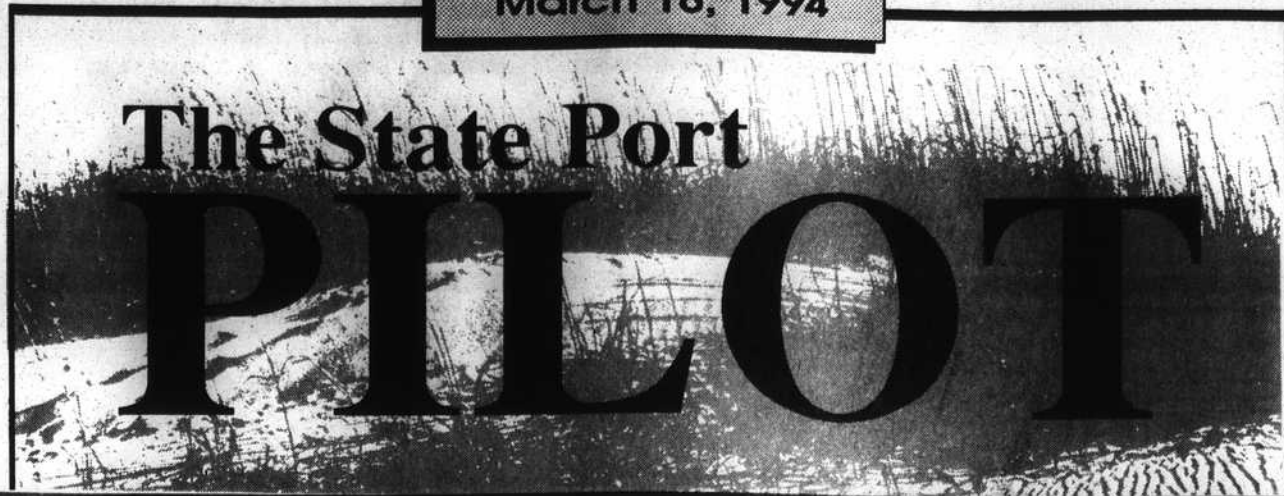




Neighbors

The 'Click It or Ticket' campaign means business, but we still don't buckle up



VOLUME 63/ NUMBER 29

SOUTHPORT, N.C.

50 CENTS

Sports

South Brunswick visits North Brunswick tonight to open the baseball season

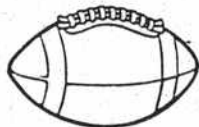
Our Town

Southport property owners can have free use of the marina boat launching ramp

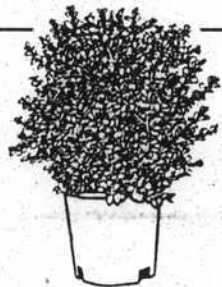


Forecast

The extended forecast calls for mostly sunny skies Thursday with highs in the 60s. Fair skies Friday, with highs in the 60s and lows in the 30s. Mostly sunny and warmer Saturday with highs in the 70s and lows in the 40s. Partly cloudy Sunday; highs in the 70s, lows in the 50s.



The Cougars and the Trojans both scored touchdowns this week as South Brunswick selected Derrell Force as its new football coach and West Brunswick hired Yogi Hickman.



Homeowners should look at both native and foreign shrubbery when creating a landscape. Bruce Williams fine-prunes your yard choices in The Plant Doctor this week.



A hot time in the ol' town... The fifth annual Robert Ruck Chili Cookoff is scheduled Saturday, April 2, at Franklin Square Park. Top prize is \$500; consolation prize, indigestion. But iz goodood!



Up-to-date weather reports are available on Pilot Line. Dial 457-5084, then extension 191.

Tide table

| HIGH | THURSDAY, MARCH 17 | LOW |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 10:50 a.m. | | 4:54 a.m. |
| 11:11 p.m. | | 5:04 p.m. |
| FRIDAY, MARCH 18 | | |
| 11:29 a.m. | | 5:37 a.m. |
| 11:57 p.m. | | 5:48 p.m. |
| SATURDAY, MARCH 19 | | |
| 12:18 a.m. | | 6:26 a.m. |
| ----- p.m. | | 6:39 p.m. |
| SUNDAY, MARCH 20 | | |
| 12:51 a.m. | | 7:23 a.m. |
| 1:18 p.m. | | 7:39 p.m. |
| MONDAY, MARCH 21 | | |
| 1:52 a.m. | | 8:25 a.m. |
| 2:23 p.m. | | 8:44 p.m. |
| TUESDAY, MARCH 22 | | |
| 2:56 a.m. | | 9:28 a.m. |
| 3:29 p.m. | | 9:48 p.m. |
| WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 | | |
| 3:57 a.m. | | 10:25 a.m. |
| 4:30 p.m. | | 11:48 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.



A monument in memory of merchant marine seamen and the U. S. Armed Guard who were aboard the *John D. Gill* when it was sunk by a German U-boat off Cape Fear during World War II was unveiled Saturday morning at Waterfront Park.

