



New Ground

Hope Harbor Home is breaking new ground, with plans to open a Women's Resource Center to serve families in need. Find out more on Page 5-B.



First Step

Brunswick County Commissioners took the first step Monday in forming a unified county-operated library system. The story's on Page 8-A.

Leading Lady

Christy King led the West Brunswick girls to wins over South Robeson and Fairmont last week. Details are in the Sports section, Page 8-B.



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STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

STATE TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY Tommy Harrelson (above right) talks with West Brunswick High School students at the Southeastern Welcome Center dedication last Friday. To his right is local businesswoman Annette Odom.

West Students Call For Overpass At Welcome Center Grand Opening

BY DOUG RUTTER

"Welcome tourists. Welcome death."
"Why? Because our lives are on the line."
"What will it take, a bus load of kids?"
Posters bearing these and other slogans greeted N.C. Transportation Secretary Tommy Harrelson and other dignitaries at the Southeastern Welcome Center dedication last Friday.
About 20 West Brunswick High School students demonstrated at the ceremony, calling for an overpass on the U.S. 17 Shallotte bypass just a few hundred yards from the new center.
Two local residents, Shallotte businessman Steve Smith and West Brunswick student Misty Carmichael, were killed last November in an accident where the bypass crosses N.C. 130.
Two other serious wrecks have occurred at the intersection since the bypass opened last May, each involving trucks that failed to stop for a traffic light on the four-lane highway.
Harrelson, a Southport native and keynote speaker for the dedication, told students that driver error, not the intersection, has been responsible for the accidents.
"The road is safe. The intersection is safe," said Harrelson, who visited the families of the accident victims last Thursday. "It's the drivers who are not taking the speed limit seriously."
The demonstration overshadowed an otherwise pleasant, well-attended ceremony. Sunshine and warm temperatures made a perfect day for the formal dedication of the center that opened Feb. 3.
Harrelson met with the students before and after the ceremony and alluded to their demonstration in his address.
"It's great to be in America and know that no matter who you are and no matter how old you are you have the right to public assembly," he said.
West Brunswick senior Jason Doshier was among the students who stayed out of school Friday to attend the ceremony. Other students left school early to show their support for an overpass.

"We know it's going to take time," Doshier said. "But we want it in as short a time as they can get it done."
West Brunswick Principal Ed Lemon said most of the demonstrators either stayed out of school Friday or had their parents' permission to leave early.
However, about eight students received in-school suspensions, some of them for leaving school early without parental consent.
"That's no different than any other time they cut class," Lemon said. "What we didn't want was students leaving campus without their parents knowing about it."
Chris Russ, a 1991 graduate of West Brunswick, said the state should have used the \$1.2 million it spent on the welcome center for an overpass.
"Take the money out of this piece of junk because it's not needed," Russ told the transportation chief. "This isn't doing Misty Carmichael any good. This isn't doing Steve Smith any good."
Responding to a question about why an overpass wasn't included in the final bypass plans, Harrelson said studies showed it wasn't justified at that time.
Harrelson said four-laning all of U.S. 17 is the N.C. Department of Transportation's top priority in Brunswick County. That alone will improve safety on the busy coastal highway, he said.
The DOT's design branch is working on a feasibility study that should help N.C. Board of Transportation members decide if an overpass is needed at the bypass intersection.
Marilyn Williams of Wilmington, who represents Brunswick County on the state board, said last week it would take "several years" to design and build an overpass if it is approved.
In the meantime, Harrelson promised tough enforcement of the 55 mph speed limit through a cooperative effort of the Shallotte Police Department, N.C. Highway Patrol and N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles.
"Every accident that's happened here has come from high speed," Harrelson said. "We want this to become known as a speed trap."
(See WEST STUDENTS, Page 2-A)

Erratic Market May Affect '94 Property Revaluation In Brunswick County

BY TERRY POPE

An erratic real estate market has Brunswick County officials unsure of how to conduct an eight-year property revaluation.
County commissioners will decide next month whether to conduct an in-house revaluation using tax department employees or to contract the job out to a private firm. It is likely to cost the county \$10 per parcel, or around \$900,000.
Under question, too, is whether the county should assess property values every four years rather than every eight years following 1994. State law says counties must conduct a revaluation at least every eight years but does not regulate how often one can be performed.
"Progressive" counties are speeding up the revaluation process, with some choosing two-year cycles because of their constant growth, said Brunswick County Tax Administrator Boyd Williamson.
But in a resort county such as Brunswick, that growth is often erratic, he said.
"The valuation is not going to net the return of a 1986," said Williamson. "We're biting our fingernails."
Commissioners Chairman Kelly Holden said he favors a four-year cycle, but that will be the decision of another board of commissioners. A four-year cycle could be done either in-house or under contract, he said.

