

Hearing Set July 22

A proposed interchange at U.S. 17 Bypass and N.C. 130 would displace a service station and apartment building. Page 7-A.

'Little Dell' Wins 'Jolly Mon'

Local fishing action remains hot, despite record temperatures throughout the South Brunswick Islands. Pages 10-11C.

'It Was Pretty Shabby'

David Clegg protests his replacement on the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority by the county board. Page 12-C.

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

12/31/99 #30
HOAG & SONS BOOK BINDERY
P.O. BOX 162
SPRINGPORT MI 49284

Thirty-First Year, Number 34

North Carolina, Thursday, July 15, 1993

50¢ Per Copy

36 Pages, 3 Sections, 2 Inserts

Wanted ASAP: Just One Slow, Soaking Shower

BY SUSAN USHER

Scattered afternoon thundershowers aren't bringing Brunswick County residents much relief from a steady diet of 90-plus temperatures and a heat index approaching 110 degrees.

The weather—as in hot and dry and ready for a change—is a popular topic of conversation this week, especially for farmers, forest rangers and others whose jobs are affected directly by it.

"We need several days of slow rain that the ground will soak up," said Elon King of Ash, one of the county's largest row crop farmers. He has 1,000 acres planted in soybeans, 400 acres in corn and another 145 and 150 acres in tobacco.

"Rain is the only thing that will help, and it's getting mighty late," he said. "It's already got the corn and it's about got the tobacco and the soybeans are beginning to hurt."

The last rain fields near his home in Ash received was 1.9 inches "Saturday a month ago," while other fields haven't received that much rainfall.

King said that during his 25 years farming, "this is the driest I can remember it being."

Richard Toler, county executive director of the federal ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and County Service) office, said that the crop suffering most right now is corn.

Because Brunswick County had an unusually wet spring, the early corn was set out in the driest places, which are now the areas suffering most from lack of rainfall. The rain is needed before field corn begins tasseling and forming ears—typically early July.

"The time's passing right now and for some corn it is already too late," he said. "It's sort of a double jeopardy. We had too much rain this spring and not enough this summer."

Tobacco, a hot weather crop, is holding up better than other crops such as cabbage, which for some farmers was a total loss. Some tobacco may have stunted growth but Toler said it generally "looks real good under the circumstances."

It's not only dry; it's hot and humid, a combination that increases heat stress on humans, animals and plants as the heat index has topped 100 for more than five consecutive days.

According to meteorologist Lance Escude with the National Weather Service office in Wilmington, temperatures during June and July have been above average and rainfall below average. NWS readings are taken at New Hanover International Airport at Wilmington and don't reflect local variations.

The office logged 3 inches of rain for all of June, compared to an average of 5.68 inches, and so far 1.58 inches of rainfall during July, com-

(See RESIDENTS, Page 2-A)



A RAIN-DRENCHED FLAGMAN with Carolina-Dickerson Construction who identified himself only as "Hobo" signals traffic through the busy U.S. 17-Supply intersection during an afternoon storm Monday. Scattered thunderstorms are bringing little relief from the heat and related lightning has caused a series of wildfires across the area.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Candidates Face No Opposition Yet In South Brunswick Islands Area

Mayors in Leland and Long Beach already face re-election challenges, but that's not the way it's shaping up elsewhere in Brunswick County.

Across the South Brunswick Islands no contests had emerged as of mid-afternoon Tuesday, as filing continues for 66 offices on 19 governing boards. So far no candidates had filed for election to the governing boards of the towns of Calabash, Shallotte or Bolivia or to the Doshier Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees.

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Ocean Isle Beach: Two incumbents have filed at Ocean Isle Beach in the past week, including Mayor Betty Williamson, said Town Clerk Daisy Ivey.

Williamson is seeking election to a fourth term as mayor. Commissioner Bill Benton also filed for re-election.

Holden Beach: At Holden Beach, Mayor Wally Ausley will run again this fall. "The main reason is so many folks have asked me to continue on for another term," said Ausley.

Nobody had filed for any of the five seats on the board of commissioners as of Tuesday afternoon, said Holden Beach Board of Elections Chairman Elizabeth Dameron.

Sunset Beach: Incumbent Councilmen D.G. "Bud" Scramton and Julia Thomas filed for re-election.

Varnamtown: Mayor Judy Galoway has filed for re-election and Chris Lancaster has filed for aldermen. Incumbent Alderman George Ennis Swain filed earlier.

Belville: Mayor Kenneth D. Messer Sr. has filed for re-election.

