

# Dropout Rate Falls Countywide But Not At West Brunswick High

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County's drop-out rate declined this year, with the number of students in grades 7 through 12 leaving school falling to 94 from 175 a year earlier.

Dropout Prevention Coordinator Anne Mitchell said dropout rate declined from 4.06 last year to 3.0. Jobs were the No. 1 reason cited by students for leaving school, followed by poor attendance.

Attendance records were the problem at West Brunswick High School, she said, where 56 regular students and two extended day students dropped out. Many had missed the maximum (20) days allowed and chose to quit rather than repeat a grade.

While West is the largest of the county's three high schools, it also experienced the highest percentage of dropouts.

At the school board's last meeting, members approved a plan presented by Principal Ed Lemon to begin turning around the situation at West Brunswick through a outcome-based education pilot project for ninth graders that focuses on higher expectations of student success and performance. The project will also reward good attendance.

Lemon said the penalty approach for absenteeism hasn't worked and isn't working at the school.

No students left school this past year at Leland, Shallotte or South Brunswick Middle, she said, while one 16-year-old eighth grader quit at Waccamaw.

North Brunswick lost 20 regular and two extended day students, while South Brunswick lost 13 regular students and one extended day student.

## Other Business

In other business the board:

■Reaffirmed a partnership with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to serve as a Reading Recovery training site, in which the remedial approach originating in New Zealand will be used in at least three primary classrooms starting this fall.

■Heard from Eugene Bowden that 374 students are enrolled in summer school, half in grades 3, 6 and 8 and half in high school courses. Classes end Aug. 1.

■Heard a report from staff member Jean Parker on outcome-based education, with several recommendations included regarding a pilot pro-

gram and related instructional management system.

■Set meeting locations as follows: Aug. 6 (change of date), Shallotte Middle; Sept. 9, central office; Oct. 7, Waccamaw Elementary; Nov. 4 and Dec. 9, central office; Jan. 6, North Brunswick High; Feb. 3, central office; March 2, South Brunswick Middle; April 6, central office; May 4, Bolivia Elementary; and June 8, central office. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise announced. Special meetings are generally held at the central office.

■Heard from Assistant Superintendent William Turner that starting this fall a rule limiting bus occupancy to the seats available will be strictly enforced at all schools.

Buses will not be allowed to leave campus with more than their quota of students, even if several are to be let off at the first stop.

■Heard from Turner about a pilot program with the state in which 18 buses serving the county's coastal area will have their roofs painted white and internal temperatures monitored. Based on a similar study in Florida, the lighter roofs are expected to reduce heat by 10 degrees to 14 degrees inside for a more comfortable ride.

With the state not replacing worn yellow buses for the second consecutive year, Turner said employees have repainted 31 yellow buses along with other vehicles, in addition to summer maintenance work.

■Heard, but took no action on, concerns relayed by member Robert Slockett that the Brunswick County Law Enforcement Association might be representing itself as raising money for school drug programs. Two other members said they had been contacted by the group for financial support for a drug education booklet distributed free to advertisers, with no mention of the schools.

■Recognized North Brunswick High School graduate Timothy Boyle for winning first place in a national VICA contest (see related story in this issue).

■Recessed Monday's meeting until Wednesday, July 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the central office.

## STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

# Bass On Winning Team At Campbell

Wil Bass of Holden Beach was on a three-man team that placed second at Campbell University and third in the region in *The Stock Market Game* co-sponsored by the university and Charles Leak of Shearson-Lehman Brothers in Fayetteville.



BASS

A total of 682 teams participated statewide representing schools, colleges, universities, and private citizens. The 10-week-long game gave students a real life situation in which they "bought" and "sold" stocks at current market prices. Bass and his teammates, who are second-time winners in the game, increased the value of their

\$100,000 portfolio by 18.5 percent. Wil is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Bass.

## Attends Conference

Percy O. Hewett of Supply, an honor student at West Brunswick High School, recently attended the Annual Leadership Institute For African-American Youth at N.C. State University in Raleigh.



HEWETT

The goal of the program is to provide selected rising high school seniors with leadership development training which should increase opportunities for them during their senior year and

their entrance into college.

Percy is the son of Percy M. Hewett and Margaret B. Hewett.

## In Who's Who

Tara McDonald, a rising senior at West Brunswick High School, has been named to appear for the second consecutive year in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*.

Students are nominated on the basis of their performance in scholarship award contests or extra-curricular activities. Final selection is based on criteria that include high achievement in academics and leadership in school activities, athletics or community service.

Tara is the daughter of Doug and Ada McDonald of Varnamtown and presently holds the title of Miss Varnamtown.

## In Who's Who

Danielle Campbell, a rising senior at West Brunswick High School, has been named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students* for the second year.

While only 5 percent of the nation's high school students are included in *Who's Who* each year, less than 1/2 of 1 percent are honored for two or more years.

