

INSIDE

Sports, page 1B

Classifieds, p. 1C

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

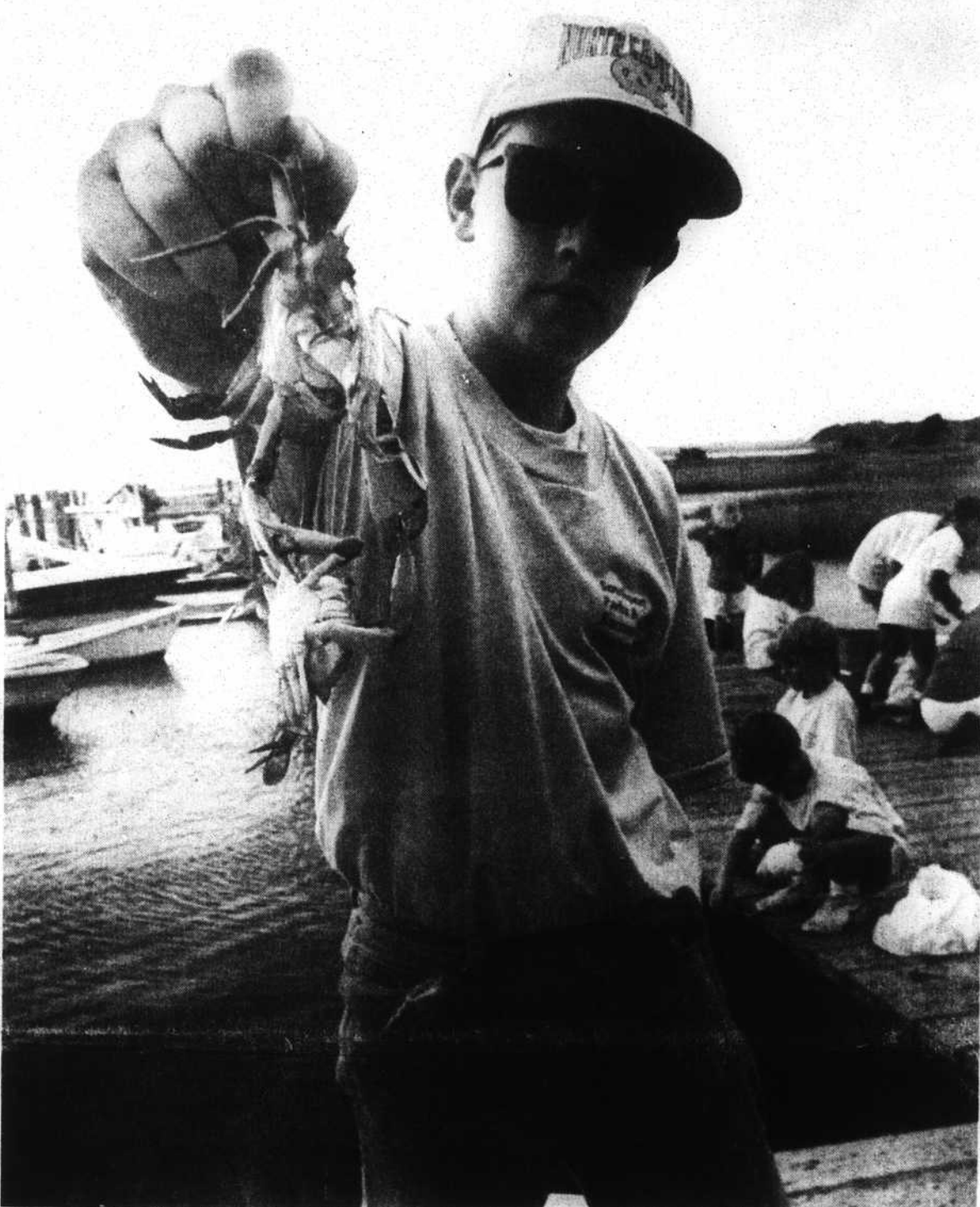


Photo by Jim Harper

James Wilson shows what it is all about at the yacht basin crab derby on Saturday. Fifty-six youngsters participated and 208 crabs were caught, and later released. Captain Charlie's Kids Fishing Tournament, also sponsored by Southport parks and recreation, will be held September 25.

