



**Had Enough?**  
Both the 10- and 30-day forecasts call for above-average rainfall. Story, Page 2-A.



**Players, Coaches of Year**  
Bryan Fleming, Scott Gore and Coach Mike Alderson are honored for leading West's baseball team to a successful year. Page 8-B.



**What A Fish Story!**  
It was the first fish Billy Patterson Jr. ever caught, and it won the Shallotte Point VFD Flounder Tournament. Story and pictures, Page 11-C.



# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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## Sheriff, Officers Criticize Cut In Proposed Raises

**BY ERIC CARLSON**  
Brunswick County Sheriff's personnel Thursday criticized county commissioners for "misplacing their priorities" after the board made a last-minute cut in their expected pay raise.

"I would say morale is not too high right now," said Sheriff John Carr Davis.

The draft 1992-93 county budget called for a lump-sum payment to the sheriff's and register of deeds' departments to provide a 5-percent across-the-board pay hike. A 2.5 percent raise was proposed for other county employees.

During its final meeting on the budget June 8, commissioners voted 4 to 1 to reduce the sheriff's department salary allocation by half and to commission a study of all county government positions and salaries.

Commissioner Frankie Rabon dissented in the vote, asking the board to consider a 5-percent raise for all county employees.

The board further agreed to abide by the study's findings and to give the sheriff and register of deeds the other 2.5 percent when new salary recommendations are adopted.

Sheriff Davis told the commissioners he did not want his department included in the study, saying the board had failed to follow the recommendations of the last salary study done in 1986.

*"I think the commissioners have got their priorities messed up a bit."*  
—Capt. Phil Perry

"Mr. Holden gave me the assurance that this board would implement the findings of any salary study," Davis said in an interview Thursday. "But how can he assure me of anything when three members of the board won't be there in January?"

Board Chairman Kelly Holden and Commissioners Gene Pinkerton and Rabon are not seeking re-election this fall.

Davis declined to elaborate on his reasons for not taking part in the salary study, saying only that he was afraid such an effort would become mired in "personalities and politics." He said he felt a legitimate study would recommend an increase in his department's salaries.

The sheriff said he had "asked for a 15-percent raise, hoped for 10-percent and got 2.5 percent." He said that due to a 6.75-percent increase in health insurance premiums, some

deputies would see a reduction in take-home pay.

"I guess we compromised," Davis said.

As news of the salary cut spread through the sheriff's department, deputies complained that they were "not getting a fair shake" from the commissioners. One detective with five years in the department said that his family size and pay rate would allow him to qualify for food stamps.

Captain of Detectives Phil Perry Thursday criticized the commissioners for their final-meeting votes to cut law enforcement salaries and appropriate \$150,000 for new baseball fields while reducing the tax rate by a half cent.

"Why did they have to do that? People were used to that rate," said Perry. "They could have left it like it was and given all county employees a proper raise."

"I think the commissioners have got their priorities messed up a bit," he said. "It's another case of sports overriding education. This county is covered with ball fields already. It means extra work for us because we've got to patrol the ball fields to keep the parents from fighting."

Perry said he did not feel his department had been unfairly singled out in the budgeting. He said Brunswick County boards traditionally overlook employee salaries (See RAISE, Page 2-A)



**Salt Water Scooper**  
Kelly Keaton of Medina, Ohio, scoops up some salt water at Ocean Isle Beach Saturday. The 4-year-old and her brothers were busy filling a hole on the strand with water.

## River News Disappoints Supporters

**BY SUSAN USHER**  
Leaders of a grassroots group organized more than two years ago to help preserve Lockwood Folly River left a status meeting with local, state and federal officials last week frustrated and confused.

While several speakers reported progress—and frustrations of their own—in state and local efforts to reduce pollution entering the river and to set land use controls in place, the news most of the 60-plus-member audience wanted to hear wasn't forthcoming.

"I think most of us are disappointed we didn't get a better answer on Eastern Channel," said Wallace Smith, a local attorney working with Save Our Shellfish (SOS) to protect what has traditionally been the county's richest shellfish waters—waters important enough to qualify for special state protection.

