

The State Port

P.I.C.O.

INSIDE

Sports, page 4B

Classifieds, p. 1C

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



Volume 62/ Number 43

Southport, N.C.

June 16, 1993/ 50 cents

Budget approved Tuesday

Long Beach: 41-cent rate, higher water fee

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

While conceding the proposed budget for fiscal year 1993-94 was a "compromise" and a "consensus document," Long Beach Town Council members voted unanimously Tuesday night to adopt the proposal following a public hearing.

"None of the council members got everything he wanted, but we all got something we can live with," council member Horace Collier said after the meeting.

The budget is based upon expected revenues and expenditures of \$4.2 million and a tax rate of 41 cents per \$100 of assessed property valuation, the same as the current rate.

Trash collection fees were in-

'None of the council members got everything he wanted, but we all got something we can live with.'

Horace Collier
Council member

creased an additional 25 cents per month Tuesday night, on top of the 35-cent increase originally recom-

mended, to cover the cost of providing twice-weekly pickup services during the summer months to all town residents. Council members had considered allocating about \$14,000 from the accommodations tax fund to cover the cost of the additional pickups, but opted instead to allocate those funds for beach renourishment projects.

The basic charge for water service was also increased \$1 per month, which stirred several complaints during the public hearing.

Town resident Rupert Riley said he believed the trash collection and water service fee increases amounted to a 2.2-cent "tax increase" and provided the town with a surplus revenue of \$77,000. And,

See Long Beach, page 19

Schools studying hard to make budget match

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

The Brunswick County Board of Education Monday night received a new version of the 1993-94 budget, cutting many of the expansion items included in the school improvement plan.

Board members listened as finance director Rudi Fallon and assistant superintendent Bill Turner explained

where the cuts were made to fit the \$7.85-million allocation from the county.

"We have taken out all of the expansion budget items with the exception of the technology piece," Fallon told the board.

County commissioners last week agreed to give the school system \$1 million to purchase computer equipment and related items. That is a "separate appropriation," Fallon pointed

out.

The revised budget represents a 5.33-percent increase of \$397,084 from the previous year. Fallon told board members. The board had originally requested more than \$9.4 million for current expense, an increase of 26.5-percent from the 1992-93 budget.

"All the expansion is gone," superintendent Ralph Johnston said.

If the General Assembly approves a two-percent salary increase for em-

See Schools, page 6

Writing skills

Some grades near average

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

The percentage of Brunswick County's sixth graders passing the 1993 writing test was lower than the state average, but grades eight and four fared better, coming close to or matching the state norm.

The North Carolina Writing Assessment was administered in February. This was the first year fourth graders were tested, and they were required to write a personal narrative essay. Sixth graders were tested on descriptive writing and eighth graders on point-of-view writing.

Each composition was assessed by two trained readers who, using a four-point scale, scored it on development of a main idea, use of supporting details, organization and coherence. The resulting score is referred to as the "focused holistic score." For example, a score of 2 means the writer has a weak command of writing and tends to drift from the focus of the composition, while a 4 means the writer has a strong command of the written word. Generally, a 2.5 or better score is considered good.

In addition, compositions were scored on sentence formation, word usage.

See Writing, page 6

Legislators host Friday town meeting

State legislators E. David Redwine, R. C. Soles and Dewey Hill will host a town meeting for area residents on Friday, June 18, at Southport City Hall.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

"We made a pledge we'd have periodic meetings," Redwine said last week. "This is a fulfillment of that pledge."

There is no agenda for the meeting, Redwine explained. "This is the constituents' time to talk."

Another town meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, June 25, at Leland Town Hall.



Photo by Jim Harper

Various emotions greeted this attack by a hand-held crow as filming of "Birds II" got underway Monday at American Fish Company. Scores of bystanders enjoyed the action there.

Smoke ban faces opposition

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Health officials want to take another shot at a proposed countywide no-smoking ordinance.

The Brunswick County Board of Health voted unanimously Monday to form a committee of ten residents and two board members to review the draft written last month.

But the group may have to hurry before a state law overrides local smoking ordinances, said Brad Kerr, health board member.

House Bill 957, if approved by the Senate, would affect ordinances passed by local counties starting August 1. The tobacco industry is lobbying legislators for its passage.

"The intention is to restrict the ability to control smok-

ing in public places," said Kerr, who is following the bill closely.

Last month, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners prohibited smoking in county-owned buildings including the government center near Bolivia. It took no action on a countywide ban, for one adopted by commissioners would only affect unincorporated areas.

The health board has authority to impose countywide smoking restrictions in public places, such as restaurants and stores.

A smoking ban at the government center has drawn little negative feedback, said Don Warren, commission chairman.

The ban prohibits smoking in public hallways, restrooms

See Smoke, page 6

'Matlock' star will reign over festival



THAYER

The 1993 N. C. Fourth of July Festival will have a queen.

That honor has been given to Brynn Thayer, who plays the daughter of attorney Ben Matlock in the television series "Matlock," which stars Andy Griffith.

Last year the committee which organizes the annual festival and the board of directors decided to eliminate the annual scholarship pageant. Guy Auger, 1993 festival chairman, said this year's committee wanted to bring in an actress to serve as festival queen since there were no plans to have a pageant.

"We wanted to bring in a celebrity," Auger said, commenting that they do something similar for the Azalea Festival in Wilmington. "It was something we wanted to do to involve the movie people since they've been shooting so many movies here."

Several scenes of the "Matlock" series were shot in Southport last year and filming for the upcoming series is scheduled to get underway again this summer.

Auger said Thayer is not being paid to serve as queen and she will be provided accommodations if she decides to stay in Southport during the festival.

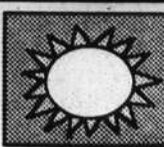
Thayer will be featured in the parade, scheduled for Monday, July 5. And as she expects to be in Southport Saturday through Monday, Auger said, "We're hoping to have her at some other activities."

Details of Thayer's role at the festival will be worked out this week, Auger said.

Thayer, who plays the role of Leanne McIntyre opposite Griffith in the "Matlock" series, was a teacher for three years before

See Queen, page 6

OUTSIDE



Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JUNE 17	LOW
6:32 a.m.		12:39 a.m.
7:00 p.m.		12:41 p.m.
	FRIDAY, JUNE 18	
7:18 a.m.		1:27 a.m.
7:45 p.m.		1:26 p.m.
	SATURDAY, JUNE 19	
8:06 a.m.		2:14 a.m.
8:31 p.m.		2:12 p.m.
	SUNDAY, JUNE 20	
8:51 a.m.		2:59 a.m.
9:15 p.m.		2:56 p.m.
	MONDAY, JUNE 21	
9:38 a.m.		3:41 a.m.
10:00 p.m.		3:43 p.m.
	TUESDAY, JUNE 22	
10:26 a.m.		4:26 a.m.
10:46 p.m.		4:31 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23	
11:18 a.m.		5:10 a.m.
11:33 p.m.		5:21 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.

Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies Thursday and Friday with a chance of thunderstorms. Highs around 90, lows about 70. Mostly sunny skies are expected on Saturday and it will be hot: The forecast high is 95, with a low that night around 75.