Danielle is a member of the Spanish Club, HOSA and SADD at West Brunswick.

She is the daughter of Johnny and Rhonda Rabon of Holden Beach.



CAMPBELL

## Scholarship Deadline Nearing

Application deadlines are drawing near for scholarships for the 1991-92 school year at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville.

The two-year school offers a number of scholarships ranging in value from \$300 to \$750.

Most of the scholarships are targeted at full-time students in a two-year technical or college transfer degree program. Some give priority to minorities, displaced workers or particular majors.

Interested students should apply as soon as possible, preferably before July 19.

For more information, contact the Southeastern Community College Financial Aid Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 642-7141.

## Storm Knocks Out Power

A severe thunderstorm Sunday night temporarily knocked out electrical service to several hundred Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. customers and caused related damage at Ocean Isle Beach.

Bobby Gore, operations manager with BEMC, said hundreds of customers lost power as a result of the storm. Crews worked through the night, he said, and service was restored by 6 a.m. Monday.

"There were no major outages but it was scattered really throughout our whole system in the Brunswick area," Gore said.

Gore said high winds knocked down two trees, which pulled down power lines in the Shallotte and Supply areas.

Ocean Isle Beach Mayor Betty Williamson said lightning struck two houses during the storm, but didn't start any fires.

She said the electrical storm caused damage to televisions, telephones or air-conditioning units at more than 50 houses on the island.

"It was a very severe storm at Ocean Isle," she said. "But we did need the rain, so something good came out of it."

## Student Aid Is Offered

Various types of financial aid are available to students interested in attending Brunswick Community College.

Federal, state and institutional aid is available to eligible students, a news release indicated.

During the 1990-91 academic

year, BCC administered approximately \$275,000 in student aid to more than 300 students.

For more information contact the Financial Aid Office at BCC at 754-6900, 457-6329, or 343-0203. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

## Dickerson Gains U.S. 17 Contract

The N.C. Board of Transportation Friday awarded a \$4.7 million contract to a Castle Hayne firm to widen 5.2 miles of U.S. 17 to four lanes.

The contract went to the low bidder, Dickerson Carolina Inc. Contract specifications call for widening the highway from east of Red Bug Road (S.R. 1136) to N.C. 211 at Supply.

The contract is one of several contracts awarded by the board since 1987 to widen U.S. 17 from Supply to the South Carolina line. The two remaining contracts, for roadway south of Shallotte, are expected to be awarded by the board this fall.

Work on the latest contract project is expected to begin in August, according to Marilyn Williams of Wilmington, area representative on the board. Work is expected to be completed in June 1992.

During construction, a DOT news release indicated, safeguards will be taken to protect small streams and wetlands from contamination by soil or construction materials. Grass will be planted to cover bare ground caused by construction.

# NBHS Grad Wins National VICA Engine Repair Event

Four years ago Timothy Boyle's vocational instructor told him "to keep trying" after Boyle entered, but didn't win, a Vocational and Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) competition.

Boyle followed that advice and last month the 1991 North Brunswick High School graduate won the high school division of a national engine repair competition.

He will share prizes with his school and his former vocational instructor, Morris Brown, who accompanied to the competition June 25-28 at the

Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center in Louisville.

He was the only North Carolina entrant in the VICA nationals to bring home a gold medal, and the first student from Brunswick County to win a gold medal in VICA's automotive contest, and possibly the first in national VICA competition in general, said Brown.

Boyle received a toolbox, a 3.5 horsepower engine; gold medallions and tools for himself and the school; and a gold-plated ratchet for Brown.

Brown said the number 13 proved lucky for Boyle.

As contestant No. 13, the 18-year-old mechanic tore down and rebuilt a Tecumseh engine on his way to winning the VICA United States Skill Olympics air cooled

gasoline engine repair competition. His was one of only 13 of the 50 engines in the contest to start after repairs.

Boyle also had to troubleshoot/analyze problems with Briggs and Stratton and Kohler engines and complete written tests on all three engine makes.

The skills of each contestant were graded not only on their product knowledge, but also on their ability to follow the manufacturer's recommended procedures for service.

"Academics and vocational skills both counted," said Brown. "Those written tests are tough. His (Boyle's) academic teachers helped him to win too."

At North Brunswick, Boyle's vocational training included 30 percent classwork and 70 percent shop.

"If you can't read the manuals and do the schematics, you can't work on these modern engines," said Brown.

Brown said Boyle is his first student in seven years to earn a gold medal, though some have earned second or third place.

He has worked with Boyle since ninth grade, and seen the student show steady improvement, he said.

That first year, Boyle's contest entry didn't place. As a sophomore, he won a regional competition and placed fourth in the state. His junior year he placed second in both the regional and state contests.

Boyle hopes to attend technical school in the fall.

"He may get a scholarship or other financial aid out of this," said Brown. "We're hoping he does."



BOYLE

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