

# The State Port

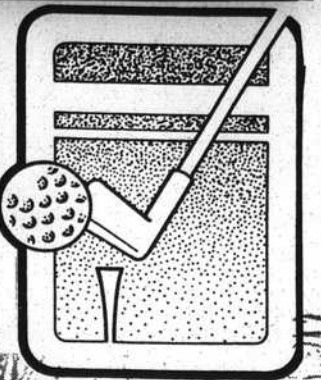
# PILOT

INSIDE

Champions, p. 14

Classifieds, p. 1C

Support-Oak Island's most complete listing of available real estate properties



## Beach tax rate could stay same

By Holly Edwards  
Municipal Editor

Long Beach residents will not see a tax increase this year if council members accept the \$4.2-million budget proposal presented to them Friday by town manager Tim Johnson.

The proposal calls for the tax rate to remain at 41 cents per \$100 of property valuation. However, Johnson said residents would pay 35 cents more per month for garbage collection and \$1 more per month for their basic water charge in order to keep the water and solid waste funds completely self-sufficient.

"Long Beach is coming out smelling like a rose compared to the 15-to-20-cent tax hikes in some municipalities," he said. "And our (water and trash collection) costs are still one hell of a bargain."

The first workshop on the budget proposal will be scheduled at the next

See Tax, page 6

*'Long Beach is coming out smelling like a rose.... And our (water and trash collection) costs are still one hell of a bargain.'*

Tim Johnson  
Long Beach manager



Photo by Jim Harper  
City workers got a bird's-eye view of the waterfront last week as they prepared to replace the damaged wind-vane atop the weather tower on the Garrison. The device that weathered the March 13 storm suffered in a later entanglement with a flag.

## CP&L moving full steam ahead

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

"We're trundling right along," Roy Anderson said Monday. "I guess that Wednesday we'll request permission from the NRC to proceed up in powering from 15 to 35 percent."

The power ascension the Brunswick nuclear plant vice-president spoke of is a significant step in the restart of Brunswick's Unit 2. At that point testing of emergency equipment is complete and "rolling the turbine" -- actually generating electricity for use outside the plant -- will begin.

It is also the point at which Carolina Power and Light Co. plans to take stock, and possibly to shut down the entire unit operation for up to 11 days for any necessary repairs.

On Monday Anderson wasn't talking about anything that sounded like a

*'When you've been shut down for a year, time is not of the essence. Precision is of the essence.'*

Roy Anderson

shut-down matter. Some equipment hadn't performed properly and was being worked on, but leakage of steam and water had been minimal.

Within the primary containment vessel -- the dry well -- where five gallons of water per minute is permis-

sible, pumps were recording leakage of only about a half-gallon.

Live inspection of the dry well was expected Tuesday, and thereafter the plant staff would ask Nuclear Regulatory Commission permission to proceed with powering up.

Once the turbine is activated, General Electric personnel are on hand to determine whether it needs to be shut down for rebalancing.

Anderson said his staff is about 24 hours behind a schedule mapped out before restart was approved by the NRC on April 27, but emphasized that he is expecting work to proceed "safely, orderly and with discipline, and that will be fine with me. Right now I want accuracy."

"When you've been shut down for a year, time is not of the essence," he

See CP&L, page 6

## Occupancies exceed permit

# Overused beach septic systems to be reviewed

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

County health inspectors are planning an attack on beach homes that exceed their septic tank limits.

A new notice of violation form was approved by the Brunswick County Board of Health Monday to prepare for the crack-down on overworked sewer systems frequently found along the coast.

Overuse of tanks where there is no public sewer system is blamed for groundwater contamination and pollution of estuarine waters and shellfish nursery areas. Ocean Isle Beach is the only Brunswick County island that has sewer lines.

The new violation form leaves room

*Homeowners can apply for permits to accommodate four persons per bedroom and install larger septic tanks, but most don't because smaller lots can't support such systems*

for inspectors to write out what needs to be corrected within 60 days so the homeowner can avoid state fines, criminal penalties or having the sewer permit revoked or suspended.

Health employees recently took printed rental brochures and vacation guides listing homes along Brunswick

County's beaches and compared them with actual septic tank permits on file.

"The number in violation probably exceeds 75 percent," said Andrew Robinson, environmental health supervisor.

Robinson thumbed through a rental See Septic, page 6

## Municipality collections noted

# County owed \$1.5 mil, but collection rate up

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Property owners still owe the county more than \$1.5 million in 1992 delinquent taxes.

