



Agencies will be funded

68-cent rate seen as goal for county

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Brunswick County's tentative 1993-94 budget entered its second week of revisions Tuesday as commissioners attempt to keep the tax rate at 68 cents.

Many of the estimated 175 people who gathered at a public hearing at Bolivia last Thursday received some good news before the meeting began.

Still others used the occasion to criticize commissioners for their recent handling of some personnel matters and for a confusing budget process.

"It's most unfortunate so much nega-

Garbage, 911 fees possible, page 7

tive publicity came as a result of this budget proposal," said Don Hughes, chairman of the Brunswick County Resources Development Commission, "because this hurts in industrial recruitment."

At a series of workshops earlier in the week, commissioners agreed to restore some funds to local agencies and non-profit groups, money that was cut by interim county manager John Harvey's proposal on May 17.

Many groups sent speakers to the hearing to plead their cases, not know-

ing the tentative changes were in place.

The hearing will be the only one held on the budget, said chairman Don Warren. It may not be approved until June 21.

Following Harvey's budget message the board did not vote on a proposed budget. However, it did set a public hearing and immediately began from scratch to rework Harvey's figures with finance director Lithia Hahn.

Harvey proposed a tax rate of 74.75 cents per \$100 of property value along with severe cuts to agencies, elimination of the county's parks and recreation department and RDC, and that See County, page 7