'Unbelievably complicated'

Static is expected on cable TV rates

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

A sweeping, 1,500-page federal act on cable television regulations intended to protect consumers from escalating cable TV rates may not help Vision Cable subscribers in the Southport-Oak Island area.

Those that can least afford it will spend more for cable TV while others will get a break, says Vision Cable general manager Bill Greene.

Rate changes put into effect September 1 were mandated by new Federal Communications Commission regulations, which were in turn mandated by Congress last year. Cable customers who are confused by the new rates can take comfort in the fact that cable companies are also confused by the FCC's new rules, and FCC attorneys are still trying to figure out exactly what the new federal act mandates, Greene observed.

"It's unbelievably complicated," he said. "The FCC doesn't even know what Congress wants."

Under the new service charges, customers with one television will pay \$4.69 per month for eight channels, whereas under the old rates they were paying \$1 per month for 11 channels, Greene said. There is no longer an additional charge for additional TV sets, but channels WGN, WOR and TBS were eliminated from the basic package.

These channels are available in a "superstation package" plus the fee for basic service.

"If you look at what the new regulations did to our subscribers, they hurt the people that could least afford it, or the ones with basic service and one TV," Greene said. "But people that can afford more TVs and sub-

See Cable, page 6

Local municipal officials admit they are unsure about what rate regulation will involve, but say without the right to monitor rates local residents would be left unprotected

See Sand, page 6

Vision Cable of Wilmington (Southport)
(Rate Changes Effective September 1, 1993)

	OLD RATE	NEW RATE
BASIC SERVICE	11 Channels	8 Channels
First Set	\$1.00	\$4.69
Additional Sets	\$1.00	\$0.00
CABLE SERVICE	22 Channels	21 Channels
First Set	\$16.50	\$12.31
Additional Sets	\$ 4.25	\$ 0.00
SUPERSTATION PACKAGE (WOR, TBS, WGN, TNT)	N/A	4 Channels
First Set	N/A	\$0.60*
Additional Sets	N/A	\$0.00
<i>*Each Channel in SuperStation Package May Be Purchased Separately for \$0.25</i>		
PREFERRED SERVICE PACKAGE (Sci-Fi, CMT, Comedy, Cartoon)		
	4 Channels	4 Channels
First Set	\$5.00	\$3.50*
Additional Sets	\$3.00	\$0.00
<i>*Each Channel in Preferred Service Package May Be Purchased Separately for \$1.25</i>		

EQUIPMENT RATES

Basic Converter	\$0.71
Addressable Converter	\$1.33
Remote Handheld	\$0.09

INSTALLATION RATES

Aerial	\$36.99	Additional Set (Separate Trip)	\$19.41
Underground	\$44.30	Delinquent Reconnect	\$ 7.31
Reconnect	\$18.61	Trip Charge	\$10.97
Each Additional Set	\$15.75	Addressable Upgrade	\$ 2.00
<i>(At Time of Initial Installation)</i>		Hourly Service Fee	\$21.93

All rates subject to applicable franchise fees and taxes. Premium Channel Rates remain the same and include applicable franchise fees.

Lost or stolen food stamps cost county

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Replacing food stamps reported stolen or lost in the mail is becoming more and more costly for Brunswick County.

Each month, hundreds of dollars in food stamps are reissued when recipients claim they never got them.

"Food stamps are just like money," said Jamie Orrock, director of Brunswick County's Department of Social Services. "I don't know the solution, except maybe taking a harder stance than we have in the past."

Last year, the Brunswick County DSS mailed \$4.7 million worth of food stamps to roughly 2,300 post office boxes or rural route homes.

