



Neighbors

The Robert Ruark Chili Cookoff was held Saturday in Franklin Square Park

The State Port

PILOT

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

50 CENTS

Our Town

Caswell Beach will decide whether five heads are better than three on the town board

Sports

North Brunswick will play tonight for the Seashell tournament championship

Hazardous cargo passes often

Fuel shipment is nothing new

By Terry Pope
County Editor

U. S. Department of Energy officials knew the message they'd hear from residents before arriving in Brunswick County last week.

It's the same wherever they travel -- the United States should accept bomb-grade nuclear fuel elements from foreign countries to make the world safer from terrorists, only don't ship it through our neighborhoods while en route to a storage site at Aiken, S. C.

DOE experts figured it was worth a shot anyway, and they tried to soothe fears residents may have about possible shipments through Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point north of Southport.

A decision on which of five East Coast ports to use will come in mid-April, but officials are studying Sunny Point

closely because it's a low-density community and offers military protection. It's the nation's largest ammunition depot operated by the Department of Defense.

"I live beside Sunny Point," said Suzanne Osborne of Bethel Church Road. "I don't know if I look dense, but I live beside Sunny Point."

Her fears are shared by others who wonder if the county can respond to highway accidents involving nuclear cargo. They fear a mix of tourist traffic with truck convoys. DOE also will study possible railroad shipments out of Sunny Point, like the fuel transports to Carolina Power and Light Co.'s Brunswick nuclear plant that already pass homes on Bethel Church Road.

"I'm not worried about what goes through my backyard," said Ms. Osborne, "but I'd be worried about what goes through that intersection at Highway 87 and 133."

The first shipment may arrive before fall, a total of 15

steel casks carefully packed with 450 highly enriched uranium-235 rods from European research reactors. Why has the United States agreed to accept radioactive garbage from the world's 135 reactors?

An American deal reached in 1978 began the program which hit a snag in 1988 when the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit to block further shipments from Taiwan. The plan replaces 93-percent uranium grade fuel rods with a 20-percent grade fuel which cannot be converted to nuclear weapons. In exchange, the U. S. will accept up to 15,000 rods over the next ten to 15 years and store them in holding pools at DOE's Savannah River site at Aiken and at other facilities for the next 30 years. Fuel is now stockpiled in other countries.

"Their pools are filling up, and they will eventually have to shut down," said David Huizenga, deputy assistant

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CP&L FUEL RODS

- 1,500 lb. Elements (each)
- 30 lbs. Uranium in each
- 10 lbs. Plutonium in each
- Casks weigh 40-60 tons
- 12 ft. Elements in length

FOREIGN REACTOR RODS

- 10 lb. Elements (each)
- 2 lbs. Uranium in each
- 1 oz. Plutonium in each
- Casks weigh 10-25 tons
- 3 ft. Elements in length

Southport to observe war years

A two-day celebration of the role Southport played in World War II will be held this week.

The program Saturday and Sunday is part of a national commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the war. Activities will be held at the Southport Community Building, which was opened in 1942 for the USO.

For the celebration the building will become the "Stage Door Canteen" and will host the Sea Notes Choral Society's spring concert. The performance will feature World War II songs.

World War II memorabilia -- pictures, medals, letters, magazines, etc. -- will be displayed, and World War II veterans

See War years, page 6



On April Fool's Day a great big colored balloon came down in Southport's Waterfront Park where Miss Jordan and Miss Martin's first grade students were playing and tried to eat

everybody up but it had to spit the teachers out because they were too tough. No foolin'.

Photo by Jim Harper

Gypsy moth spray could start Friday

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Spraying will likely begin at dawn Friday to combat a local invasion of the gypsy moth.

But it may be next week before the planes target the Southport-Oak Island community.

The N. C. Department of Agriculture will start in the Ocean Isle Beach and Holden Beach areas first. Experts believe moth eggs hatched sooner in the southern part of the county.

"We've had a lot of questions," said Dan Wall, spray project coordinator with the NCDA. "I think we've been able to satisfy people's questions. We want them to call in and ask."

Residents can call 1-800-449-9007 to get a daily update on where the planes are expected to fly. Poor weather conditions will dictate

See Moths, page 9

'The products have an excellent safety record. We've never had a problem with any of them.'

Dan Wall
Project coordinator



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for morning showers on Thursday, then clear skies and highs in the mid-60s. Clear and cool weather is expected Friday with highs again in the 60s, then fair skies on Saturday with highs reaching into the 70s. Lows each day during the period will be in the middle 40s.

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 8.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, APRIL 7	LOW
6:28 a.m.		12:07 a.m.
6:47 p.m.		12:58 p.m.
FRIDAY, APRIL 8		
7:13 a.m.		12:55 a.m.
7:29 p.m.		1:11 p.m.
SATURDAY, APRIL 9		
7:53 a.m.		1:38 a.m.
8:08 p.m.		1:50 p.m.
SUNDAY, APRIL 10		
8:32 a.m.		2:19 a.m.
8:45 p.m.		2:28 p.m.
MONDAY, APRIL 11		
9:07 a.m.		2:58 a.m.
9:20 p.m.		3:05 p.m.
TUESDAY, APRIL 12		
9:42 a.m.		3:36 a.m.
9:54 p.m.		3:41 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13		
10:14 a.m.		4:13 a.m.
10:27 p.m.		4:17 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.

Yelton's wife was killed

Manager hospitalized; Warren assumes duties

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners says he will turn to the Cape Fear Council of Governments for advice on how to temporarily fill the county manager's position.

County employees who arrived at work Monday learned of the tragedy that left many stunned and also forced commissioners to recess their meeting until next week.

County manager Wyman Yelton, of Southport, was seriously injured in a head-on collision on Interstate 40 near Durham Sunday afternoon, but the accident also left his wife dead.

County commissioners appointed their chairman, Don Warren, as acting county manager during a brief meeting Monday. The board may name a temporary person to guide the county through the difficult budget preparation.

"Everybody is still in shock," said Joyce Johnson, interim clerk to the board of commis-

'We're going to check on the rehabilitation situation with Mr. Yelton. We may appoint someone, we may not. It just depends on what we have.'

Don Warren

sioners. "We've had a lot of calls today from people who want to know what they can do to help. All we can do is pray and hope for the best."

Kathryn Shirley Yelton, 52, was driving the couple's 1984 Mercedes when another car

See Warren, page 11

Horne will head county planning

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Some asked what happened, but a series of unexpected events in the Brunswick County Planning Department is what changed Wade Horne's plans to become Long Beach's new town manager.

County officials convinced Horne to stay in county government, one week after he resigned as zoning administrator to begin work with the town.

The employee that county manager Wyman Yelton labels a "good leader for the planning functions" of Brunswick County instead began work Monday as the new director of planning, replacing 13-year

See Horne, page 7

Long Beach still looking for manager

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Hopeful expectancy turned to frustration and disappointment for Long Beach town officials last week when the man they recently hired as town manager announced he would not be coming to Long Beach after all.

Brunswick County zoning administrator

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