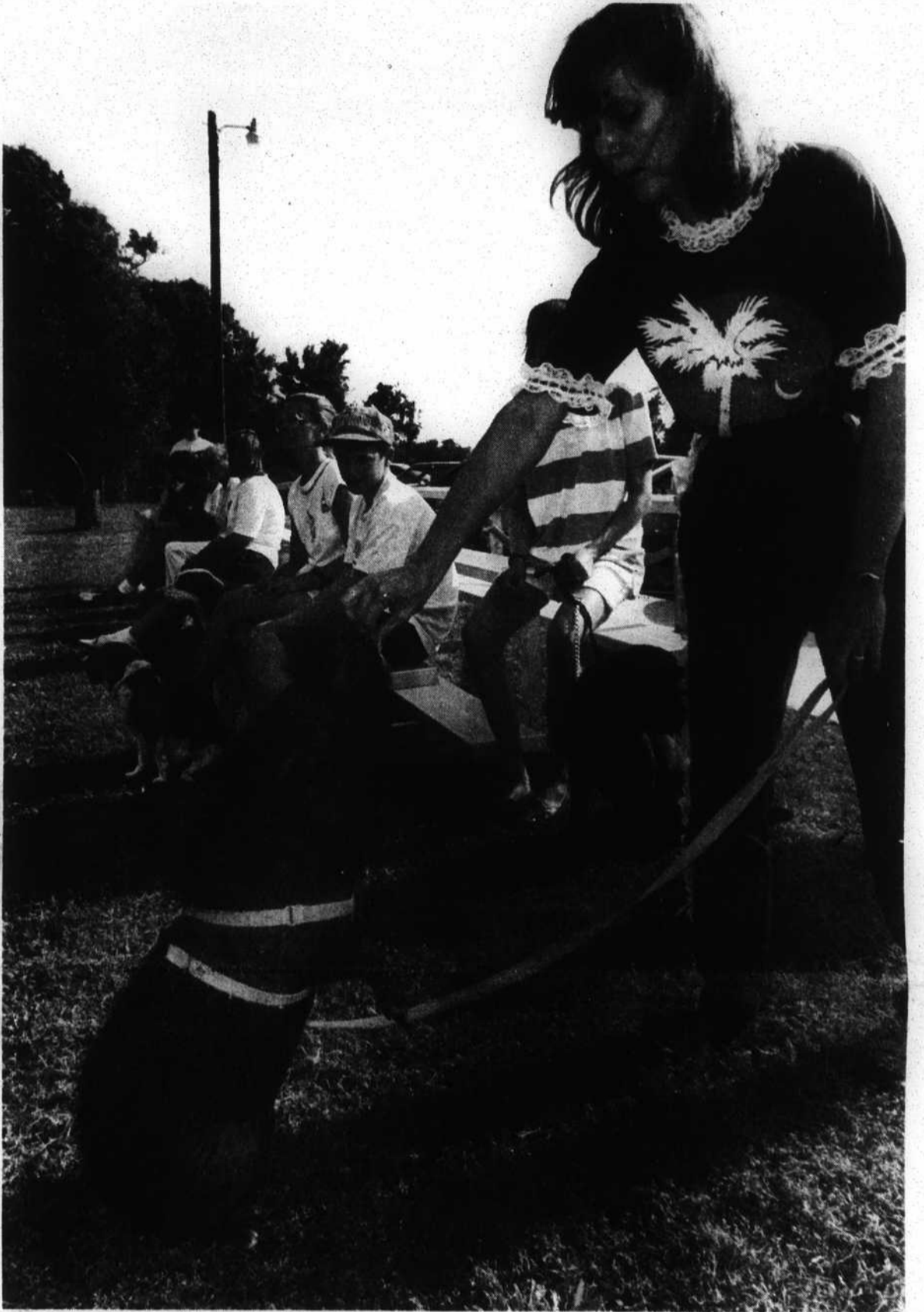


Photo by Jim Harper

It wasn't nice roast beef, but munchies Deborah Turner passed out held Sebastian's attention last week as his classmates performed in the Long

Beach parks and recreation department obedience training.

This little piggy stays home

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The first thing you notice is that he's a bit low-slung for a dog. Maybe a basset is built as close to the ground, but the body on this one is more compact, has more heft.

Then you notice he's better behaved than most of the canines prancing around; scratching, smelling, generally doing doggy things. Nothing like that for Sebastian, who is mild, mannerly, under perfect control.

Then you see that he's eating the grass. "He'll eat anything," says Deborah Turner. "Grass. Dog food. Banana peel. He's a regular compost heap." Yet while making a pig of himself, Sebastian remains the soul of decorum.

There is no record of the initial response when Deborah

and Michael Turner asked to enroll Sebastian, their year-old Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, in dog obedience class at the Long Beach Recreation Center, but in the four-week course this month he won the respect, or at least grudging tolerance, of human and canine alike.

Last week Sebastian and his fellow classmates went through their exercises for schoolmaster Jerry Dove, and Sebastian earned a 90 -- equivalent of a Gentleman's C -- for the class, following Deborah around the course going "WEEEE-WEEEE-WEEE" and doing the things necessary for a passing mark.

Sebastian was entered in the class along with the Turner's Shar-Pei named Chelsea (Shar-Pei is a Chinese dog) and necessarily was subjected to comparison with

See Piggy, page 6

CP&L at 100 percent

Carolina Power and Light Co.'s Brunswick Unit 2 went to sustained 100-percent power production Friday and was still operating at that level Tuesday.

Plant vice-president Roy Anderson said adjustment of control valves in the main turbine may require powering down over the weekend, but added that he anticipated requesting permission to operate the unit without close Nuclear Regulatory Commission supervision in the next meeting with the NRC on June 9.

"But this is not the end," Anderson said. "This is just asking permission to do it by ourselves."

Still ahead is getting Unit 1 refurbished, repaired and refueled. Anderson has said he expects start-up of Unit 1 in September.

Both units were shut down April 21, 1992, and CP&L work to get them operable has been closely monitored by the NRC.

Same rate, but higher fees for city

Southport aldermen were presented with a proposed 1993-94 budget of \$6,101,414 Tuesday night that would retain the present 58-cent ad valorem tax rate but require increases in sewer rate, electric rate and cost of solid waste disposal.

The board set the first of several budget workshops for 7 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday). The budget must also be considered at a public hearing, yet to be scheduled, before adoption prior to July 1.

City manager Rob Gandy's first budget for Southport would retain the present emergency dispatch system, staffed by local personnel, at a cost of \$47,366. Local control over dispatch was continued at citizen request last year even after countywide 911 dispatch service was put into effect.

Gandy suggests in his budget a 3.6-percent rise in electric rate to cover an anticipated power agency rate increase in October.