Food stamps provide assistance to families that fall within the national poverty guidelines. They are redeemed at grocery or convenience

State law allows for a variance, assuming that of \$381,000 worth mailed to county residents each month some are likely to fall into the wrong hands

stores to pay for food items. Amounts reported lost or stolen vary each month, from a high of around \$1,900 in December to \$689 worth in

See Food stamps, page 6

Possible treatment site

Long Beach owner of 'very select sand pile'

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

A 95-acre tract of land purchased by the Town of Long Beach as a potential site for a sewage treatment plant is a "very select sand pile" that will continue to grow more valuable in the future as suitable land becomes more scarce, said engineering consultant Finley Boney.

The land's southern boundary is about 1.5 miles from the Intracoastal Waterway, its northern boundary is marked by Mercer Mill Creek, and it is located about 1.5 miles off Sunset Harbor Road.

Boney performed an engineering study on a 70-acre

tract of land located just west of the property, and identified the area as an ideal location for a sewage treatment plant. He said the land has all the qualities that a sewage treatment site requires. The soil drains well, there is a low water table covered by six to eight feet of sand, and there is a high ridge surrounded by low-lying wetlands and streams to act as buffer zones.

"If the ground water flows from a high elevation to low-lying streams and creeks, that is exactly what you want," he said. "The treated wastewater is required not to degrade the ground water, which is of lesser quality than the treated wastewater."

When Boney performed the engineering study two years

See Sand, page 6

Unit 1 restart to be delayed

Cracked shroud subject of study at CP&L plant

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Restart of Brunswick nuclear plant Unit 1 will be delayed for at least a month while Carolina Power and Light Co. and assisting engineers study a cracked shroud within the nuclear reactor.

Rod pull, which had been scheduled for later this month, will now come in October at the earliest as

refueling and other activities leading up to restart are held up.

"With the inspections we have to do, we're having to fabricate equipment to do underwater evaluation," Unit 1 manager Morris Brown said Tuesday. "That's putting an approximate one-month delay in our ability to reload fuel."

Further delay in startup is expected if repair of the shroud is deemed necessary, Brown said.

Presently company engineers are considering an option of bolting supports in place to strengthen the shield, Brown

said. Replacement of the shield, which is an integral part of the reactor, would be "a very big job," he said.

The shroud in question directs the flow of water within the reactor vessel, Brown said, and also supports other components in the reactor.

Experience with cracks in a nuclear reactor in Switzerland caused General Electric, which built Brunswick's two reactors, to alert the company to the possibility of a problem.

CP&L officials met with Nuclear Regulatory Commission representatives here and in

Washington on the matter in August.

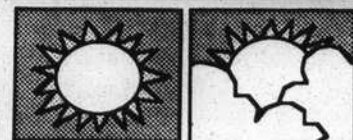
Initial inspection by video camera showed a crack around the top of the shield -- a 14-foot-circumference cylinder of two-inch stainless steel -- and made further study necessary.

The equipment to sound-probe the crack is now being developed in California, and should be on the Brunswick site by mid-month, according to NRC senior resident inspector Dick Preatte.

Brunswick Unit 2 is similar in construction to Unit 1.

See CP&L, page 6

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast Thursday through Sunday calls for mostly sunny skies with a chance of afternoon showers. Highs are expected to be in the mid-80s, with nighttime lows in the lower 70s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9	LOW
1:33 a.m.		8:01 a.m.
2:21 p.m.		8:52 p.m.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10		
2:39 a.m.		9:06 a.m.
3:25 p.m.		9:57 p.m.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11		
3:49 a.m.		10:11 a.m.
4:29 p.m.		10:58 p.m.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12		
4:55 a.m.		11:14 a.m.
5:27 p.m.		11:55 p.m.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13		
5:57 a.m.		12:00 a.m.
6:25 p.m.		12:12 p.m.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14		
6:54 a.m.		12:46 a.m.
7:18 p.m.		1:07 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15		
7:48 a.m.		1:36 a.m.
8:08 p.m.		2:00 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 Inlet, high -22, low -8.		