Holden doesn't think an ailing national economy will spell trouble for the county's tax market.
"Despite the fact that we are in a recession, Brunswick County is still growing," said Holden. "There is still a lot of parcels of property changing hands."
Complaints over property values are taken to the Brunswick County Board of Equalization and Review, an independent board of five members appointed by commissioners that hears property owners' appeals. Following the 1986 revaluation, the board heard 215 appeals and threw out 34 of those assessments.
Williamson said the county has four options to conduct the 1994 revaluation: in-house with additional personnel and computer equipment purchases; in-house with a private firm overseeing the job; contracted labor with the county responsible for other areas; or contracted service.
The 1986 revaluation, contracted to W.P. Ferris Co., cost around \$420,000, or about \$5.80 per parcel.
"I don't think that's going to be the case today," said Williamson.
The N.C. Department of Revenue estimates revaluing \$12.50 per parcel for a revaluation.
Commissioners have appropriated money each year since 1986 to the revaluation fund, but will only have an estimated \$650,000 in the pot as of June 30, said County Finance

Director Lithia Hahn.
"I'm prepared to do it any way you want it done," Williamson told the board. "We can give you a Volkswagen or a Cadillac."
If done in-house, persons would visit each of the estimated 90,000 parcels in the county to check for home improvements and other items that may affect the present market values, said Williamson.
Workers must be in the field by late spring in order to stick to the schedule outlined for completion by June 1994.
One advantage of an in-house revaluation is that local people know more about local property values and the county. Residents may resent outsiders "shoving something down their throats," he said.
On the negative side, an in-house revaluation may be taxing on the staff, bring about criticism and potential lawsuits from challengers.
"If all things are about equal," said Holden, "I would favor an in-house revaluation. Our people would be more familiar with land uses and land values."
The aim of a revaluation is to appraise or value property at its true value in money, said Williamson. Market value is the price estimated in terms of money at which the property would change hands between a willing and financially able buyer and a willing seller.

Two Held On Cocaine Charges

Two Shallotte residents were arrested Tuesday on drug charges by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.
Thirteen charges were filed against Godfrey Lanier Hankins, 27, of Mulberry Street, said Detective David Crocker of the narcotics division.
Hankins was charged with five counts of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, five counts of sell and deliver of cocaine, maintaining a residence for keeping and selling cocaine, maintaining a vehicle for keeping or selling cocaine and felonious possession of a firearm, said Crocker.
He was being held in the Brunswick County Jail Tuesday under \$150,000 bond.
Also charged with maintaining a

residence for keeping or selling cocaine was Lisa King, 31, of the same Mulberry Street address. Crocker said. She was being held in jail under \$2,500 bond Tuesday.
Detective R.D. Todd obtained a search warrant for the residence after receiving an anonymous tip from someone in the community, said Crocker.
Officers seized \$1,460 in currency, three weapons, drug parapherna-

lia and gold jewelry from the residence, said Crocker. A vehicle was also confiscated, he said.
According to documents on file at the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office, Hankins was convicted of cocaine possession in Brunswick County Superior Court on Nov. 29, 1990. He received a two-year suspended sentence, a 90-day active term, \$500 fine and was placed on supervised probation.

School Board, Commissioner Races Begin To Take Shape

Primary and general election races began shaping up this week for both Brunswick County Board of Education and Board of Commissioners races.
A second Republican, Janet Pope of Shamrock Drive, Shallotte, filed for the District 1 school board seat.
Two Republicans filed from District 3 for the school board, incumbent Donna Baxter of Boiling Spring Lakes and Pete Barnette of Route 2, Leland.
A fourth Republican filed for the District 3 seat on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, setting the stage for a lively party primary. The latest to file is Joseph Tyler Lenins of Long Beach.
Another Republican, Jene Sellers, filed for the District 4 commissioner's seat.
Charles L. (Chip) Carroll of Route 2, Riegelwood, filed for the at-large seat open on the Brunswick County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. The seat is presently held by Mary Earp of the Funston community and was previously held by Carroll. Both are farmers and livestock producers.
Across the region, incumbent R. C. Soles Jr., a Democrat and Tabor City lawyer, filed for the state Senate. He was first elected from the 18th District in 1977, and previously served four terms in the State House of Representatives.
Rep. Leo Mercer of Chadbourn, a funeral home director and retired postmaster, filed for one of the two seats in the restructured 14th House district. He is seeking a third term in the House, previously elected to represent the 15th District.