He also recommends an increase in sewer rates from \$2.66 to \$3.55 per 1,000 gallons to adequately offset the cost of sewage treatment; and he suggests making solid waste an "enterprise fund" -- self-supporting -- by increasing the present \$9.50 fee to \$16.15.

In Gandy's budget city employees would receive a five-percent cost-of-living raise. Last year they had none.

County may fill landfill position

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Questions surround an unexpected decision to hire a new solid waste director in charge of Brunswick County's landfill, a position previously cut from the budget.

Some county commissioners were surprised to see the job posted and advertised in newspapers last week when a consensus of the board in March was to cut the position.

The job has been vacant since March 15 when Leo Hewett was suspended and later fired by interim county manager John Harvey.

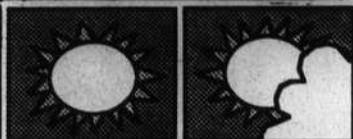
Hewett was caught in a controversy over violations and fines imposed by See Landfill, page 9

'In my view that's a violation of the law. What you in effect do is conduct a meeting where the public cannot participate.'

Hugh Stevens Jr.
NCPA counsel

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OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for mostly sunny skies on Thursday with highs between 80 and 85 degrees. On Friday and Saturday expect partly cloudy skies with occasional showers, with highs 85 to 90 degrees and lows in the 60s. Cooler on Sunday, with highs in the lower 80s and lows in the 50s.

Tide table

| HIGH | THURSDAY, JUNE 3 | LOW |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 7:37 a.m. | | 1:37 a.m. |
| 8:15 p.m. | | 1:42 p.m. |
| | FRIDAY, JUNE 4 | |
| 8:29 a.m. | | 2:29 a.m. |
| 9:05 p.m. | | 2:29 p.m. |
| | SATURDAY, JUNE 5 | |
| 9:19 a.m. | | 3:17 a.m. |
| 9:52 p.m. | | 3:18 p.m. |
| | SUNDAY, JUNE 6 | |
| 10:06 a.m. | | 4:03 a.m. |
| 10:38 p.m. | | 4:03 p.m. |
| | MONDAY, JUNE 7 | |
| 10:54 a.m. | | 4:48 a.m. |
| 11:23 p.m. | | 4:51 p.m. |
| | TUESDAY, JUNE 8 | |
| 11:42 a.m. | | 5:31 a.m. |
| --- p.m. | | 5:34 p.m. |
| | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9 | |
| 12:06 a.m. | | 6:15 a.m. |
| 12:27 p.m. | | 6:21 p.m. |

The following adjustments should be made:
Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Carwell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaucon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.

Our speller goes to Washington

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- She's number four today, but later this week she hopes she'll be number one.

Caroline Sheffield, an eighth grader at Shallotte Middle School, is here this week, one of 235 students participating in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee. She is representing *The State Port Pilot* in the competition.

Caroline is the fourth speller in the contest that began at 8:30 a.m. today (Wednesday) in the ballroom of the Capitol Hilton. Having had access to words that are used in the first two rounds, Caroline expects to make it successfully to Round 3 when words for the competition are taken directly from the dictionary.

Even with a busy end-of-the-year schedule that included representing her school in the state History Bowl competition, Caroline said, "I've been studying hard."

She said she spends about an hour a day reviewing words with

the help of her mother, a former English teacher. "We're just working together," Caroline said.

After weeks of studying the eighth grader said she's enjoyed preparing for the national spelling bee.

"I've learned a lot of new words," she said. "It's becoming more interesting because I'm learning to appreciate it."

Caroline said she used the Franklin Wordmaster she received as a prize for winning the Brunswick County Spelling Bee in March, and the dictionary is a good reference that helped her pronounce words correctly and learn their meaning. Her main focus has been on medical and scientific terms which often pop up in national competition.

"You have to learn the patterns, the prefixes and suffixes, so you can get the feeling of how to spell them," she said. Once she figures out the root word, Caroline said she is usually able to spell the more difficult words.

"You make a lot less mistakes that way," she said. It also helps See Speller, page 6