

## LOCAL MEETING IN THE WORKS

## UOB Asks State For Environmental Statement On Smithfield Hog Plant

BY TERRY POPE  
AND DOUG RUTTER

The board that oversees water distribution projects in Brunswick County has asked the state to prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposed hog slaughtering plant in Bladen County.

And another county office is putting together a seminar on what impact the planned facility could have on area residents.

The Brunswick County Utility Operations Board narrowly adopted a resolution Monday regarding the proposed Smithfield Foods plant along the Cape Fear River at Tarheel.

Board member Bob Nubel's motion, which passed on a 2-1 vote, asks the state for an independent environmental impact statement to allay "concerns people might have regarding potential pollution to the Cape Fear River."

The state issued a permit in March allowing the company to discharge 3 million gallons of treated wastewater per day into the river.

The proposed plant would be located about 50 miles

*"What we've got is a lot of upset people who feel it hasn't been studied."*

—UOB member Bob Nubel

upstream of where the county gets its water, which is sold to about 3,200 customers, including nine towns.

Officials at Holden Beach and Southport have raised several concerns in recent months, including the possibility of the plant polluting the drinking water they buy from the county.

Until Monday night, however, no county boards had taken a position on the plant. It cannot be built until the company obtains several other permits and gets state approval of a soil sedimentation and erosion control plan.

UOB's Nubel and Richard Trexler voted for the motion, while Rudy Simmons voted against it, saying he did not know enough about the Smithfield company's

permit to discharge in the river. Board members Burton Meyers and D.V. Jones abstained.

## Seminar Planned

Simmons and others could learn more about the proposed hog plant at a seminar being set up by the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service. Director Milton Coleman said he plans to hold the meeting later this month or early next month in Bolivia.

Coleman said he wants area residents to hear the facts about the proposal so they can take a knowledgeable position. "There's a lot of information available, and folks have been reacting before they know the facts."

As proposed, speakers would include an animal science expert, a soil scientist, an industrial waste expert and an agricultural engineer who deals with animal waste.

Coleman said some people will be embarrassed when they realize what they have been basing their opinions on. "Unfortunately, part of the information that's been translated has been incorrect," he said.

Although he admits there is always the chance of a problem when humans are involved, Coleman said he is

comfortable with the "state of the art" waste treatment system that would be used at the hog plant.

Coleman also said the N.C. Division of Environmental Management, the state permitting agency, has a good track record when it comes to applying regulations in a consistent manner.

"It's hard to argue with them," he said. "I haven't seen anything...that has raised any real serious questions."

At Monday night's UOB meeting, Public Utilities Director Jerry Webb said he has faith that the state will protect Brunswick County's interest in the water supply. "From an administrative standpoint, I believe in the system," Webb told the board. "I believe those folks will do their jobs."

Nubel said the company may be 100 percent correct in its analysis of potential pollution to the river. However, he said it was a "dreadful mistake" for the state to accept the company's estimates without doing an independent study of its own.

"What we've got is a lot of upset people who feel it hasn't been studied," Nubel said.

## West Student Killed

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charged with failure to stop at a stop sign, according to State Trooper B.L. Wilkes' report.

The accident happened around 3 a.m. when Jones' 1991 Ford, traveling north on Cotton Patch Road (RPR 1150), failed to stop at a stop sign for Bay Road about four miles south of Shallotte.

Jones' car struck a house owned by Margie Vivian Roberson, Wilkes reported.

There were no injuries. Damage was listed at \$2,000 to the car and \$500 to the house.

## Hits Tractor

A Leland man was seriously in-

jured last Thursday when a car struck his farm tractor traveling south on U.S. 17 near Lanvale Road.

James Ivey Hobbs Jr., 68, was taken to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington for treatment, reported State Trooper D.A. Lewis. The accident happened around noon.

According to Lewis' report, a 1990 Oldsmobile driven by Blair Ringler, 82, of Sealevel, was traveling south on U.S. 17 when it struck the Ford tractor about a half mile south of Lanvale Road.

Ringler was charged with failure to reduce speed.

Damage was estimated at \$7,000 to the car and \$500 to the tractor.

