

# The State Port

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## County beaches 'golden'

Brunswick County, in the throes of 15.6-percent unemployment as reported by the state's Employment Security Commission, nevertheless can boast of having five of the richest towns in the Tar Heel State.

That information comes in a "Rich Town, Poor Town" article that appeared in the July 26 edition of *The Winston-Salem Journal*. Bald Head Island, Caswell Beach, Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach are among the 25 "richest" North Carolina communities in terms of median household income; no Brunswick County town is among the 25 counted as the state's "poorest". Information was provided by the Census Bureau.

Median income means that half the households make less and half make more than the reported figure.

Bald Head Island ranks third in the state with a median income of \$65,384. Caswell Beach ranks fifth with a median income of \$51,379. Others are Sunset Beach, \$49,583 (ninth); Holden Beach, \$44,000 (15th); and Ocean Isle Beach, \$40,278 (19th).

The state's richest community, according to the *Journal* article, is Biltmore Forest (pop. 1,300; median income \$77,064). Nelson Smith, former city manager of Southport, is administrator of that community located just south of Asheville.

Smith is quoted in the newspaper article, and admits that even he is overwhelmed by the prosperous community he oversees.

"No, I don't live here," Smith told the reporter. "They'd have to raise my salary."



As the heat goes on, so does the water practice field where Cougar footballers turned out for their first practice Saturday. Photo by Jim Harper

## County ALS 'deficiencies' cause alarm

By Holly Edwards  
County Editor

Brunswick County's advanced life-support program was suspended effective midnight Monday, August 3, because of numerous deficiencies in the ALS training program and recordkeeping at Brunswick Community College.

Until ALS certification can be verified for all paid and volunteer rescue workers in the county, use of intravenous medications and defibrillators (electronic devices used to revive heart attack victims) by emergency rescue workers will be suspended.

County medical director A. L. Johnson suspended operation of the ALS program until "an exhaustive investigation into the exact nature and extent of the deficiencies" can be conducted. However, Johnson said there are about 14 emergency medical technicians in the county who have proper certification and will probably be able to continue the ALS program in the near future. Other EMTs may have to start over or repeat certain aspects of their ALS training.

The training coordinator at Brunswick Community College "grossly misled" county emergency medical service officials, and led them to believe that the state board of medical examiners had approved things it had not, Johnson said in a letter to Bob Bailey, chief of the state EMS office.

*'It is ultimately the teacher's responsibility to keep up with the paperwork. It's not Brunswick County's fault. I think the biggest problem would have been if nothing were done about it.'*

David Clegg  
County manager

County manager/attorney David Clegg said the training coordinator has been fired by Brunswick Community College. Most of the problems centered around a lack of recordkeeping, he said. The paperwork showing that EMTs had received proper training and experience in using advanced lifesaving equipment was simply not being processed.

"It is ultimately the teacher's responsibility to keep up with the paperwork," Clegg said. "It's not See ALS alarm, page 8"

## County opens zoning review

By Holly Edwards  
County Editor

Brunswick County commissioners and county planning board members have begun holding semi-monthly workshops to review and revise a proposed countywide zoning ordinance.

Planning director John Harvey pointed out that the planning board spent a full year reviewing the subdivision ordinance line by line before it was ready for public debate and commissioners' consideration.

Zoning workshops will be held on the first and third Monday of each month at 4 p.m. in the public assembly building at the county government center near Bolivia. The next workshop is scheduled August 17.

While most commissioners say they favor zoning, the implications of land use regulation seemed to surface Monday afternoon when Harvey indicated the proposed ordinance would not allow people to own less than five acres of land in agricultural zones, which comprise most of the county.

"So, if I want to give my son some land left of the swamp, I have to give him five acres?" commissioners' chairman Kelly Holden asked Harvey.