Monument dedicated to *Gill* dead, survivors

A monument dedicated to those who lost their lives when the tanker *John D. Gill* was torpedoed off Cape Fear on March 12, 1942, was unveiled Saturday at Waterfront Park. Flames from the burning ship were clearly visible in Southport that night. Three men who were aboard the *Gill* were present for the commemorative event: Gary Potts and Floyd Ready, members of the Armed Guard gun crew, and Herbert Gardner, a member of the merchant crew. They unveiled the monument. The ceremony was a project of the Southport Historical Society of which Mrs. Eleanor Smith is president. Mrs. Susan Carson was chairman of the memorial committee. Mayor Norman Holden extended greetings. The color guard came from Coast Guard Station Oak Island and appropriate music was furnished by the Brunswick Concert Band, which remained following the benediction to play for visitors who lingered. Chris Suiter, a member of the memorial committee, was master of ceremonies. In his remarks he declared that the day of the sinking of the *Gill* was the day that World War II was brought home to Southport and laid out on her front lawn. Before that day, war was something that happened

See Monument, page 7

Rose seeks delay

Nuclear fuel shipment needs input

Citizens who believe they did not have proper notice of a possible shipment of nuclear cargo through Brunswick County continue to gain political support this week. Congressman Charlie Rose has asked the U. S. Department of Energy to extend the comment period for North Carolina residents by at least 60 to 90 days. Rose represents Brunswick County in the 7th Congressional District. The deadline for public comment was set to expire this week. DOE officials granted an extra seven days after learning that notice of a possible shipment of spent nuclear fuel rods through the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point seaport facility north of Southport was not given to the local media or to county officials. Although plans were drafted in November, county officials learned of the shipment only after an environmental assessment team visited the Brunswick County emergency management office

two weeks ago. The plan was published in The Federal Register, which caters to a Washington, D. C., readership. "I had been under the impression that DOE had broadly publicized the emergency relief program," said Rose. "and I am frankly amazed that, at the very least, it was not publicized in the communities that would be directly affected by importation." Rose has asked DOE secretary Hazel O'Leary to extend the comment period for 60 to 90 days, stating that he doesn't believe a proper decision can be reached on where to import the fuel rods without giving citizens and environmental groups time to respond. An environmental coalition quickly formed after news surfaced that Wilmington's State Ports facility, 26 miles north of Southport on the Cape Fear River, was included in a list of seven locations under study to receive the nuclear shipments. Sunny Point docks are listed as an alternate site, but state agencies were led to believe last week it had quickly become the

See Nuclear fuel, page 8

Word came as surprise to officials

By Terry Pope
 County Editor

It began with a telephone call two weeks ago. "It was a gentleman who said he wanted to talk to me about an environmental issue," said Cecil Logan, Brunswick County's emergency management coordinator. "Then he started talking about spent fuel possibly being

See Officials, page 8

Schools want investigation; support audit

By Terry Pope
 County Editor

School officials took two steps Monday toward polishing an image recently tarnished by a pair of public concerns -- the questionable sale of surplus cafeteria equipment and the county's call for a state performance audit of the school system. Following superintendent Ralph Johnston's lead, the Brunswick County Board of Education ordered an independent investigation of the controversial sale and also agreed to ask county commissioners to proceed with a formal state audit. "We want to investigate fully and completely who may have been involved," said Johnston, "so we can begin to get this behind us." A consulting firm, Richard Swartz and Associates, will examine what roles employees played in disposing of surplus cafeteria equipment from Southport Elementary School. The incident occurred last July when 46 pieces of used equipment were sold to Long Beach restaurant owner Jarvis Jones for \$350 without the school board's authorization. Jones resold 12 of the items to his nephew for \$7,800. The board has filed a lawsuit against Jones in Brunswick County Superior Court,

'It doesn't look like this issue is going to go away, and it needs to be resolved.'

Bill Fairley
 District 3 member

seeking in excess of \$10,000 in compensation. Swartz is an attorney who practices educational law and works with the board to help devise new policies. He will report his findings to Johnston and board attorney Glen Peterson. "We agreed this is the proper procedure to follow," said Peterson. "It's not a duplication of legal services but a division of labor." The board wants to know how the property was released and whether any employees violated personnel policy. "We want to discover the full extent of any improprieties," said Peterson. "We will pursue it in as expeditious a manner as we can, but we're not going to leave any stones unturned." See Schools, page 7

Wade Horne employed as Long Beach manager

By Holly Edwards
 Municipal Editor

Brunswick County's zoning administrator will soon have a new job. Effective April 4, Wade Horne will assume the position of Long Beach town manager. Long Beach town council members unanimously agreed Tuesday night to enter into a one-year contract with Horne for an annual salary of \$38,000. "I've always lived near a coastal area, and this was a good opportunity for me to get back to the beach," Horne said Tuesday night after the meeting. "I think Long Beach is a nice town, it's a well-planned town and it's got a tremendous potential for growth." Asked what type growth he envisioned for the town, Horne said he believes Long Beach should increase its tax base through a combination of residential and commercial development.

"A lot of beaches don't have any commercial development," he said. "I think you've got to have some sort of balance." Council members pointed to Horne's management experience as the main reason he was selected from among 147 applicants. "He was a manager in a coastal area so he's familiar with coastal regulations," said council member Jeff Ensinger. "His personality played a part in it, too. He's somebody we can get along with and somebody members of the public can get along with." Council member Horace Collier agreed. "He seems to have a good grip on planning and he has extensive coastal experience," he said. "And he wanted the job." Horne, 34, was hired by the county last year when he replaced Long Beach building inspector David Clemmons as county zoning administrator. Clemmons served briefly in that position and then returned to Long

See Long Beach, page 17