



THE CHAMPIONS



Photo by Jim Harper

The State 2A high school football championship was firmly in the grasp of West Brunswick Trojans as they stopped the vaunted Maiden Blue Devil ground attack on Saturday and won 14-6

Impact could be great

CP&L has no answer for questions of layoff

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Carolina Power and Light Co. president William Cavanaugh, III, was "out of town" and no other manager was permitted to comment early this week on planned worker reductions at the Brunswick plant and other CP&L facilities.

Company layoffs have been rumored for some time and an interview with Cavanaugh was sought to find out if local layoffs or firings were imminent.

Head CP&L public relations person Wade Pridgen said Cavanaugh was out of town and said that acting Brunswick manager Dick Morgan was not permitted to discuss such matters with the press.

"I guess you're stuck with me," said Pridgen.

Pridgen said CP&L was planning to reduce the number of contract employees at its three nuclear plants and in Raleigh headquarters but said the plan was still under development.

Pridgen said that 3,100 contract workers are employed by CP&L at Brunswick, Harris and Robinson plants, as well as in Raleigh. Half of that number -- about 1,500 -- work at Brunswick on plant-related projects and another 600 are employed at the site in company-wide business.

Contract workers -- not directly employed by CP&L -- at Brunswick are roughly divided into three groups: those in permanent arrangements such as security and janitorial; those in mid-term arrangements that may be years-long, but are finite; and those employed in short-term, specific outage tasks.

Long Beach board approves undergrounding assessment

By Amitabh Pal
Municipal Editor

Long Beach commissioners gave the go-ahead Tuesday night for the first phase of undergrounding electric lines in the town, authorizing a \$1.25 per-front-foot assessment for property owners.

The project undertaken by Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) will include the Beach Drive sections from 58th Street SE to 46th Place East, 16th Place East to Middleton Street, and Middleton Street to 17th Place West.

Councilman Danny Leonard, who introduced the motion, said the \$1.25 rate is a "compromise figure so that everybody will be assessed the same amount."

Councilman Horace Collier commented that the figure meant the cost per lot would be about \$200, taking into account the \$128.75 cost of putting service lines underground.

BEMC district manager Don Hughes said earlier that in any new development the charge would be the same that BEMC had proposed to the town -- \$1.15 per front foot for a single-phase line and \$3.45 for a three-phase line.

In other action, the council put \$53,000 received from the fire department into a capital reserve fund and budgeted \$3,000 for a consultant to assess the need for a new fire building and equipment.

Fire chief Tim Pittman had proposed that the \$53,000 be used to pay off installments on an existing fire truck, and the money thus saved be used to build a new station near Middleton Street.

The council vote was 3-3, with mayor Joan Altman breaking the tie in favor of town manager Tim Johnson's recommendation to hire a

consultant. Some council members expressed concern at spending \$3,000 for a consultant.

"If we were a town of 100,000 we would be justified in hiring a consultant at \$450 per day," said councilman David Durr.

"I really don't know anyone in town who has the expertise," responded councilman Bill Easley.

Altman, breaking the deadlock, said the fire department acted in good faith when it turned over the money and the council needs to show its support.

The council tabled a proposed Poly-cart ordinance that provided no penalty for leaving carts in the right-of-way.

"At our next meeting we do something about it," Leonard said. "We fix it or forget about it."

Brunswick County schools

Air quality issue still not clear

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

While a concerned teacher thanked the Brunswick County Board of Education for addressing air quality problems at Lincoln Primary School, a concerned parent demanded more than "just a quick fix" and handed the board a stack of medical bills.

Jean Speight, whose five-year-old son reportedly has been plagued by a variety of ailments ranging from throat, sinus and ear infections to

acute bronchitis and pneumonia, gave the board \$985 worth of doctor bills and said, "I expect payment before you move into your new office."

Beth Crawford, the second grade teacher whose concern about her students' recurring allergy and asthma problems prompted her to call state and local officials to check into ventilation problems at the school, seemed pleased with the action being taken by the board of education. However, she said she is

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"We need to be looking at all the avenues. We will not be content to take just one approach to it. We are intent on pursuing this to get the problem resolved."

Dr. Ralph Johnston
School superintendent

Opinions vary on new board

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

While Brunswick County's former board of commissioners "rubber stamped" decisions with little debate or discussion, the new board will be marked by disagreement and conflict of opinions, predicted newly elected commissioners chairman Don Warren.

"I saw some dissent on the board and I think you'll see it again," Warren declared after the board's first official meeting last Monday.

Democrats now hold the majority on the board with new members Wayland Vereen, Tom Rabon, Sr., and Warren. Republicans Donald Shaw and Jerry Jones served on the last board.

Although Warren said he anticipated a more dissonant board, he added quickly that conflict is not necessarily a bad thing. He said zoning would

be discussed "continuously."

"Sometimes it can be healthy," he said. "That's why the Democrats got elected, to bring some new ideas to the board."

Shaw also predicted the board would have disagreements, and that zoning would be a "hot issue."

"I hate to say this, but it seems like everything we done (the new commissioners) don't like," he said. "But if they want to come in and rework some things, I welcome the opportunity to work with them."

Jones agreed that the new organization of the board could potentially lead to discord, but said he believed the commissioners could work together as long as they communicate and exchange ideas. He said zoning would work itself out in time, and that he would not mind making changes in the

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Gun confiscated at school

A .25-caliber pistol was confiscated Monday from a South Brunswick Middle School student and several students have been suspended in connection with the incident.

Because the individuals involved are juveniles, neither principal Les Tubb nor Boiling Spring Lakes police chief James Vaughan would reveal their names or say much about the incident.

Tubb said he has been in contact with the students' parents and is following normal school policy dealing with the possession of a weapon on campus, which includes notifying local law enforcement officials.

Although Tubb was reluctant to comment, he did say the gun possession had nothing to do with anything going on at the school.

Vaughan said the police will work with the school system to see whether or not any charges are filed against the juveniles.

"We just want to cooperate with the school following up on their procedures," Vaughan said.

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The forecast calls for rain on Thursday, followed by clearing Friday and becoming partly cloudy Saturday. Highs are expected to be in the low-to-mid-60s Thursday and Friday and upper 50s Saturday; lows will range downward from 52 to about 47 through the period.

Tide table

| HIGH | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 | LOW |
|-----------|------------------------|------------|
| 1:47 a.m. | | 7:54 a.m. |
| 2:01 p.m. | | 8:18 p.m. |
| HIGH | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 | LOW |
| 2:49 a.m. | | 12:46 a.m. |
| 3:02 p.m. | | 1:08 p.m. |
| HIGH | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 | LOW |
| 3:50 a.m. | | 10:01 a.m. |
| 4:01 p.m. | | 10:14 p.m. |
| HIGH | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 | LOW |
| 4:48 a.m. | | 11:01 a.m. |
| 5:01 p.m. | | 11:07 p.m. |
| HIGH | MONDAY, DECEMBER 21 | LOW |
| 5:43 a.m. | | 11:52 a.m. |
| 5:52 p.m. | | 11:59 p.m. |
| HIGH | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 | LOW |
| 6:34 a.m. | | ----- a.m. |
| 6:43 p.m. | | 12:42 p.m. |
| HIGH | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 | LOW |
| 7:22 a.m. | | 12:47 a.m. |
| 7:29 p.m. | | 1:29 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 -8.