SOS members had hoped a study commissioned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would demonstrate that reopening Eastern Channel, a former channel closed with the dredging of the waterway, and closing manmade Lockwood Folly Inlet, would improve water flow in the river and help reduce a pollution problem that has led to frequent closure of the river mainly because of pollution from stormwater runoff and septic tank leachate.

The limited-scope computer model study conducted over the past year and a half didn't answer all those questions.

But, said Corps representative Tom Jarrett, "It didn't make a hill of beans of difference" in the amount of water going into the river which channel configuration was used in the model, said Corps representatives Tom Jarrett.

Said Project Coordinator Michael Wutkowski, "We just couldn't get any more water going into the Lockwood Folly River no matter what we tried."

When the model used a small channel around Sheep Island into Eastern Channel, the water wanted to go straight instead of making the turn.

With new Congressional authorization and more money, Jarrett said the Corps could do more extensive studies using more actual field data. If those studies were to show the Corps made a mistake in its dredging operations, it can get authorization "to go back and fix it." (See LOCKWOOD, Page 2-A)



JARRETT

## Board Trims Schools Budget To Match County Allocation

**BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN**  
In some creative financial moves, the Brunswick County Board of Education approved a budget resolution Monday, cutting \$262,541 from the requests it previously submitted to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

The latter board agreed to appropriate only \$7,875,000, including capital outlay, necessitating some budget trimming.

Cuts came from three places. A hoped-for 6 percent salary increase for teachers is expected to be cut to 3 percent by the General Assembly, which would save the county \$125,000.

The contingency fund was reduced from \$45,000 to \$20,000. Rudena Fallon, finance officer, explained that this fund was, indeed, critically inadequate to take care of any possible emergencies throughout the year, but she said the county commissioners would come to the rescue of schools if necessary.

"Also, we always have an unappropriated fund balance," she said. The current balance, for example, is \$800,000, but Fallon said she would know the figure for next year only after closing the books on this fiscal year.

A third cut was made by decreasing an energy line item from \$100,000 to \$10,000.

The school system requires a total budget of \$41

million for a year of operation, including every expenditure from telephone bills to band instruments to insurance, as Fallon said, "the whole basket of fruit."

The local current expense fund is \$9.6 million and the state school fund appropriation \$25.3 million. Federal grants for special programs amount to \$1.9 million and the child nutrition fund appropriation is \$2.5 million. A capital outlay total of \$2.8 million includes three categories: Category I, land and buildings, \$2,045,000; Category II, furniture and equipment, \$442,325; and Category III, motor vehicles, \$130,000.

Also included is computer hardware, a special project, costing \$250,000, that will put computers in every county school. Fallon said this item would be funded by the state half-cent sales tax allotted to the schools.

Although the board regretfully shelved plans for construction this year of a new central office in the government center in Bolivia, it set aside \$550,000 in the new capital outlay budget toward the \$1.2 million cost of the office.

Funding of the school system comes from several sources, including the county, state and federal appropriations, the 1/2 cent sales tax, and revenues from the Alcohol Beverage Control store sales.

## Engineers To Begin Dye Tests At Sunset, Calabash

**BY SUSAN USHER**  
An engineering firm working with the towns of Calabash and Sunset Beach on a proposed regional wastewater system is preparing to begin dye and other tests in both areas.

Joseph Tombro, engineer with Powell & Associates, said the firm plans several types of studies in an effort being coordinated with the environmental management, health and shellfish sanitation offices of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, and the Brunswick County Health Department.

Over the next 30 to 40 days, during the height of the tourist season when usage is heaviest, non-toxic fluorescent dyes will be flushed down toilets into septic systems and then used to track the flow of waste from the system, looking for leachate where it may enter the stormwater system, estuaries, currents or may reach the surface. Fluorescent red and fluorescent orange dyes will be used in testing.

The firm also will have a series of approximately 10 groundwater monitoring wells dug 15 to 18 feet deep. The wells will be checked to see if dye is entering the groundwater table. Also, samples will be taken to check for fecal coliform bacteria.