Leland: Mayor S.L. Doty has filed for re-election, facing challenger Franky Thomas, a former chairman of the Brunswick County Commissioners. Councilmen Sadie Richburg is seeking re-election. Also filing were Lucille Blake, who was appointed in February to the seat vacated by George Yates, and

Jimmy Cooke. Donald T. Sellers filed earlier.

Sandy Creek: Danny Canady has filed for town council.

Leland Sanitary District: Joe Gainey has filed for election. All five seats are available.

Navassa: Longtime Mayor Louis "Bobby" Brown is seeking re-election.

Boiling Spring Lakes: Raymond Hicks has filed for one of the two available seats on the Board of Commissioners.

Southport: Alderman William Crowe has filed for re-election to his Ward I seat, and Mayor Norman Holden is also seeking return office. Phil Joyner filed earlier for the Ward II seat held by Harry W. Gore.

Long Beach: Joan Altman has filed for re-election as mayor, in the face of a challenge from Rupert Riley. Incumbents Danny Leonard and Jeffrie Ensminger also are seeking re-election as commissioners. Frances Allen entered the race earlier.

Yaupon Beach: Jackie Slockett commissioner.

Caswell Beach: William A. Boyd Jr. has filed for re-election.

South Brunswick Sanitary District: Ginger Canady has filed for re-election to one of the three seats available.

Candidates have until noon Aug. 6 to file for office. The filing fee is \$5. The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 2 elections is Oct. 11.

School Board To Appeal For More Funding

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County Commissioners will hear an appeal for more school funding at a meeting with the county school board tentatively set Friday, July 23.

The first step in a negotiation process that could lead to a court settlement, the meeting is expected to begin at 6 p.m. in the Public Assembly Building at the Government Center in Bolivia.

"We'll be glad to listen to them," said Don Warren, chairman of the commissioners. "We're going to look at their request based on the additional information they provide us."

"We want to look at the financial cost to the county of some of their personnel decisions. We want to look at their fund balance and perhaps at last year's audit and perhaps some line items," said Warren.

Looking at a shortfall of more than \$350,000, the Brunswick County Board of Education voted unanimously Monday night to appeal the school's local funding allocation. The school board had asked for a 26 percent increase over the 1992-93 budget, seeking \$9.4 million for operations and \$5.9 million for building and other capital needs.

State law provides a means for local school boards to appeal a county's funding decision if the board concludes that the allocation is not

sufficient to operate the school system, as the county school board decided Monday night. Its a process that could—though few have—ended up in Superior Court.

"Given the growth of the county and the demands for excellence in education—and rightly so—the county commissioners need to look at this further," said Peterson.

"There are a lot of demands for their money, but none so important as education. Hopefully, they'll see it the same way."

In June county commissioners granted a 5 percent school budget increase at a time when county departments were being asked to trim their operating budgets by a similar amount. The schools received \$7.8 million for operating expenses and \$576,000 for capital projects, plus a special \$1 million appropriation for expanding computer/technology use in the school system.

In revising its budget, the school board still came up short on the money needed to meet payroll expenses, said Baxter. The county's request had been based on a 2 percent state teachers' salary increase, which would be matched for locally-paid employed, and instead the N.C. General Assembly is expected to approve a 3 percent salary increase, along with increases for school system administrators. The state pays (See SCHOOL, Page 2-A)

Process Can Lead To Court

How can the school board appeal its budget?

The process provided by the North Carolina General Assembly reflects the local board of education's unique status in relation to the county board of commissioners, school board attorney Glen Peterson said Tuesday. A regular department of county government doesn't have access to this remedy.

"Education is so important and the school board has a separate constituency and is composed of elected officials, so the legislature set up this special procedure," Peterson said.

"It does give them a second chance to negotiate."

If a school board determines that its local funding isn't sufficient to operate the school system—as the Brunswick County Board of Education did Monday—it has the right to appeal that funding decision in a process that could, but rarely has, end up in Superior Court.

At a meeting that usually would be held within seven days (that requirement was waived because it would be impossible to meet), the two boards are directed to make a "good faith effort to reach agreement" on school system funding. The school budget is to be "considered carefully and judiciously."

If after that process of negotiation the two boards cannot agree, either party can refer the matter, within three days, to the Brunswick County Clerk of Superior Court for arbitration.

The clerk—in this case Diana Morgan—may choose to hear the matter and render a decision, or decide it cannot be arbitrated and transfer it to Superior Court. She has 10 days in which to act.

If the clerk hears the matter and makes a decision, then either party has 10 days in which to appeal that decision to Superior Court—and could ask for a jury trial on the issues of fact at the next jury term.

"It takes precedence over all other court business," said Peterson.

