



Southport firefighters poured water onto the Hemby home on River Drive in an attempt to bring the blaze under control. But strong winds off the river made that task impossible and attention of firemen was redirected toward saving the structure next door. No injuries were reported.

Photo by Ed Harper

Accommodations tax

Beach tourism fare helps pay added cost

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

Promoting tourism is more than placing a flashy ad in a national publication to draw visitors to the area. It's also restoring beach dunes, paying lifeguards, helping the rescue squad buy a new vehicle and making sure garbage is collected twice a week in the summer.

Until recently, area towns picked up the tab for those bills with money from their general fund. But one by one, each has requested from the General Assembly that the tourists who help create the need for those additional services share in the cost of providing them.

The state allows towns to impose a See 'Fare', page 6



Taxing Tourists Benefits Area

Accommodations Tax Receipts

Long Beach	\$127,000
Caswell Beach	\$40,000
Southport	\$26,238
Yaupon Beach	\$10,000

Tomlinson is 'interim' CRC chair

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Southport resident Eugene B. Tomlinson, appointed last week to head the Coastal Resources Commission on an "interim" basis, said Monday he'd like to continue leading the 15-member group which establishes policy for protecting the natural resources of the coast.

Tomlinson was asked last week by Jonathan Howes, new head of the N. C. Department of Environmental Health and Natural Resources for the Hunt administration, to be "interim" chairman when chairman James B. Harrington resigned.

Tomlinson said there was no discussion of how long the interim might be, but he said that in a meeting with Howes later last week he and his nominal boss saw "eye to eye" on the direction the CRC should be headed.

"We need to turn the perception of the commission around," Tomlinson said Monday. "We want to get away from the idea that we're an austere group making rules that tell people what they should not do."

"We should be a helpful as well as See CRC chair, page 6

'General excellence' award presented *Pilot*

The *State Port Pilot's* "well-written editorial content, excellent graphics, design, photos and press work" led the N. C. Press Association to award the newspaper, for the second consecutive year and third time in four years, the top prize in the General Excellence category for its division.

The *Pilot* was competing against other weekly newspapers with circulations over 3,500. In addition to the General Excellence award, the paper took second place in the Editorial Page category and third place for Best Use of Photographs.

"WOW!" exclaimed judge Joseph V. Gill from the *Cornwall Local* in Cornwall, N. Y. "What a presentation. The entire staff of the *Pilot* should take a bow for one of the best, if not the best, community papers that I have seen."

Gill said the paper contains everything the reader could possibly want to know, and called the classified section "outstanding."

Feature editor Marybeth Bianchi took home the second-place award in the Best Photo Page category for her work on the "Turtle Watch" story published last August.

Staff writer Jim Harper won a third-place award in the Investigative Reporting category for his story entitled "CP&L knew about its trouble five years ago". The story, published last spring, revealed that Carolina Power & Light Co. had known since early 1987 about the faulty wall bolts that forced the utility to close last April.

"All of us here at the *Pilot* are very pleased that we won five awards at the NCPA Press Institute in Chapel Hill last week," said publisher James M. Harper Jr. "We are particularly proud that we were first-place winner in the General Excellence category, which is the most coveted award in the community newspaper division."

Board registers concern

Pay hikes a dirty deed?

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Some employees have received pay raises of up to 15 percent in the Brunswick County Register of Deeds office.

To give out pay increases to ten of his fellow workers, registrar Robert J. Robinson used money from salaries for two vacant positions that remain

unfilled.

But can the employees keep those salaries come budget time in June without raising the county's tax rate?

That's the question several commissioners had for county manager David Clegg at Monday's meeting. The board was also curious as to how one department head was able to take matters into his own hands.

Robinson says he didn't act single-

handed, that he recommended to the personnel office that his employees each receive a \$1,750 pay increase.

"It took three signatures to give it to them," said Robinson. "The raises they got, I only recommended."

Commissioner Donald Shaw said the increases represent "more than generous raises" for the deeds office staff, which chose not to participate in a county personnel study performed last year by an outside consultant.

Other county employees received up to a five-percent, across-the-board pay increase for the 1992-93 fiscal year. The sheriff's department also didn't participate in the David M. Griffith and Associates study but agreed to a pay increase offered by commissioners.

