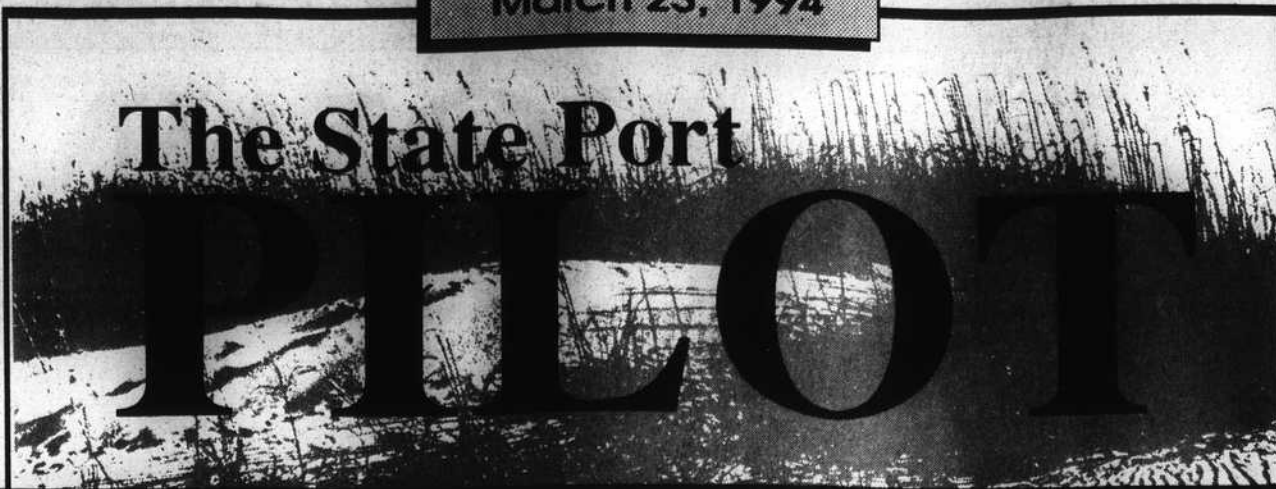


Our Town

Dredge work to deepen the old Southport yacht basin was started this week



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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

50 CENTS

Sports

The all-Brunswick girls and boys basketball teams have been announced

Neighbors

Southport-Oak Island area churches will hold special services for Palm Sunday



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for variably cloudy skies Thursday with a chance of thunderstorms. Fair skies are expected on Friday, followed by increasing cloudiness on Saturday. High temperatures are forecast to be in the 70s during the period, with nighttime lows in the 50s.

Looking ahead...

THE ROBERT RUARK CHILI COOKOFF is scheduled Saturday, April 2, in Southport's Franklin Square Park. The event, which also features arts and crafts and a variety of entertainment, is a fund-raiser for the Robert Ruark Festival held each November.

SOUTHPORT REMEMBERS will present an April 9-10 commemoration of this area's role in World War II. The Sea Notes Choral Society will perform during the event in the Community Building, originally constructed for the USO in WWII. Memorabilia is being sought for display.

ART IN THE PARK will be held Saturday, April 16, also in Franklin Square. The event will feature a variety of entertainment as well as activities for children and older people.

The State Port Pilot

Pilot Line
THE TALKING NEWSPAPER

Weather updates are available on Pilot Line. Dial 457-5084, then extension 191. Other Pilot Line services are listed on page 6.

Unit 2 shutdown on Friday

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Brunswick nuclear plant's Unit 2 will shut down Friday for a 92-day refueling outage that also will see the unit's core shroud modified as the plant's Unit 1 shroud was last fall.

Plant vice-president Roy Anderson indicated Monday that the installation of large stainless steel braces to strengthen the shroud where cracks have appeared in welds is being done out of caution rather than necessity.

"It comes down to a business decision," Anderson said. "We know we have small cracks in the welds. Our mission in the 1993-94-95 period is to have all major tasks here accomplished. We're doing the bracing now rather than arguing about it or having it hanging over our heads."

Installation of brackets in Unit 1 last fall was also a CP&L decision after welds were shown to be cracked in an underwater video inspection. The inspection was conducted because a similar reactor in Europe had been found to have cracked shroud welds.

The shroud is a stainless steel cylinder within the reactor which helps direct the flow of water in the steam-making process.

Bracing in Unit 1 was designed and tested by General Electric, the reactor's manufacturer, and that installation postponed restart of the unit at least four months.

The refueling shutdown will end a 312-day run for Unit 2, and will mark the first time either Brunswick unit has gone "breaker to breaker" -- from restart to a planned shutdown, Anderson said.

Meanwhile, Anderson said that Unit 1 "has been running for over a month now, smooth as a whistle."

Nuclear fuel from overseas

Sunny Point 'top choice' for shipment

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A list given to county officials Monday places the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point facility north of Southport as the government's top choice to receive shipments of foreign nuclear fuel into the country.

"They are talking about using a federal site," said Cecil Logan, Brunswick County's emergency management coordinator, "to take care of some concerns about safety." Operated by the U. S. Army, Sunny Point is the nation's

largest ammunitions seaport and is located on the Cape Fear River.

