

# The State Port

# PHOTO

## INSIDE

Schools, page 5B

Classifieds, p. 1C

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



N.C.

December 8, 1993/ 50 cents

## CP&L gets good marks from NRC

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which has been giving the Brunswick nuclear plant improving comments but bad marks, finally upped the grades for the local plant Tuesday in its annual Systematic Analysis of Licensee Performance (SALP) report.

Brunswick achieved category one -- superior -- in the areas of operations and plant support, and category two -- good -- in maintenance and engineering. There were no category three -- unsatisfactory -- marks.

Comparison with previous SALP scores is difficult because in former periods the plant was rated in seven areas rather than four, but in neither of the most recent grading periods did Brunswick achieve more than middling marks, and in both periods received some unsatisfactory grades.

Stewart Ebnetter, the NRC's regional administrator, was complimentary in his cover letter:

"The very active role of management was evidenced by a focus on safety standards, significantly improved material condition of the plant and a very successful operating record for Unit 2 since restart in April, 1992, as well as an excellent Unit 1 shutdown safety performance."

In the past, NRC criticism has been See CP&L, page 6

## Appeal of tax value expected

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

It's been busy at the Brunswick County Tax Department since tax notices were mailed last week.

County property owners received new values on land and homes from the 1994 eight-year revaluation.

It has produced a rush of people who are questioning tax increases. The newly assigned values are for the 1994 assessment, which will be set prior to the county budget in June.

Of the 93,000 notices mailed last week, an estimated 2,500 will likely appeal to appraisers of Tax Management Associates of Charlotte, which performed the county revaluation.

And many are already doing so. "On the notice it says you have ten days, but we're going to take phone calls through January," said Ronnie Young, assistant county tax administrator.

Overall, the county's property value See Appeal, page 6



Photo by Jim Harper

Southport chief Greg Cumbee directed firefighters at the blaze which ravaged the home at 628 Jabbertown Road Monday morning. The homemaker said the conflagration started with a

grease fire on the kitchen range. No one in the family was injured. Sunny Point and Boiling Spring Lakes departments also responded to the alarm about 10:30 a.m.

## Nine persons facing murder charge after Bolivia shooting

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Nine suspects charged with the murder of a Bolivia man each face probable cause hearings December 21 before judge David Wall in Brunswick County District Court.

The focus of the shooting escalated last week when detectives revealed that as many as nine people may have watched as one pulled the trigger of a handgun that killed Charles Wayne (Butch) Davis, 37, of Albright Road.

Persons charged range in age from 16 to 22 and include four students

### Response, page 7

from South Brunswick High School, one a starting forward for the Cougar varsity basketball team.

Charged with murder are:

- Frank Lenial Ford, 22, of Bolivia;
- Terrance Laquinn Jones, 18, of Bolivia;
- Jeremy Javon Smith, 16, of Bolivia;
- Jessica Lucille Stancil, 16, of Ocean Isle Beach;
- Kevin Kenyatta Mitchell, 18, of

- Bolivia;
  - Nicholas Smith, 17, of Bolivia;
  - Victor Conway Randolph, 21, of Bolivia;
  - Anthony Alex Smith, 19, of Bolivia; and
  - Archie Lee Williams Jr., 16, of Bolivia.
- A warrant was filed for a tenth suspect, Byron Henry Knowles, 24, of Wilmington, but he is believed to have fled the country.
- "We haven't heard anything on him," said Brunswick County sheriff See Murder, page 7

## School bargains

# Equipment sale raises question, but no answers

By Holly Edwards  
Municipal Editor

Brunswick County school officials say they have no idea who authorized sale of cafeteria equipment purchased for an estimated \$70,000 to a local restaurant owner for \$350, but school board chairman Donna Baxter vowed to find an answer.

"The board of education didn't authorize it. I'll tell you that," she said. "The consensus of the board is to do what's right and to recover as much as we can."

The equipment was removed from Southport Elementary School last summer and placed in the school board's storage building at Bolivia after a new cafeteria was constructed.

School board attorney Glen Peterson said he is currently looking into questions raised by Southport police chief Bob Gray's investigation into the matter. Results of the investigation were presented to the school board during an executive session at its November 8 meeting.

Gray said he received an anonymous report September 20 that some

*'We are still doing some further questioning. It's really a personnel issue.'*

Dr. Ralph Johnston  
School superintendent

surplus public school property may have been converted to private business use and re-sold for profit. The caller further stated that this had taken place without the authorization of the school board.

Gray's investigation confirmed that over 40 pieces of cafeteria equipment valued at more than \$70,000 at the time of purchase was sold for \$350. The investigation also suggested that the purchaser had the use of three or four county vehicles and six county See Bargains, page 6

# Cable rules on different wave length

By Holly Edwards  
Municipal Editor

The Federal Communications Commission has granted towns the power to regulate Vision Cable's basic service and equipment rates, but town officials say they are not sure what that power will involve or what it will ultimately cost them.

Southport, Oak Island and Boiling Spring Lakes communities are among 17 local franchising authorities that have asked the Cape Fear Council of Governments to help them make sense of the complex process involved in cable rate regulation.

The COG in turn initiated negotiations with the consulting firm McNair See Cable, page 6

*'I think the folks closer to home would be better able to deal with it.... The FCC would have a difficult time dealing with so many towns across the country.'*

Jerry Walters  
COG executive director

# Mining restrictions are urged

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Wayland Vereen says it's time for county commissioners to try something to help block Martin Marietta from opening a rock quarry north of Southport.

"We've said that we're against it," said Vereen, who represents the Southport-Oak Island area on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners. "We've had all occasions of salt-water intrusion all up and down

*'My guess would be if the state approves it you cannot ban it. If they qualify under the state mining permits, then any ordinance by a local government would probably be overridden by the state.'*

Michael Ramos  
County attorney

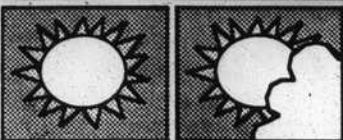
our coastline. "Before they get too far along with this, we need to do something

now." Vereen asked the board Monday for a special meeting once a

resolution is drafted that may try to limit the depth of mines by county zoning controls. The City of Southport is experiencing salt-water intrusion into wells that provide water for residents.

County attorney Michael Ramos was instructed to work with the N. C. Institute of Government this week to check legal avenues commissioners may have to restrict quarries and the depths they may reach beneath the surface. Martin Marietta plans See Mining, page 6

## OUTSIDE



### Forecast

The extended forecast calls for mostly sunny skies Thursday with a high between 60 and 65 degrees. Friday through Sunday expect cooler weather, with high temperatures in the 40s and lower 50s, and lows in the 30s at night.

### Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9	LOW
3:56 a.m.		10:12 a.m.
4:09 p.m.		10:27 p.m.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10		
4:56 a.m.		11:13 a.m.
5:09 p.m.		11:23 p.m.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11		
5:54 a.m.		12:01 a.m.
6:07 p.m.		12:10 p.m.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12		
6:50 a.m.		12:16 a.m.
7:02 p.m.		1:03 p.m.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13		
7:41 a.m.		1:08 a.m.
7:54 p.m.		1:51 p.m.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14		
8:31 a.m.		1:57 a.m.
8:44 p.m.		2:42 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15		
9:19 a.m.		2:45 a.m.
9:33 p.m.		3:26 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 Inlet, high -22, low -8.