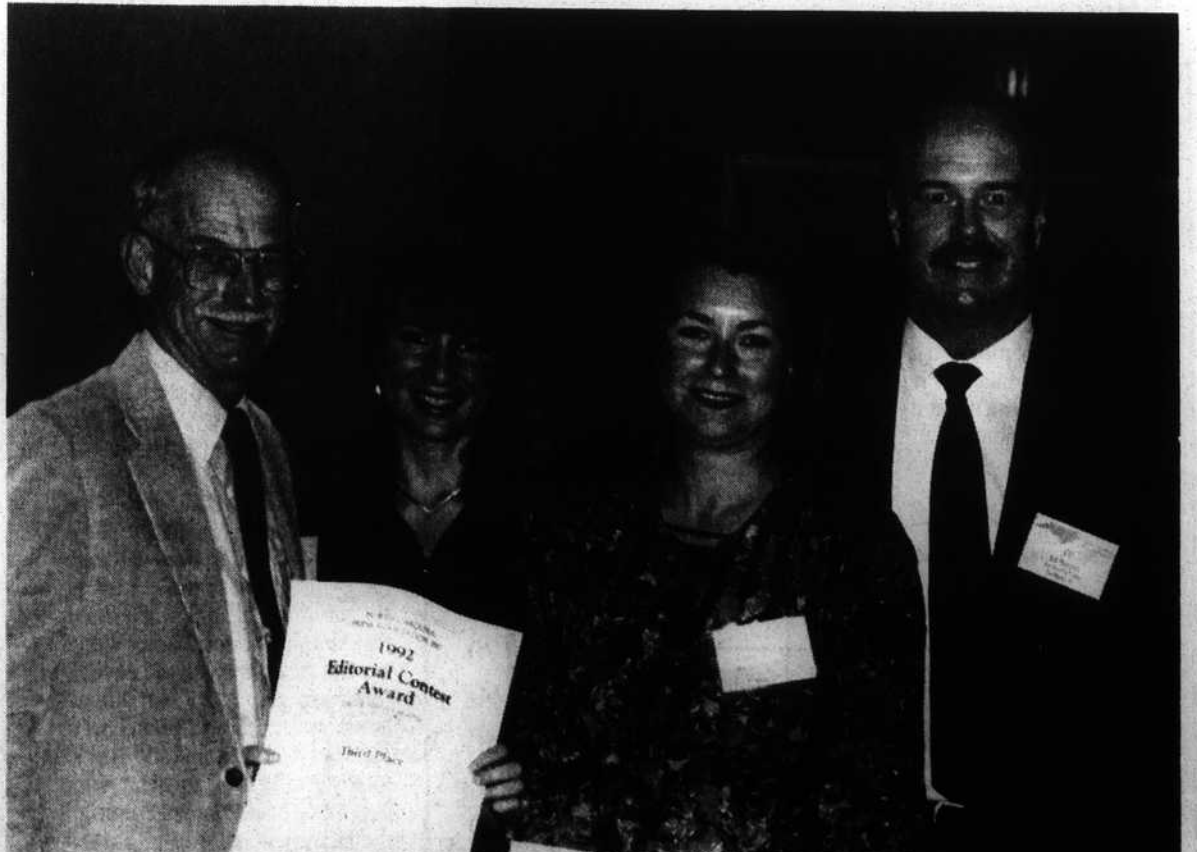
"The sheriff was happy to get his," said Shaw. "We're just talking about one person doing his own thing."

Robinson's salary, set by the state, stands at \$51,424 per year. His pay did not increase, according to figures released by Brunswick County personnel director Starie Grissett.

According to the list, Robinson gave ten employees a \$1,750-per-year increase. Two who were on probationary status will end up making \$2,322 more this year.

For those at the top of the scale, earning from \$21,000 to \$22,000 per year, the money represents a 7.8-per-

See Dirty deed, page 6



The *State Port Pilot* received five awards, including the top prize for General Excellence, last Thursday at the annual N. C. Press Association awards program held in Chapel Hill. Attending the

ceremony were (from left) staff writer Jim Harper, municipal editor Holly Edwards, feature editor Marybeth Bianchi and editor Ed Harper. The first place award was the third in four years.

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for mostly sunny skies on Thursday with high temperatures in the 50s. Clouds will move in on Friday, then increase on Saturday with a chance of rain. By Sunday, expect rain with highs in the 50s and lows in the 40s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4	LOW
5:25 a.m.		11:50 a.m.
5:47 p.m.		----- p.m.
	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5	
6:19 a.m.		12:00 a.m.
6:43 p.m.		12:42 p.m.
	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6	
7:11 a.m.		12:54 a.m.
7:37 p.m.		1:30 p.m.
	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7	
8:00 a.m.		1:46 a.m.
8:29 p.m.		2:17 p.m.
	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8	
8:51 a.m.		2:37 a.m.
9:21 p.m.		3:04 p.m.
	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9	
9:40 a.m.		3:28 a.m.
10:13 p.m.		3:51 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10	
10:29 a.m.		4:20 a.m.
11:08 p.m.		4:41 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.