"We're meeting with the county now," said Tombro, in determining where to locate the wells, with sites desired along both waterfront and farther inland. The wells will remain in place approximately six months.

As part of its work for the towns, Powell & Associates is compiling data regarding the need of the proposed system.

Both Calabash and Sunset Beach property owners have offered mixed support for central sewer services, with cost concerns cited as a major factor and some concerns raised regarding the actual need for a system in terms of pollution abatement. Sunset Beach has proposed proceeding with both the sewer system and a system for managing stormwater runoff, another major source of pollution associated with increased density of development.

## Proposed New Zoning Law To Be Discussed By Boards

**BY ERIC CARLSON**  
A proposed ordinance to establish zoning throughout Brunswick County will be discussed at a joint meeting of the county commissioners and the county planning board scheduled for July 6 at 4 p.m.

A single copy of the draft zoning law was presented to the commissioners at their regular meeting Monday night. The ordinance was not discussed and extra copies of the 113-page document were not made available to the commissioners or to the press.

The board agreed to the joint meeting after Commissioner Gene Pinkerton suggested that the commissioners and the planning board "have it explained to us" by County Planner John Harvey. The planning board also will get its first look at the ordinance at the joint meeting.

Commissioners first directed the planning department to draft a zoning law more than two years ago. In February the board gave Harvey 120 days to complete the ordinance, a deadline that passed earlier this month.

The draft ordinance establishes zones for agriculture, residential strip development, low-density residential, high-density residential, commercial low-density and rural industrial areas. Varying usage and lot size requirements are included in each zone.

A map establishing zoning boundaries has yet to be completed, Harvey said Tuesday. The formal zones cannot be drawn until an agreement is reached on what will be allowed in each area.

The agricultural zone is intended to preserve and encourage the continued use of land for agriculture, forest and such open-space purposes as swamps and other wetlands. Scattered commercial and industrial uses are dis-



**PORTABLE SIGNS** like this one at Oak Grove Baptist Church on N.C. 130 would be prohibited outside town limits under a proposed zoning ordinance presented to the county commissioners Monday. There are about 30 such signs along the road between Shallotte and the Holden Beach bridge.

couraged in these areas, although golf courses, campgrounds, clubs, stables and produce stands also would be allowed.

Single-family dwellings in the agricultural zone would be required to have a lot size of five acres with a minimum width of 250 feet.

Residential strip zones are designed for frontage along paved public roads in areas not expected to become part of an urban or suburban area within the next

20 years. Development would be kept at a low density so as to create the least possible friction with abutting agricultural districts. Permitted commercial uses would include home occupations and retail sales of produce grown on premises.

The minimum lot size for dwellings in a residential strip zone would be one acre, with a minimum width of 200 feet.

Low density residential areas are intended for single-

family dwellings in areas with the attributes of a neighborhood. Modular and class A manufactured (mobile) homes also would be allowed.

Class A manufactured homes are defined as those manufactured after July 1, 1976, with minimum dimensions of 22 feet by 20 feet. They would be required to have a continuous permanent masonry foundation or masonry curtain and a poured concrete footer.

In areas with water and sewer service, the required lot size for low density residential zones would be 7,500 square feet with a minimum width of 75 feet. Lots would have to be 20,000 square feet in area and 100 feet wide if located in areas with no water and sewer service.

Medium density residential areas would have a mixture of conventional stick-built construction and class A manufactured housing. The character of these areas would be the same as low density areas, but with somewhat smaller lots of 6,000 square feet and 60 feet wide with water and sewer service.

Heights of buildings in all residential areas would be limited to 35 feet.

Low-density commercial areas would be located primarily in outlying areas adjacent to major thoroughfares with yards and other provisions for reducing conflict with adjacent residential uses. Among the businesses permitted in these zones would be retail stores, service establishments, hotels, motels, boarding houses, eating and drinking establishments, theaters, marinas and filling stations. Dwellings would be allowed only as an adjunct to the primary business usage.

The minimum lot size for low-density commercial

(See ZONING, Page 2-A)