

Photo by Marybeth Bianchi

At ground zero it looks like the invasion of the ice blobs. Last week's temperatures which dipped into the teens turned the lawn of the N. C. Fourth of July Festival building on Moore Street into a surreal winter

wonderland. Practically every blade of grass was encased in its own thick coat of ice, the result of a sprinkler system that had been operating with the temperature still below freezing.

Crime-stoppers

State to weigh cost vs. benefit of Hunt's plan

First of a two-part series

By Terry Pope
County Editor

When State Rep. Dewey Hill (D-Lake Waccamaw) reflects on the growing crime problem, a worried look covers his face as he is reminded of Eddie Nobles, a young man who once worked at Hill's grocery store chain.

Nobles later became a Charlotte police officer but was gunned down in the line of duty last year, another statistic in the growing numbers that currently rank North Carolina 16th of 50 states in violent crime incidents.

Crime has risen so rapidly, up from 32nd place in 1988, that the state is labeled a hotbed for criminal activity in the South, prompting Gov. Jim Hunt to unveil a 36-point plan he will ask legislators to approve in a special session starting February 8.

"We used to read about all of these things happening in Chicago or the other big cities," said Hill, "but it's hitting closer to home."

More than 30 bills were ratified in the 1993 session of the N. C. General

See Plan, page 8

Larger tracts to be exempt from zoning?

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Four of the county's larger subdivisions may become exempt from county zoning laws which took effect January 1.

The Brunswick County Planning Board unanimously recommended that the golf course and housing projects proceed as planned unit developments not subject to zoning.

They are the Lockwood Folly Golf Course, developed by Bill Benton, and three by developer Mason Anderson -- Brunswick Plantation and Golf Links, Ocean Side Place and Ocean Gate, all south of Shallotte.

Brunswick County commissioners must act on the recommendation.

Each of the subdivisions is currently under development with land set aside for future expansion. Benton and Anderson plan a mix of patio homes, single-family and multi-family dwellings for areas which may be affected by zoning controls.

Such projects that include open spaces of land set aside for parks and recreational areas are allowed under

the county subdivision ordinance. Some areas under question are zoned R-6000 for medium-density housing and others as R-7500 for low-density districts.

"These developments take a long

See Zone, page 10

Pilot wins 7 awards in contest

Staff of *The State Port Pilot* will be in Chapel Hill Thursday to accept four first-place awards and the newspaper's fifth consecutive award in the General Excellence category for large weekly newspapers.

The North Carolina Press Association's 1993 awards will be presented at the Friday Center, 5:30 p.m., by Gov. James B. Hunt.

See Awards, page 5

Long Beach officials balk

Mail plan may not go through

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

The final count is not yet in, but the number of people who signed a petition in support of a first-class post office for Oak Island will total in the thousands.

Post office committee member Susan Warren said she will have the final numbers at the committee's next meeting, Monday, January 31, at 5 p.m. in the Yaupon Beach Town Hall.

However, what began as a seemingly harmless drive to get a first-class post office for Oak Island has been viewed by some as an attack on the operator of the contract post office, as well as the island's five mail carriers.

"It hurts when someone calls it a 'disaster,'" said postal contractor Marvin Watson. "I can prove it's not."

Watson pointed out that the post office's sales have exceeded federal postal officials' expectations, and added that he and his employees try to do everything they can to offer

'It's going to take several years to get an appropriate facility, and we have to think five or ten years in the future. Our facility has been fine in the past, but it's not adequate now and it won't be adequate in the future.'

May Moore
Yaupon Beach mayor

friendly, personalized service to all Oak Island residents.

"We have a lot of senior citizens here, and I carry their packages out to their cars for them, or keep the packages here so they don't have to drive to Southport," he said. "It's a small community post office, a place where people can meet and talk."

Long Beach mayor Joan Altman

agreed that the post office has come a long way in ten years and that Watson, his employees and some mail carriers go above and beyond the call of duty. However, she said she believes the important issue to consider is what happens when Watson retires.

"We're very fortunate that the folks who provide these services step beyond the minimum requirements for a

contract station, but there's no guarantee the next ones will," Altman said. "It does take time to get a post office and we've got to start working toward one now. We all like what we have today, but will we like what we have today five years from now? The congestion at that point will be intolerable."

Watson indicated that once federal postal officials agree to construct a post office in a community, it takes about five years before one is actually built. He said he intends to retire in four years, so getting a first-class post office on Oak Island would not affect his contract.

"I'm not fighting against a post office, all I'm trying to do is put out the positive facts," he said. "I've had hundreds and hundreds of people come in and say they support this post office.... Our little contract station is known all over the South."