Harvey said he considered agricultural zones to be, in some respects, environmental conservation zones. But, Harvey stressed, in the residential strip zones -- which he said he likes to refer to as the "good ol' down home southern country living zone" -- property could be broken down into See Zoning, page 8

## Library would bear elder Barbee name

By Holly Edwards  
County Editor

A front-page story in last week's *StatePort Pilot* reported that local businessman Gib Barbee said he might withdraw his offer to donate \$65,000 worth of property to the Oak Island Library Boosters if his name does not appear in the name of the library branch. In fact, Barbee does not want to name the library after himself but after his father, G. V. Barbee.

Barbee would like to name the library the "G. V. Barbee Branch" of the Brunswick County Library system to honor his father, who was one of the first developers of Oak Island, said library board and Oak Island Library Boosters member Ann Hines.

"Gib Barbee has given many donations to local organizations, including churches, and nobody has known about it," Hines said.

"He has been a very philanthropic person in the past."

When the Oak Island Library Boosters began raising money nearly a year and a half ago, members agreed to allow the largest individual donor to name the library branch, Hines said. Since then, the county has taken over the library system, and the naming of library branches is now controlled by the county library board. The board is expected to discuss naming of the library during its next meeting on Monday, August 10.

A total of \$120,000 worth of property is at stake in the naming of the Oak Island library branch because Barbee's donation is inherently tied to a United Carolina Bank offer of \$55,000 worth of property on the same block. If Barbee is not allowed to name the library in honor of his father, he has indicated he will withdraw his offer, Hines said.

## Absenteeism policy is adopted

By Marybeth Bianchi  
Feature Editor

This fall Brunswick County schools will be getting tough on kids who don't come to class.

The board of education Monday night approved a policy that limits student absences to ten days. In previous years, students were allowed to

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miss up to 20 days of school.

The new policy does give students an opportunity to erase absences by making up the work they missed. However, when a student is unlawfully absent for more than ten consecutive days, he or she will no longer be enrolled in school.

"We hope this will improve attendance," assistant superintendent Mose Lewis told the board of education. Earlier in the meeting, chairman Donna Baxter pointed out that out of 131 school districts in the state Brunswick County was ranked 125th in attendance.

Each school may enforce the new attendance policy differently.

For example, South Brunswick High School, which is implementing the Comprehensive Management Program, will require students to work with their teachers to make up any class work missed during the first three absences. On the fourth absence, the student must stay after school to make up the work on an hour-for-

hour basis, within five days of the absence. When the work is made up on time, the fourth day absence will be erased. After five absences, students get ten days to make up their work. The policy also states that more than ten days of non-made-up work will cause a student to fail the course for the year.

At West Brunswick, students will be allowed ten absences in each class. On the 11th and subsequent absences, the student will be required to make up all the time and work after school from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Students who do not make up the work won't receive credit for the class.

"We have to have them there if we're going to teach them," West Brunswick principal Ed Lemon said.

### Sales tax totals \$706,645

Collection of the local-option sales and use tax in Brunswick County totaled \$706,645 during June, a report from the N.C. Department of Revenue indicates.

The total will be added to April and May collections to be returned to Brunswick County and municipal governments on a

### OUTSIDE



### Forecast

The forecast calls for partly cloudy skies Thursday through Saturday with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs will be in the 80s, lows in the 70s. The month-long forecast calls for temperatures below normal for August.

### Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, AUGUST 6	LOW
2:44 a.m.	8:53 a.m.	
3:35 p.m.	9:44 p.m.	
	FRIDAY, AUGUST 7	
3:44 a.m.	9:53 a.m.	
4:35 p.m.	10:44 p.m.	
	SATURDAY, AUGUST 8	
4:42 a.m.	10:49 a.m.	
5:31 p.m.	11:40 p.m.	
	SUNDAY, AUGUST 9	
5:38 a.m.	11:44 a.m.	
6:21 p.m.	12:31 p.m.	
	MONDAY, AUGUST 10	
6:30 a.m.	12:31 a.m.	
7:11 p.m.	12:33 p.m.	
	TUESDAY, AUGUST 11	
7:16 a.m.	1:15 a.m.	
7:49 p.m.	1:17 p.m.	
	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12	
7:58 a.m.	1:56 a.m.	
8:28 p.m.	2:01 p.m.	

The following adjustments should be made:  
Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -4.