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Southport, N.C.'s most complete listing of available real estate properties



Photo by Jim Harper

The waters were crowded, but there were enough clams for everyone in the Lockwood Folly River Monday morning when the river's west channel, heavily supplemented with clams from a nearby dredge site, was reopened for commercial and recreational harvest.

Manager candidates questioned by board

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Two of the three men interviewed for the vacant county manager's job Monday were also finalists in 1991.

Both William Yelton of Rocky Mount and Jimmy Varner of Yadkin County were among the four persons interviewed in open session when commissioners hired David Clegg two years ago.

Michael L. Hargett, a budget officer for the City of Wilmington, was the third person interviewed Monday.

A fourth candidate, whose name hasn't been released, had a schedule conflict and will interview in two weeks, said Don Warren, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Com-

'The spotted owl is protected, the snail darter is protected, but no county manager is ever protected.'

Jimmy Varner
Manager candidate

missioners.
Warren said he hopes to hire someone within 30 days in the salary range

of \$50,000 to \$60,000. County manager/attorney David Clegg, who resigned amid political pressure March 15, earned \$66,400 per year.

Clegg, a Democrat, was hired by an all-Republican board and had worked for the county nine years. Three Democrats joined the board in December, prompting the chairman of the Brunswick County Democratic Party to call for Clegg's firing. Commissioner Donald Shaw accused the Democrats of trying to force Clegg to do some things that "were not exactly honest."

Planning director John Harvey has served as interim county manager since March.

All candidates were asked the same
See Manager, page 6



YELTON



VARNER



HARGETT

Despite higher rate

Drastic changes in county budget

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The proposed 1993-94 Brunswick County budget is \$3.7 million more than last year, but it was some personnel changes that raised a few eyebrows Monday.

Interim county manager John Harvey's proposed \$47.7-million package recommends a tax increase from 68 cents to 74.75 cents per \$100 of property value.

Commissioners say they want to avoid a tax hike if possible and scheduled three budget workshops, May 24-26, and a public hearing Thursday, May 27, at 7 o'clock each night.

The budget would cut parks and recreation director Bobby (B.J.) Jones from the county payroll and dissolve the Brunswick County Library Board of Trustees chaired by former Republican commissioner Gene Pinkerton.

It would also revamp the Resources Development Commission to make it a part of county planning and cut a total of 15 jobs from the county payroll.

Increases are slated for the county's emergency medical services program and for education, with the schools awarded a five-percent hike, said Don Warren, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners. School officials had asked for a 26-percent jump.

"He (Harvey) gave us some inno-
See Budget, page 6

What would happen:

The 1993-94 proposed Brunswick County budget presented by interim county manager John Harvey Monday includes:

- Tax rate of 74.75 cents per \$100 of value, up from 68 cents;
- No cost-of-living pay increase for county employees;
- Schools to get five-percent increase;
- Recommends bond referendum for school construction;
- Emergency Management Department dissolved, Cecil Logan named fire marshal and Brenda Freeman emergency management coordinator;
- Resources Development Commission made part of county planning, one part-time job cut;
- RDC director Tom Monks salary cut by \$18,000, made economic planner II;
- Brunswick County Library Board of Trustees dissolved, seek expansion of Friends of the Library;
- Recommends seven of 26 new positions requested;
- Fifteen employees will lose their jobs, two from Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service;
- Two jobs cut at Register of Deeds office;
- Parks and Recreation Department dissolved, director Bobby (B.J.) Jones' position cut;
- Light Human Services Division to continue current recreation programs, headed by Tina Pritchard;
- Older Adults Department dissolved, programs assumed by Department of Social Services;
- Solid Waste Department and Sign Shop Departments eliminated;
- \$1.4 million in capital improvement needs: landfill closure, computerized fuel system, paving at complex, fiber optic network, remodeling work for disabled citizens;
- Two cut from cafeteria staff, department moved to fiscal operations;
- Possible fees: ambulance service, increase in 911 telephone surcharge, solid waste tipping fee, increase in water rates.

Library board is 'saddened' by county's apparent change

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Library board members said they were shocked, speechless and saddened Monday night after hearing that interim county manager John Harvey had recommended in his budget message that the library board of trustees be dissolved.

"It's kind of a sad thing to me," said library board chairman Gene Pinkerton. "So many members of the board have worked so hard for the libraries. It looked like a dream-come-true situation."

Harvey said Tuesday that many library board members had called to ask him about his recommendation. He explained he did not recommend the board be eliminated completely,

but simply change roles. Instead of taking action, he said, the library board would advise, recommend and help raise funds.

"We need the strength of these people to support the library," Harvey said. "I did not mean to be critical of the board of trustees. We need those people to continue to be supportive and raise funds."

However, Pinkerton said he suspects a political motive may be involved.

"I wonder sometimes if maybe there's not more to it than what's being said. From a political point of view, I've already told them if I'm an obstacle I'd gladly step aside quietly," Pinkerton said. "I just don't understand it.... Maybe we're making decisions the commissioners feel they

should make."

Whatever decision the commissioners make on Harvey's recommendation, Pinkerton said he hopes nothing interferes with the construction and renovation of the county libraries.

"I'd like to see the cotton-pickin' things finished," he said.

Library board member Don Eggert said he did not understand how the library board was related to the budget since no member of the board is paid. Harvey explained that he believed the budget should include all aspects of county government, and not only dollar figures.

"A budget ought to be a program plan of action for the county for the next fiscal year," he said. "I've truly looked at this objectively, and not subjectively."

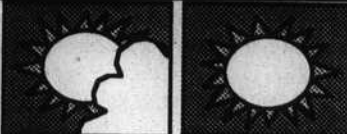
CP&L is back on grid

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

"At 3:21 p.m. Saturday the load dispatcher saw something he hadn't seen in over a year," Roy Anderson, Carolina Power and Light Co. vice-president at the Brunswick nuclear plant, reported Monday. "Megawatts from the Brunswick plant.

"We were sending 180 megawatts
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OUTSIDE



Tide table

| HIGH | THURSDAY, MAY 20 | LOW |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 7:52 a.m. | | 1:56 a.m. |
| 8:14 p.m. | | 1:56 p.m. |
| | FRIDAY, MAY 21 | |
| 8:33 a.m. | | 2:38 a.m. |
| 8:52 p.m. | | 2:37 p.m. |
| | SATURDAY, MAY 22 | |
| 9:14 a.m. | | 3:19 a.m. |
| 9:33 p.m. | | 3:17 p.m. |
| | SUNDAY, MAY 23 | |
| 9:56 a.m. | | 4:01 a.m. |
| 10:14 p.m. | | 4:00 p.m. |
| | MONDAY, MAY 24 | |
| 10:38 a.m. | | 4:42 a.m. |
| 10:59 p.m. | | 4:44 p.m. |
| | TUESDAY, MAY 25 | |
| 11:28 a.m. | | 5:28 a.m. |
| 11:47 p.m. | | 5:33 p.m. |
| | WEDNESDAY, MAY 26 | |
| ---- a.m. | | 6:16 a.m. |
| 12:21 p.m. | | 6:27 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; Yampson Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.

Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies on Thursday with a chance of thunderstorms. Expect cooler temperatures and mostly clear skies Friday and Saturday, with highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s.