However, the current collection rate already exceeds that of a year ago.

The Brunswick County Tax Department has collected \$27.9 million, or 94.6 percent of taxes due. Property

owners are late in paying \$1,596,411, said tax collector Nancy Moore.

"I want to get to 95 percent," she said. "I'm hoping we're going to get above that."

Only 92.8 percent of taxes due had been paid as of April 30, 1992. That figure increased to 94.1 percent by June 30.

Most area towns are also experiencing good collection rates with Caswell Beach leading the way at 100 percent. Speculation was that with tougher economic conditions and a 16-percent county unemployment rate, funds would trickle in more slowly.

Other towns reporting are: Yaupon Beach, 98 percent; Long Beach, 94.5 percent; Southport, 88.4 percent; Boiling Spring Lakes, 94 percent; and Leland, 93.5 percent.

Last year's lower rate for the county is attributed to a controversial change in assessment methods for motor vehicles.

Approximately 4,500 residents were billed not only for 1991 taxes, but were also fined \$100 for failing to list their vehicles as required on tax forms. Some appealed and won their cases when cars and trucks were found registered on either a spouse's or relative's listing.

From those notices the county col- See Owed, page 6

1992 Tax Collection Rates	
COLLECTOR	% PAID
Brunswick County	94.6
Long Beach	94.5
Caswell Beach	100
Yaupon Beach	98
Southport	88.4
Boiling Spring Lakes	94
Leland	93.5

## Ola Lewis is named to court seat

A Boiling Spring Lakes woman on Tuesday became the state's fifth black female District Court judge.

Ola Lewis, 27, was officially appointed by governor Jim Hunt to fill the vacancy in the 13th Judicial District, which includes Brunswick, Bladen and Columbus counties.

She will assume the seat on May 24, filling the position created when D. Jack Hooks Jr. was promoted to replace Superior Court judge Giles R.

See Lewis, page 6

# Retirees 'just love this place'

Retired newcomers to Brunswick County represent a good business opportunity for the medical community, says a geography professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

In a study of seven South Atlantic coastal counties that experienced rapid growth in the number of transplanted retirees during the 1970s and '80s, Dr. D. Gordon Bennett found that these retirees view inadequate specialized medical services and facilities as the major quality of life problem. The study was funded by a \$52,042 grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Brunswick and Carteret were the North Carolina counties included in the study. The other five South Atlantic counties were Horry and Beaufort in South Carolina, Glynn in Georgia, and Flagler and Indian River in Florida. Bennett recently presented a paper about the study at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Atlanta.

During the 1980s, the 65-and-older population in Brunswick

County grew by 95 percent; in Carteret, by 58 percent. North Carolina's 65-and-older population grew by 33 percent.

In these counties, the demand exists for a range of medical services, including general practitioners, cardiologists and life-care communities. With a third or more of retirees in Brunswick and Carteret counties over the age of 70 and another third of the men in their late 60s, the demand for medical care will increase, Bennett said.

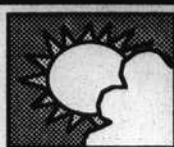
Many of these retired newcomers have good health insurance and Medicare, so they represent a good business opportunity for the medical community, he said.

In Beaufort County, S. C., a group of retirees took it upon themselves to explore the feasibility of developing their life-care facility.

"That shows the demand," Bennett said. Vero Beach, Fla., which is in Indian River County, had the best

See Retirees, page 6

## OUTSIDE



### Forecast

The extended forecast for Thursday through Saturday calls for variably cloudy skies, with high temperatures in the 80s and lows in the 60s. Thunderstorms are possible throughout the period.

### Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MAY 13	LOW
2:18 a.m.		8:30 a.m.
2:49 p.m.		8:49 p.m.
	FRIDAY, MAY 14	
3:11 a.m.		9:22 a.m.
3:41 p.m.		9:47 p.m.
	SATURDAY, MAY 15	
4:03 a.m.		10:13 a.m.
4:32 p.m.		10:42 p.m.
	SUNDAY, MAY 16	
4:52 a.m.		11:00 a.m.
5:19 p.m.		11:35 p.m.
	MONDAY, MAY 17	
5:40 a.m.		11:48 a.m.
6:07 p.m.		----- p.m.
	TUESDAY, MAY 18	
6:26 a.m.		12:25 a.m.
6:49 p.m.		12:31 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, MAY 19	
7:11 a.m.		1:10 a.m.
7:32 p.m.		1:14 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.