

# County Spelling Champ Balked At 'Bulletinize'

Heather Heavener spelled correctly every word but one given in the first round of the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., May 24. However, this accomplishment by Brunswick County's champion speller went unnoticed, since it took place in the "comfort room" offstage at the Hilton, after she failed to spell "bulletinize" correctly and was ruled out of the competition.



HEAVENER

Heather's mother said the Shalotte Middle School seventh grader had feared she would lose out in the first round.

"She was a little nervous and afraid she'd go out the first time," Mrs. Heavener said. "When she came out into the comfort room, where we could hear the bee going on, she spelled the rest of the words correctly."

The young woman experienced her first spelling bee and her first visit to the nation's capital. "She really enjoyed everything, and the sponsors, Scripps-Howard newspapers, planned so many parties and activities so spellers could get acquainted," Mrs. Heavener said. "We

toured Fort McHenry and the aquarium in Baltimore."

Although disappointed, Heather proved she's a winner by her determination to try again next year, according to her mother. She has prepared for the bee along with a busy schedule as a school leader and scholar. Recently inducted into the National Honor Society, she is also a member of the Young Authors group and is second vice president of the state Career Club.

## Pig-Picking Set

### For Dispatchers

Current and former dispatchers of Calabash EMS will be treated to a pig-picking and chicken barbecue June 26 at 6 p.m. at the squad building.

During April, Chief Mark Christy reported to the unit's board of directors at its May 21 meeting, squad members answered 48 calls. They worked 184 hours and traveled 2,059 miles. Twenty-one of the calls were in Calabash, nine in Sunset Beach and 18 were elsewhere.

The annual business meeting was to be held June 2 at the squad building, with election of officers, said President Kathy Morfit.



KATHRYN SMITH gets a hug and a bouquet of roses from an admirer after receiving her diploma Monday in graduation exercises at South Brunswick High School.

## South ROCAME Honors Members

Ten South Brunswick High School (SBHS) seniors were recognized for their participation in ROCAME at a May 14 banquet at the Western Sizzlin' Restaurant in Southport.

Patrice Law was named SBHS student-of-the-year, reported William Flythe, coordinator. Others honored were Jackie Cromartie, Tamara Johnson, Kristie Joyner, Tammy Freeman, Terri Smith, Andrea Coatney, Andrew Cowan, Romona Bryant and Aaron Davis.

Outstanding student awards were presented at each of the middle school grade levels to Larry Johnson and Jerris Fullwood, sixth grade, Thamia Hargrove and Leslie Myrie Jr., seventh grade, and Amie Sidberry and Travenus Grainger, eighth grade. Sidberry and Myrie were co-students-of-the-year for the middle school.

Others recognized for accomplishments in the February jamboree at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington included: Daimon Davis, who received a trophy for his quiz bowl performance; Thamia Hargrove, Joy Scott, LaToia Robinson, Alexis Vaught and Shavonne

Joyner, given trophies for winning third place in the scrapbook competition; and Shallian and Tamara Johnson, Kristie Joyner, Jerome James and Dale Bellamy, who received certificates as members of the first place industrial-engineering high school team.

# Happiness Is Graduation At South Brunswick High

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN  
It all began sedately, with a stream of blue-gowned young men and women marching onto the South Brunswick High School football field to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance."

They sat self-consciously through an invocation by their class president, Alison Cumbee, but gradually, as other schoolmates spoke and sang, sentimentally, of the great occasion they were sharing, the ice broke and the exuberance began to mount.

That sea of mortar boards remained relatively still as Brunswick County Superintendent of Schools P.R. Hankins spoke briefly and Board of Education Chairman Donna Baxter added her congratulations.

However, Monday's graduation exercises for 195 South Brunswick seniors at last became a frenzy of pure joy, pride and excitement, with cheers for Melissa Hollins' tribute to seniors, a standing ovation for Vickie Randolph and Jennifer Hardee's song, and wild applause for Valedictorian Sherman Blankenship and his words of farewell.

The youthful emotions went through the top as the presentation of diplomas began and proceeded. While some graduates accepted this symbol of accomplishment quietly and walked back to their seats with only faint smiles of satisfaction reflecting their feelings, most were uninhibited and exuberant. One young man kissed his diploma repeatedly; many hoisted theirs in the air, their eyes searching the faraway bleachers for familiar faces to see the treasure; and several leaped in the air, waving both arms wildly, shrieking for joy. They made the trek to their seats with wide grins and reverent grasps of that valuable certificate.

They hugged each other and wept. There was a lot of hugging, too, along the fence that separated the field from the track and bleachers. As soon as Hankins and Ms. Baxter began calling the names of graduates and row after row stood to mount the stage, the decorum of the audience also dissolved into an excited mob. Parents and friends came streaming to the fence with cameras, arms of roses, bunches of balloons, or just beaming smiles and looks of pride.

At some later time, those young people and delighted parents may look over their graduation programs and remember Hankins' words of wisdom, that four keys to a successful future were to have a strong set of values, be a good teacher to others, be responsible and make a contribution.

They may also recall the emotional tributes from their class leaders and they are sure to carry a memory of the hug given them by Principal Sue Sellers. There's no doubt, however, that the most memorable moment came with that walk across the stage and the receipt of a piece of paper they had worked toward for 12 long years.

Class officers, besides Cumbee, were Tasha Johnson, vice-president, Tamara Smith, secretary, and Rochelle Brown, treasurer. The senior counselor was Marsha Cochran, and senior advisors were Betty Keane, Simon Shew, Jerry Smith, Kathleen Thompson, Karl Tutt, Joyce Williams and Nellie Westbrook.

Other board of education members attending were Polly Russ, Yvonne Bright and Robert Slockett.

# Senators Inspired To Flowery Language

Legislators have the reputation for some of the driest language on record as they spew out the multitude of bills that make or break their reputations.

Legalistic terms that challenge the general public to get the gist of their intentions do sound impressive in the halls of government.

North Carolina's lawmakers, however, just departed from this mode in drafting a bill to make the Venus's flytrap the state plant. This exotic beauty, an endangered species that particularly enjoys growing in Brunswick County, caused the honorables and their staff to wax poetic.

"Whereas," they begin in the usual tedious vein, "the venus's flytrap is a perennial, insectivorous plant native to the boggy areas of southeastern North Carolina; and whereas, this unusual plant bears white

flowers in late May; its hinged leaves, surrounded by bristles, are red inside; and whereas when triggered by an insect, the leaves of the venus's flytrap close suddenly, entrapping the insect inside; and... whereas the venus's flytrap has been described as one of the most wonderful plants in the world...the venus's flytrap (Dionaea muscipula) is adopted as the official state plant of North Carolina."

Remove the "whereas" and the flower's scientific moniker and you have something Lord Byron might have composed.

Now, if only the General Assembly sees fit to "be resolved" to vote in the affirmative, the world may beat a track to Brunswick County's Green Swamp to see the wonders herein described.

Ah, nature! Even lawyers are bested by your wonders.

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