Who's Filed	
COMMISSIONER	
District 1	
■ Don Warren, Dem.	
District 3	
■ Steve Foster, Rep.	
■ Joseph Tyler Lenins, Rep.	
■ Bob Slockett, Rep.	
■ Tom Yeagle, Rep.	
District 4	
■ Jene Sellers, Rep.	
■ Tom Simmons, Dem.	
SCHOOL BOARD	
District 1	
■ Joseph V. Brust, Rep.	
■ Janet Pope, Rep.	
■ Sam Fletcher Frink, Dem.	
District 3	
■ William F. Faught, Dem.	
■ Carlton L. Sligh, Dem.	
■ Bill Fairley, Rep.	
District 4	
■ Pete Barnette, Rep.	
■ Donna Baxter, Dem. (I)	
REGISTER OF DEEDS	
■ Edward F. Mintz, Dem.	
■ Bill Kirby, Rep.	
CORONER	
■ Greg White, Dem. (I)	
STATE HOUSE	
14th District (2 seats)	
■ Leo Mercer, Dem. (I)	
STATE SENATE	
18th District	
■ R.C. Soles Jr., Dem. (I)	
CONSERVATION DISTRICT	
■ Charles L. (Chip) Carroll	

Varnamtown Board Replaces Resigning Alderman, Clerk

BY DORI C. GURGANUS

Varnamtown aldermen moved quickly Monday night to replace a town alderman and the town clerk, both of whom resigned.
In unanimous votes the board appointed Will (W.H.) Mumford of Riverside to replace Alderman Faye Galloway and hired Edward McLelland to succeed Paul Vealey as clerk.
Mrs. Galloway, who was elected to the board in November, has resigned effective Jan. 28, Vealey said Tuesday.

Ms. Galloway, sister-in-law of the mayor, gave only personal reasons for her resignation, Vealey said, adding that the mayor has known of Mrs. Galloway's plans for some time.
Mumford, a retiree, has lived in Varnamtown the past two years and has never sought public office.
"I'm quite excited that my name came up," he said Tuesday. "Maybe it's because I helped out with the (street) signs. It's going to be a fun time."

Vealey announced his own resignation Monday night, citing "health reasons" related to last year's surgery as his motivation. Vealey had served as the town clerk since shortly after the town's incorporation in September 1988, first as a volunteer and then as a part-time employee. His successor, McLelland, begins work April 1.
In other business, the board agreed to contract with the county for fire inspections. Vealey said the county will provide the service on an "as-needed basis."

Beach Committee To Study Abuses Of Septic Systems

BY DOUG RUTTER

A Holden Beach committee will be asked to recommend ways of controlling the abuse of septic tank systems and meeting the island's long-term wastewater management needs.
Holden Beach Commissioners approved the new five-member panel at their mid-month meeting Monday night at the request of Town Manager Gary Parker.
Parker, who has been working on a wastewater management program since last August, said he needs help to tackle the "mammoth and complex" project.
Mayor Wally Ausley appointed Commissioner Sid Swarts to serve as chairman of the committee. Board member David Sandifer also will serve, along with three residents to be named later.
Commissioner Jim Fournier's motion to form the committee is the latest in a series of steps de-

signed to promote better management of wastewater on Holden Beach.
Town officials have discussed the need for an island-wide sewer system and the environmental risks associated with overloaded septic systems for several years.
Commissioners voted unanimously Monday to form the new committee, but Swarts said the town should do more right away to deter violations of state health regulations.
Swarts said houses on the beach should be shut down if town officials find out there are more bedrooms than were allowed under the provisions of the septic tank permits.
"We know that this is being violated," Swarts said. "We're doing nothing to enforce the laws we swore to uphold."
As an example, Swarts said the certificate of occupancy should be pulled if a home has five

bedrooms and was only permitted as a four-bedroom house.
But Commissioner David Sandifer said the number of people in the houses is the real problem, not the number of bedrooms.
Even if the town controls the number of bedrooms, he said people could still build huge four-bedroom houses and stuff too many people in each room.
Planning Board Chairman Roger Williams said he knows of a three-bedroom house on Holden Beach with nine beds in it.
Williams suggested the town use exit flow meters that would show how much wastewater leaves each house.
Parker said educating people about septic system maintenance and setting up a mandatory schedule for pumping tanks would probably be part of the town's management program.