Hewett Is Chosen America's Top DARE Educator

BY ERIC CARLSON

Lt. Ronald Hewett, the Brunswick County sheriff's deputy who brought the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program into local classrooms, was voted the top DARE officer in America by its 4,000-member national association last week.

Recently voted North Carolina's DARE officer of the year, Hewett was invited to attend the sixth annual National DARE Officers Association conference in Las Vegas, Nev., July 6-9. There he learned that the association's nine-member board of directors had voted unanimously to select him as its fourth DARE Officer of the Year.

"I was totally surprised and shocked and honored," Hewett said Monday. "What can a country guy say? I was overwhelmed. It's probably one of the greatest honors of my life."

Hewett was selected from among nominees from 50 state association chapters representing more than 4,000 DARE officers. His coordination of the program and its accomplishments were reviewed by the national board of directors, including state police officers, county sheriff's departments and bureaus of investigation from eight states.

The board also reviewed letters from school children, local newspaper accounts of his activities and comments from state and local law enforcement officials and educators, Hewett said. "One of the things they were impressed with was the way I try to make DARE gradu-

ations very special for the children," Hewett said. Hewett said he gave an acceptance speech at the conference and attended several workshops aimed at improving local DARE programs. Among the speakers who welcomed the group were Nevada Governor Bob Miller, U.S. Senator Harry Reid and Los Angeles Police Chief Willie Williams. "It got me inspired," Hewett said. "I was ready to come back and start making a difference in children's lives."

This year's conference marked the 10th anniversary of the DARE program, which was started by the Los Angeles Police Department in 1983 and soon became the world's largest drug education program. Local DARE programs were brought to North Carolina schools in 1987. Hewett started the Brunswick County DARE program in 1990.

"I want to thank Sheriff John Carr Davis for having the foresight to see how effective the DARE program could be," Hewett said. "I would also thank the school board. Without them, I would never have gotten the funding to make it possible."

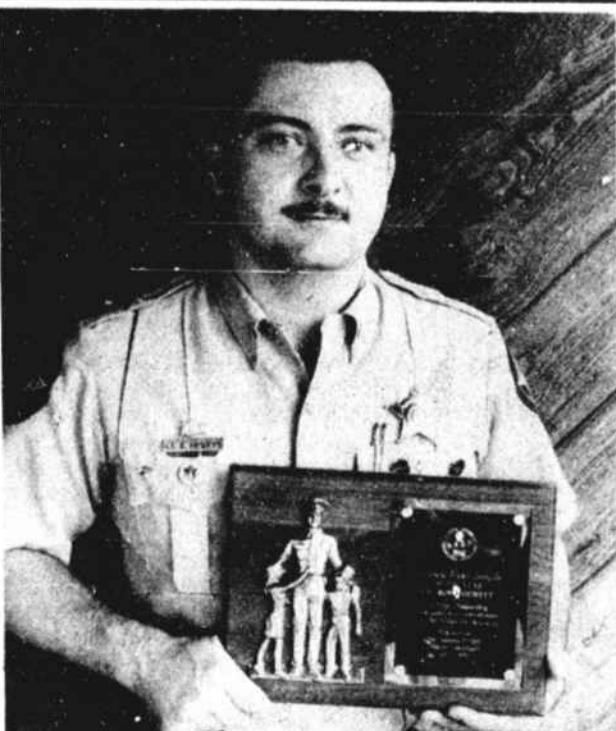
Davis said Tuesday that he was "real proud" of Hewett for winning the award and for "getting the pro-

gram going" in Brunswick County. "I guess it speaks good for me because it's my job to fill the position, and he was the right person in the right job," the sheriff said.

The DARE program uses a series of classroom lessons led by police officers to teach elementary school children about the dangers of alcohol, drugs, violence and gang activity. It offers practical methods of avoiding unwanted peer pressure by building a child's self-esteem. It currently is taught in 250,000 classrooms in 5,200 cities throughout the United States. Programs also have been started in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Costa Rica and Brazil.

A recent Gallup survey released at the Las Vegas conference indicates that more than 90 percent of students who complete the DARE program believe it helps them avoid drugs and alcohol while increasing self confidence. The survey of 632 DARE graduates, age 11-18, found that 93 percent said they had never tried marijuana, cocaine, heroin, crack cocaine or inhalants, while 75 percent had never tried a cigarette and 70 percent had not tried alcohol.

Hired by the Holden Beach Police Department in 1983 as North Carolina's youngest police officer, Hewett, 30, has been with the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department since 1983. Promoted to lieutenant in 1990, Hewett has worked as a patrol deputy, narcotics investigator, bailiff and civil officer.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

LT. RONALD HEWETT of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department displays a plaque commemorating his selection as National Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Officer of the Year.