## Daniels Was A 'Pure Athlete,' Respected By Fellow Students

BY SUSAN USHER

Classes dismissed early Tuesday at West Brunswick High School as students and staff reacted with rage, confusion and tears to the death of junior George Wendell Daniels II, a popular student athlete and the son of a school employee.

Daniels, the 17-year-old son of



DANIELS

Phyllis and George Wendell Daniels I of Longwood, was killed on his way to school in a head-on collision on Old Shallotte Road that involved two trucks. He was a passenger in a Mazda pickup driven by his close friend and fellow catcher Russell Hines.

Mrs. Daniels is a custodian at West Brunswick; her husband works for Brunswick Electric Membership Corp.

"The whole student body got hit in the face with a brick this morning," said Mike Alderson, varsity baseball coach and the coach who was probably closest to Daniels. "Some of the players took it real hard. They were real close."

"George was one of those students everybody looked up to and admired. He was not a drug addict or a troublemaker. He was just good old George."

Daniels had pitched a 6-2 record for the Trojans going into their last two conference games this week.

"He was the best pitcher I had on the staff right now as far as the records go," said Alderson, who last saw Daniels at a 2 1/2-hour practice Monday night.

Alderson said he had grown close to Daniels, who started at West the same year Alderson began coaching there. Daniels and Alderson's son, Brian, also a junior baseball player, were buddies. "Sometimes he would tell me he was my 'other' son, my 'soul son,'" recalled Alderson.

Daniels was special, he said without hesitation, possessing an agility, speed and talent rare in a young man of his size.

"He was just pure athlete. When you can play football, basketball and baseball at 6-feet, two inches and 280 pounds...he was a talented person."

Daniels, a former Little Leaguer and Dixie Youth player, had played football all three years at West Brunswick, making the all-county team last fall. As a sophomore he played junior varsity basketball as well as baseball, pitching some and playing third base.

He had planned a second season of American Legion baseball this summer and was looking forward to "turning it loose" in all sports his senior year, Alderson said. Daniels had been hoping for a football

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—Mike Alderson  
WBHS baseball coach

scholarship, possibly to Chowan College, and planned to attend football tryout camp there.

Though Daniels was considered a slow learner, he was persistent, said Alderson. "He could have made it."

While a more academically talented student might score more than a 1,000 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test but goof off and flunk English, Alderson said Daniels "was busting his buns to make a D and pass a course."

Daniels was also the type of guy who tried to boost others when they were "down," but rarely seemed low in spirits himself.

"He was a morale booster and sometimes the team clown," said Alderson. "But when he was in the team uniform he was all business. He was a unique individual. We're all going to miss him."

Tuesday morning, after learning of the wreck, Alderson called junior varsity and varsity players to the baseball field. It was a time for them to let off steam and to grieve privately, together, away from other students.

Later in the day, Athletic Director Marshall Seay called all student athletes to the football stadium.

After a moment of silent prayer the two tried to help calm students' nerves and help them deal with Daniels' death.

"We tried to enlighten them on some things related to death—that there's a reason for everything that happens. It's hard to accept that there's a reason for this, but God does have a plan. You just don't always see it."