Watson conceded that there would be some benefits to having a first-class post office on Oak Island, such

See Mail, page 6

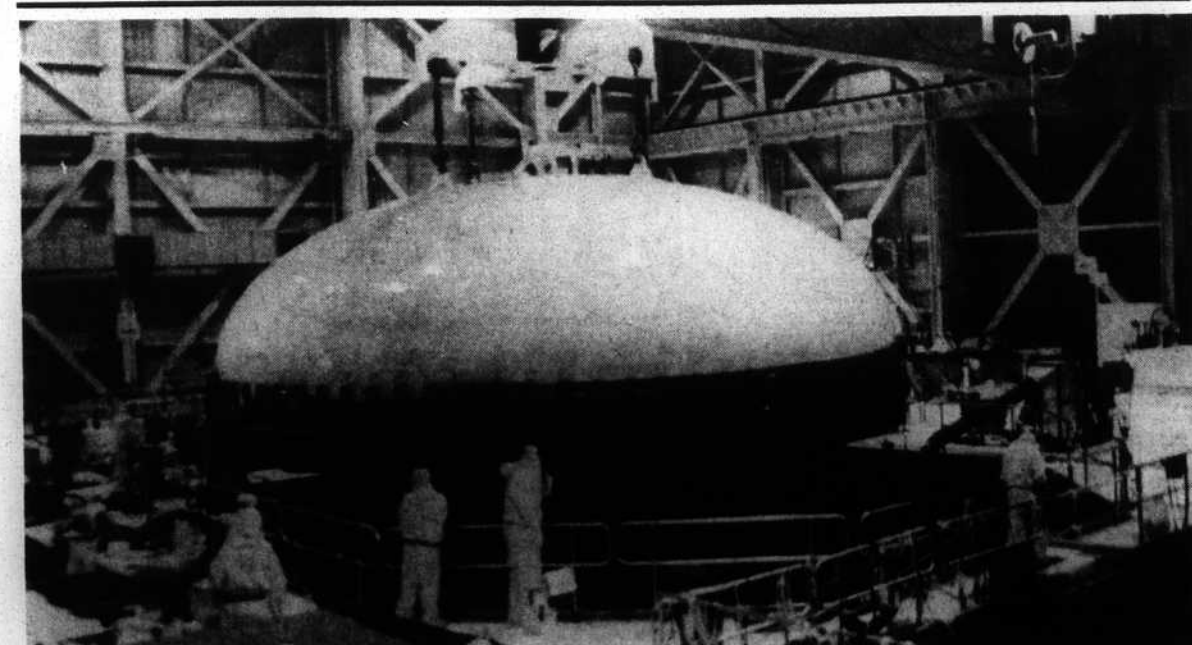
Weekend restart of Unit 1 set

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Brunswick nuclear plant Unit 1 is expected to restart and begin a power ascension late Saturday or on Sunday, Roy Anderson, vice-president in charge of the plant, said Tuesday.

Last week Anderson and his lieutenants gave the Nuclear Regulatory Commission an estimated startup window of Tuesday through Friday of this week, but Anderson said Tuesday that discovery of necessary system

See Restart, page 5



The containment dome was lifted onto the dry well of Brunswick nuclear plant's Unit 1 last Friday. "Rod pull", whereby shields are removed so that nuclear fission can start building steam power, is now expected to take place Saturday or Sunday. The photo was taken by a CP&L photographer.

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for rain Thursday, with highs in the 50s and lows in the 40s. Mostly cloudy skies will prevail on Friday, with highs in the 60s and lows in the 50s. On Saturday, partly cloudy skies are expected with highs in the 50s and lows in the 40s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JANUARY 27	LOW
7:34 a.m.		1:20 a.m.
7:56 p.m.		1:54 p.m.
HIGH	FRIDAY, JANUARY 28	LOW
8:19 a.m.		2:06 a.m.
8:43 p.m.		2:37 p.m.
HIGH	SATURDAY, JANUARY 29	LOW
9:03 a.m.		2:52 a.m.
9:30 p.m.		3:21 p.m.
HIGH	SUNDAY, JANUARY 30	LOW
9:49 a.m.		3:40 a.m.
10:20 p.m.		4:05 p.m.
HIGH	MONDAY, JANUARY 31	LOW
10:37 a.m.		4:31 a.m.
11:14 p.m.		4:53 p.m.
HIGH	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1	LOW
11:29 a.m.		5:25 a.m.
— p.m.		5:44 p.m.
HIGH	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2	LOW
12:12 a.m.		6:24 a.m.
12:26 p.m.		6:41 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 +13; Yaupon Beach, high -23, low -45; Lockwood Folly Inlet, high -22, low -4.