off the event Friday at 6:30 p.m. at the Halloween carnival at Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department on Holden Beach Road. Prizes will be awarded for best costumes.

The parade along the Holden Beach causeway will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, part of a full day of activities. The action will start at the Tri-Beach VFD island substation at 8 a.m., with the one-mile and 5- and 10-kilometer festival runs. A horse-shoe pitching tournament is set for 1 p.m. Saturday and a kite flying competition at 2 p.m.

Also, this year's festival will feature a sand sculpture and volleyball

tournament at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Campground By The Sea and a storytelling hour for children and adults at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Arts and crafts booths will be set up along Jordan Boulevard and Brunswick Avenue both Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Other festival events include a surfing contest Saturday morning and a long-driving contest at the Holden Beach Driving Range Saturday at 3 p.m.

Mirage, a Wilmington-based band, will play beach music and top 40s at the street dance Saturday evening from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the foot of the old bridge. Three local gospel groups, the Kingsway, The Missionaires, and The Altarmen will take the stage Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. to sing southern gospel favorites.

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