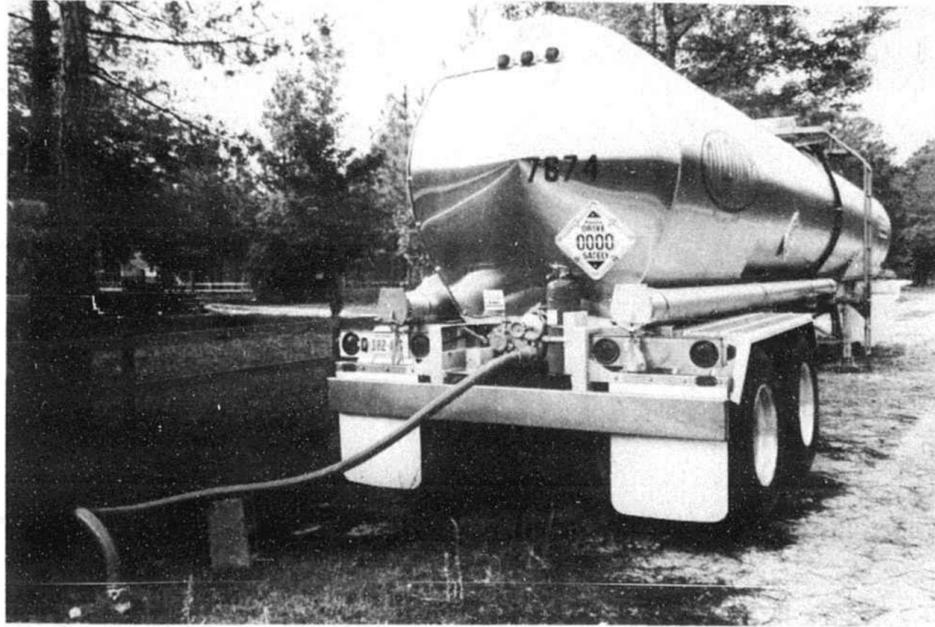
Alderson said he wasn't certain how the varsity team would react to Daniels' death going into their last week of conference play.

To gain one of four Waccamaw Conference berths in the state 2-A play-offs, the Trojans need to win one of their two remaining games, said Alderson.

An away game against East Bladen was rescheduled from Tuesday night to Wednesday night, with Alderson uncertain that team members would be ready to play again by then.

The Trojans are to host the South Brunswick Cougars at home Friday.

"I don't know how the team is going to react," said Alderson, "whether they're going to get mad and say, 'Let's win this one for George' or if they're just going to give it up."



A 5,000-GALLON TANKER donated by the Du Pont company in Leland temporarily supplies residents of Jennifer subdivision with county water.

## Jennifer Residents Get Good News Regarding County Water

BY TERRY POPE

Residents of the Jennifer subdivision near Leland made a tearful plea for county water Monday night.

For more than a year, residents there have relied on a temporary water source, a 5,000-gallon tanker parked along a gravel road that must be routinely filled to feed water to 19 lots that have gasoline-contaminated wells.

"I don't want anyone else to have to go through this," said Melinda Causey.

In tears, Ms. Causey told the board that she must undergo tests in Chapel Hill to determine if her pregnancy is in any danger due to ground contamination where she and her husband live.

The Brunswick County Utility Operations Board wasted no time Monday in recommending that the county build a waterline to the subdivision on Mt. Misery Road.

The unanimous vote recommends that the county install a spur line from the Malmo water treatment plant to the residents about three miles away. Residents will be assessed the cost of running the line through the subdivision only.

Public Utilities Director Jerry Webb said county commissioners may approve the project in June. After 30 days to receive bids, the county can award contracts to begin work.

Residents may be assessed by square footage of the lots or by road frontage, which averages \$6.47 per foot.

County Manager David Clegg said commissioners have been committed to providing county water to the residents there as a special assessment district since 1989.

"They desperately need water," said Clegg. "Their water does show evidence of ground contamination."

The spur line along Mt. Misery Road can also serve a number of other residents along the way, he said. That community may become another special assessment district, where residents are charged for the cost of running waterlines into subdivisions from an adjacent main line.

The Jennifer subdivision lies outside of the Leland Sanitary District. No estimate on the cost of the project has been given.

It has been two years since residents there first noticed the smell of gasoline in their well water.

At first, residents had to fill buckets with water hauled to the subdivision. Last year, the Du Pont company in Leland donated the use of a 5,000-gallon tanker that dispenses water into a gravity-fed line con-

nected to residents' wells. Seven families reside in the subdivision.

UOB members agreed to add another property owner to the temporary water supply Monday.

"It looks like it may be getting worse," said Ms. Causey. "Our property now really has no value... It's contaminated and can't be sold and will remain so until we can get county water."

Tom Bailey, an attorney representing property owner Kathy Rupert, said tests on wells in the subdivision have recently revealed 1,800 micrograms of benzene per liter of water. More than five micrograms of the carcinogenic substance is considered too dangerous for human consumption.