Are residents worried? They will have a chance to comment on the U. S. Department of Energy's plan either Tuesday or Wednesday of next week during a public hearing at the Brunswick County Government Center near Bolivia. By late Tuesday, no date had been confirmed.

DOE officials from Washington, D. C., telephoned Logan Monday and asked him to arrange a public hearing. Responding to requests from Gov. Jim Hunt's office and congressman Charlie Rose, the agency also expanded the comment period

on the shipment plan until April 8.

Logan said he spoke with Tom Harms of DOE, who said a hearing was also scheduled for Jacksonville, Fla. The list of possible ports has Sunny Point at the top, followed by Wilmington's State Port 26 miles north of Southport on the Cape Fear River; Jacksonville, Fla.; Savannah, Ga.; and Charleston, S. C.

"He said it was given to him a week and a half ago," said Logan.

Spent nuclear fuel rods from foreign reactors must be shipped
See Sunny Point, page 9



Coastal Futures Committee chairman Richardson Preyer (left) and land use subcommittee chairman Eugene Tomlinson were among the committee members who heard public comment Friday morning during the committee's two-day meeting at Southport City Hall.

Coastal Futures has a lot to look forward to after public hearing

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

The potential for environmental damage presented by the proposed Martin Marietta limestone quarries in Brunswick and Pender counties, the lack of public participation in developing local land use plans, the importance of state assistance to local citizens trying to save Bird Island, the dramatic decline in fish stocks due to pollution, growing coastal communities' need for state assistance in building infrastructure, and the importance of marine mining regulations were some of the issues brought before the Coastal Futures Committee last week in an hour-long public hearing.

The meeting was the sixth of 11 conferences scheduled by the committee, which was established by the governor in conjunction with his declaration of 1994 as "Year of the Coast". This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the Coastal Area Management Act



(CAMA).

The committee is charged with soliciting public comment throughout the state's coastal region and to assess the effectiveness of CAMA regulations in general. It will then develop a detailed list of recommendations for the governor's consideration by September 1.

"The greatest need I see in the environment today is the education of the public in all phases of environmental programs," declared committee chairman Richardson Preyer. "The laws change daily, and there are people hired and paid to come up with new ideas."

The committee is expected to develop a number of recommendations for ways to improve knowledge about environmental regulations among the public.

Long Beach resident Frances Allen told the committee that more specific guidelines are needed to improve public participation.
See Futures, page 7

Leland area
County, schools buy land

By Terry Pope
County Editor

School officials and county commissioners displayed unity Monday when both sides accepted a 32-acre land deal and financing package to build a new elementary school near Leland.

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners also called for a state performance audit of the school system to detect any inefficiency. Last week, the Brunswick County Board of Education agreed to pay for half the cost from its budget.

"I'm glad the school board and commissioners are together on this one item," said Tom Rabon Sr., District 4 commissioner. "I hope it can start a trend."

In the past, commissioners and school board members haven't seen eye-to-eye on funding needs, which ended in arbitration last September. At that time, the county agreed to appropriate \$500,000 for land purchase and design work for the new school, which will be built off Highway 133 south of Belville.

School officials showed a list of reasons Monday why they asked for 32 acres owned by the State Ports Authority. The price is \$4,000 per acre, or \$128,000 for the tract.

"Looking at the value of land in the area, it's considerably lower," said school superintendent Ralph Johnston.

The property has about ten acres of wetlands that must be avoided. Johnston said that may serve as a natural teaching area.

School leaders want to avoid problems they discovered soon after the Leland Middle School was built on Old Fayetteville Road. During drop-off and pick-up times, cars are backed up onto the main highway there, noted Bill Turner, assistant superintendent for auxiliary services.

Turner also stated the school would need space for a playground since it is a K-5 facility, with both soccer and ballfields planned. Land
See Schools, page 9

'Non-conforming' use now the norm

Some residences located in commercial zone

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The public hearing is not until May 16, but residents against the rezoning of 58 acres of commercial property north of Southport gave county commissioners an earful Monday.

Long Bay Properties Inc. has applied to change the zoning from commercial low-density (C-LD) to commercial manufacturing (C-M) on property which forms a triangle at the Highway 87/133 intersection across from the entrance to Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point.

County officials learned of another zoning problem in the area earlier this week. Eighteen homes in Southwood Estates and Moore's Creek Village just north of the disputed tract are zoned C-LD rather than for residential use.

When Norm Puckett applied for a permit to build a two-car garage onto his home in Southwood Estates, he was told by the Brunswick County Planning Department he would need to add handicapped access ramps to fit C-LD zoning. He wasn't aware that he lived in a commercial district, and no one in his family has a wheelchair.

"It should be changed to R-7500, and it wouldn't be so compatible with commercial manufacturing," said Puckett.

Another couple has been clearing a lot between two existing homes for months, only to learn they now can't obtain permits to build a home themselves. But under C-LD, a gas station can be built there instead.

Planners agree the residential area, composed of 25 parcels just north of Long Bay's tract, should be rezoned to R-7500
See Zone, page 7

Leland tracts, including park, may be rezoned

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Two large tracts of land near Leland and Navassa may be rezoned for heavy manufacturing use if county commissioners agree with the Brunswick County Planning Board.
See Leland, page 10