



Sports

South Brunswick's Lady Cougars open post-season play against Asheboro

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

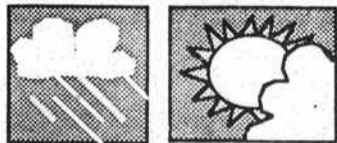
50 CENTS

Neighbors

Honor rolls are reported for southern area schools; Sunny Point secretary retires

Our Town

Winter storm causes erosion damage to east end; zoning changes proposed



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for cooler temperatures Thursday with a chance of rain; highs in the 60s, lows in the 40s. Expect sunny and cool weather Friday and Saturday, with highs in the 50s and lows in the 40s.



Up-to-date weather reports now are available on Pilot Line, a telecommunications service of *The State Port Pilot*. Dial 457-5084, then extension 191. Other listings are on page 7.

Tax-Aide

Free tax preparation assistance for low- and moderate-income individuals, age 60 and over, is available from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Information is available by calling 278-4242 or 845-2121.

Highlight

Three really good singers will present "Songs for a Spring Evening" Friday night at Ocean View United Methodist Church, Yaupon Beach. Ed Hardin, Wendy Jones and Cindy Sellers will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available by calling 278-5973.

World War II

Southport Remembers, a group organized to help commemorate Southport's role in World War II, is looking for memorabilia to display during a special observance April 9-10. Information is available by calling 457-7927.



Who was that who waited on you the last time you were in the store? If you can match a name and a face you can win \$200 in the *Pilot's* "Mystery Merchants" contest in this week's edition. The contest rules, names and faces are on page 3B.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MARCH 10	LOW
6:44 a.m.		12:18 a.m.
6:57 p.m.		12:43 p.m.
FRIDAY, MARCH 11		
7:25 a.m.		1:02 a.m.
7:37 p.m.		1:23 p.m.
SATURDAY, MARCH 12		
8:03 a.m.		1:43 a.m.
8:14 p.m.		2:01 p.m.
SUNDAY, MARCH 13		
8:38 a.m.		2:22 a.m.
8:50 p.m.		2:37 p.m.
MONDAY, MARCH 14		
9:12 a.m.		3:00 a.m.
9:23 p.m.		3:13 p.m.
TUESDAY, MARCH 15		
9:44 a.m.		3:37 a.m.
9:57 p.m.		3:48 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16		
10:16 a.m.		4:15 a.m.
10:32 p.m.		4:25 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.

Nuclear fuel shipments

Sunny Point among top choices

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Could nuclear cargo be headed for the Southport harbor? State officials believe the U. S. Army's Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point seaport facility just north of Southport may become the government's "first choice" to ship spent nuclear fuel rods into the country.

That news drew swift reactions Monday from Gov. Jim Hunt's office and the N. C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

But information has not flowed as quickly to Brunswick

County officials who were left scratching their heads Tuesday and asking questions.

They want to know details of the plan and how Sunny Point's terminal entered the picture, although it was not included in a list of seven possible entry ports along the East Coast first under consideration. Sunny Point is the nation's largest ammunitions seaport and lies just a few miles from Southport along the Cape Fear River.

The U. S. Department of Energy is currently developing a plan for accepting into the United States spent nuclear fuel elements from foreign research reactors. It's a procedure driven by two important national security policies intended to

reduce nuclear weapons proliferation.

But of main concern to residents is the danger of transporting nuclear cargo along county roads en route to South Carolina.

"I have not been informed of it," said Don Warren, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, on Tuesday. "I want to know more about it than I know now."

Warren said he will ask county manager Wyman Yelton and county emergency management coordinator Cecil Logan to brief the board on what they know at the March 21 commissioners meeting. Logan, who was headed to New Orleans to attend the National Hurricane Conference on Tuesday, has reportedly

See Sunny Point, page 9

SINKING FEELING



This is what a motorist would have seen Saturday afternoon as Boiling Spring Lakes residents Julie Brown and Carol Gallagher inspected a sinkhole that opened up earlier in the day on Berryhill Road.