## AT OCEAN ISLE BEACH

## Dedication Set For Museum

Dedication ceremonies for the Museum of Coastal Carolina at Ocean Isle Beach are planned for Sunday, May 19, at 2 p.m.

Spokesman Bill Jennings said the 7,500-square-foot facility features the largest natural habitat room in the Southeast.

The reef room exhibits marine life common to the local Atlantic Ocean waters and gives museum visitors a chance to view fish and other creatures in a simulated underwater environment.

Also included in the museum are a sea shell display, an exhibit showing how ocean waves are formed, a

"We were told not to shower with the water or to use it in any way," said resident Ressie Wagner.

Bailey said he has received notice from the N.C. Division of Environmental Management that accuses a former owner of a grocery store at the entrance to the subdivision with a violation.

Underground tanks at Stuart's Grocery Store, which is no longer in operation, are alleged to have been the source of the gasoline contamination, Bailey said.

The state has allocated \$30,000 to the county to help get water to the Jennifer residents, Webb said.

Webb said it is not the county's responsibility to locate the source of the contamination.

display of shark jaws and teeth, a taxidermic display of local wildlife and a gift shop.

Government and community leaders, benefactors and members of the Ocean Isle Museum Foundation and Ocean Isle Beach Property Owners Association will take part in the dedication Sunday.

The museum will open to the public Saturday, May 25. Hours will be Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Jennings said admission will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for children up to 12 years old.

## Typical Beach Weather Expected For Our Area

Typical May weather is in the forecast for the South Brunswick Islands, where temperatures and sunshine are expected to benefit beachgoers.

The outlook for the next few days calls for above average temperatures and near normal rainfall, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Canady said Tuesday that he expects temperatures to range from the mid-80s during the day to the mid-60s at night, with about a half-inch of rainfall.

"Just an average May so far," Canady said. "It's not too bad."

For the period May 9-15, Canady recorded a maximum high temperature of 84 degrees, which occurred

on the 10th and 12th, and a minimum low of 58 degrees, which occurred on the 12th.

An average daily high of 82 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 64 degrees for a daily average temperature of 73 degrees, which is about three degrees above normal, Canady said.

He recorded 1.8 inches of rain at his Shallotte Point home.

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## Bypass Opening Scheduled

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cal residents to shop in Shallotte once traffic thins out in town.

Ann Vereen, who manages the McDonald's restaurant in Shallotte, said she doesn't expect the bypass to hurt business at all.

Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause agrees with merchants who say the new route should make it easier on people who come to town to shop. "I think it's going to be good for the businesses and the travelers."

Gause also expects fewer traffic accidents in town when the bypass opens. Officers responded to 162 wrecks last year—most of them fender benders.

"A lot of times when it's bumper-to-bumper traffic, people get impatient or careless," Gause said. "It won't be nearly as bad because you'll have people going through on the bypass."

A convenience store and gas station has been built where the bypass crosses N.C. 130 West near West Brunswick High School.

Shallotte officials said they haven't heard about any specific plans for other commercial development along the bypass, much of which is outside the town limits.

"I'm sure there's a lot of people that are waiting to see what will happen with the traffic before they do anything," Mrs. Tripp said.

Don Eggert of the Brunswick County Planning Department also said he doesn't know of any specific plans for development. The county hasn't issued any building permits for development of land along the bypass.

## Nudity Banned

(Continued From Page 1-A)

town. Even though the town had no ordinance in place, he said all of the women covered up when police requested it.

Ocean Isle Beach Mayor Betty Williamson said town commissioners were given a copy of the ordinance last month for review.

There were several smiles, but no discussion Tuesday morning when the board voted unanimously in favor of the new rule.

Pritchard said the only difference between the Ocean Isle Beach ordinance and the Sunset Beach rule is a clarification of what "fully developed female" means.

Sunset Beach's ordinance doesn't define "fully developed," while the Ocean Isle ordinance says any female over the age of nine shall be considered "fully developed."

Pritchard said the ordinance is too vague without a specific age.

"Five guys sitting around a table could have five very different opinions about what fully developed means," he said. "Some girls develop sooner than others, but none of them are fully developed at nine."

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