Photo by Jim Harper

The Earth moved under their feet

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Sinkholes are common in the wooded land surrounding Boiling Spring Lakes, but Saturday marked the first time a sinkhole caved in a city street.

It took about 100 tons, or 140 cubic yards, of dirt and marl to fill the nine-foot-deep sinkhole on Berryhill Road, said street superintendent Thurston Cumbee. City workers had the street open to traffic on Monday.

"I didn't get too excited about it myself," Cumbee said. "It was not anything unusual."

Cumbee admitted, however, that he did feel somewhat uncomfortable working around the sinkhole because it is impossible to know where one will form next.

"You don't have a good feeling working around the sinkholes,"

he said. "You wonder sometimes if it's the smartest thing to be doing. But we filled it up and drove right back across it."

Cumbee said he has seen sinkholes in the Brittany Woods area that measure 40 feet deep by 60 feet wide. And, he said, one man in the Mirror Lake area recently placed a mobile home at the edge of a large sinkhole that comprises his front yard.

The sinkholes are caused by underground streams that gradually dissolve and erode underground limestone, which eventually causes the ground to collapse. There are no methods to predict where or when a sinkhole will form.

In the 1970s, sinkholes were deemed a significant threat to the railroad that serves Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers drained Boiling Spring Lake in 1976 because officials feared the dam was causing water to seep into the subsurface limestone. Later, the corps constructed a land bridge to

See Earth, page 8

Oak Island bridge gets state's ear

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Members of an Oak Island delegation that met with state transportation secretary Sam Hunt concerning a second bridge off the island say they are encouraged by the session.

Representatives from Oak Island were in Raleigh last week trying to keep the proposed bridge a priority in the updated version of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The bridge is currently slated for construction in 1997.

"I could not have imagined a better show of support for the project," declared Long Beach mayor Joan Altman. "I believe the DOT now fully understands the need for a second bridge off the island."

Altman was one of seven who spoke in favor of the bridge. Other supporters included senator R. C. Soles Jr. and representatives Dewey Hill and David Redwine, transportation board member Odell Williamson, Yaupon Beach mayor May Moore and Long Beach council member Kevin Bell.

DOT representatives Garland Garrett and Larry Goode also attended the meeting, as well as DOT's regional engineer Doug Bowers.

The question that no one has yet been able, or willing, to answer is whether the state will fund construction of the road leading from the bridge at Middleton Street to Highway 211. The last secretary of transportation -- Tommy Harrelson of Southport -- asked property owners in that area to foot the bill for road construction, which they were unwilling to do.

Property owners in that area have, however. See Bridge, page 8

Property owners in that area have verbally agreed to donate land for road construction, but the state has agreed only to fund the estimated \$4.2 million it will cost to build the bridge

Senate version

Crime bill includes extra prosecutor

By Terry Pope
County Editor

While state legislators have come up with two proposals for fighting crime, the Senate version includes funds for adding a local assistant district attorney.

The 13th Judicial District -- Brunswick, Columbus and Bladen counties -- stands to gain another prosecutor under the Senate package approved last week.

The House must first concur, and that's what district attorney Rex Gore hopes will happen this week. He said he has talked with state Rep. David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach) to make him aware of the local growing crime rate and the need for more prosecutors.

"I am very, very hopeful that Rep. Redwine will be able to keep that in for us," said Gore. "We could use the help. But it will be a little tougher in the House."

The Senate passed its crime bill 47-0 last

week, and in it Sen. R. C. Soles Jr. (D-Tabor City) obtained a \$59,927 appropriation to add a prosecutor's position for his region. Four other positions were obtained for the growing Charlotte and Mecklenburg County area. No other areas of the state received new slots.

However, the House version of the crime bill is about \$70 million less than the Senate's, which proposes to spend \$26.2 million on crime for the fiscal year which ends July 1, 1994, and \$165.5 million for fiscal year 1994-

95. The House and Senate must strike a compromise this week.

"The overall bill was a good package," said Soles. "The Senate worked very hard to cover the severe problem areas that needed immediate attention, as well as making long-term provisions for the increased security of the citizens of North Carolina."

Gore said there is evidence to show another See Prosecutor, page 10