

The State Port

Pilot

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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Our Town

Bald Head Island accepts the result of election that provides for democratic rule

Sports

North Brunswick teams advance in state playoffs; Cougar boys lose close one

Neighbors

The maritime museum offers insight into the history of the Southport area

Caswell petition is enough

Board membership will be on the ballot

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

A petition supporting an increase in the number of Caswell Beach town commissioners signed by 86 registered Caswell Beach voters was confirmed as valid this week by Brunswick County Board of Elections supervisor Lynda Britt.

A number of Caswell Beach residents and property owners have declared their support for increasing the number of commissioners from three to five. Supporters say the increase would lead to better representation for a rapidly growing town.

However, mayor Jack Cook and commissioners Bill Boyd and Esten Gillis all have expressed concern that the increase would lead to a further division among town residents. Commissioner Joe O'Brien is the only board member actively supporting the increase.

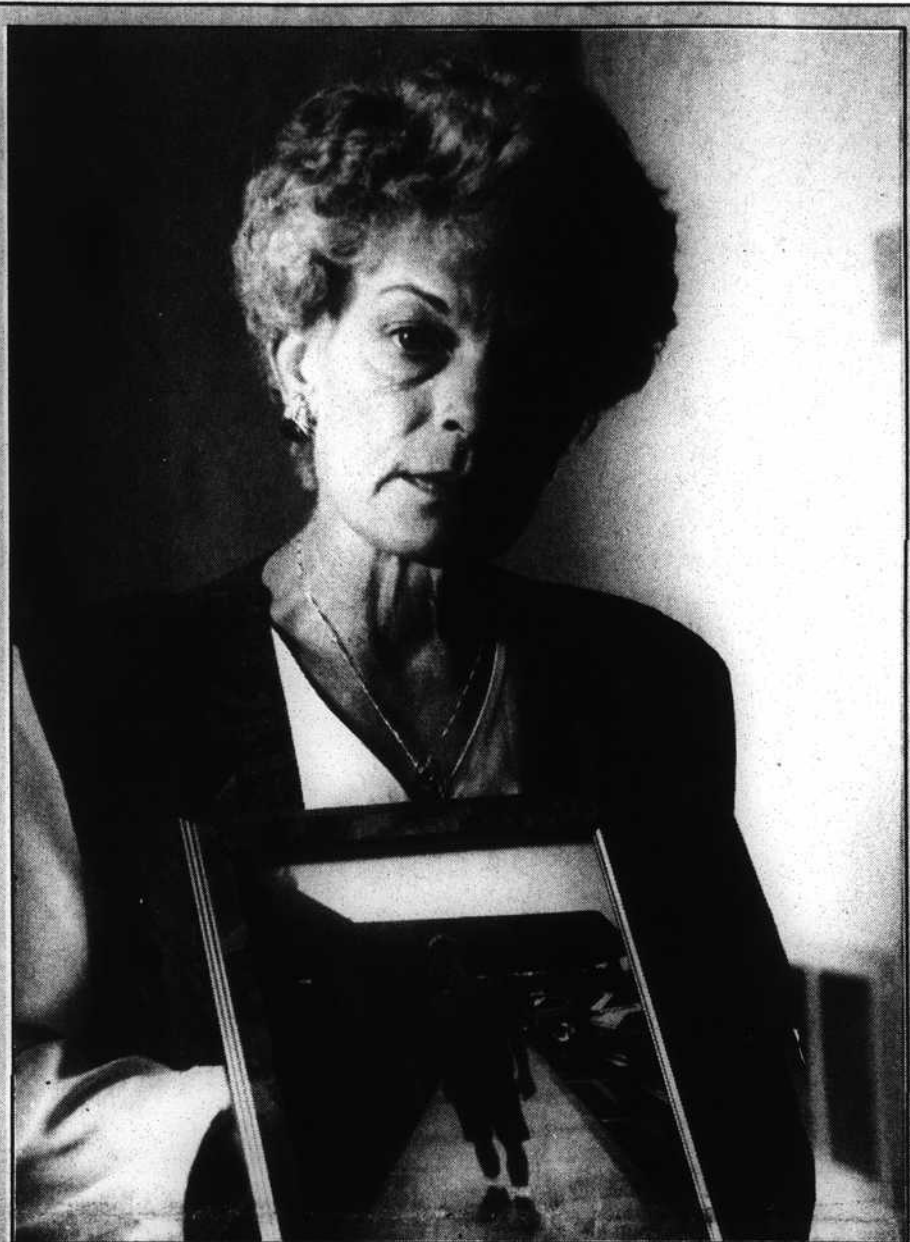
Britt explained that in order to compel the town to conduct a referendum on the issue, the petition would have had to be signed by at least ten percent of the town's 246 registered voters. The 86 people who signed the petition are more than enough to call for a vote.

The petition is expected to be presented to the board at its next meeting on Thursday, June 9. The law states that commissioners will then have no fewer than 60 days and no more than 120 days to conduct the referendum. The town will have to abide by the results of the referendum.

However, Britt indicated that the referendum could still be held in conjunction with the November elections if residents of Caswell Beach are agreeable.

The cost of holding the referendum during the general election would be between \$500 and \$700.

She said it would cost the town about \$300 more to hold the referendum prior to the election since special poll workers would have to be hired and the machine that reads the ballots would have to be specially programmed.



Photographs help Lou Smith and her family remember Bryan, whose puzzling death shocked those who knew him and has also sparked a state investigation.

Remembering Bryan

Family tries to deal with murder, rumours

By Terry Pope
County Editor

While investigators piece together a few clues, Bryan Smith's family battles against rumors in the community which surround his puzzling death.

The Yaupon Beach native's body was found floating in Town Creek near Winnabow by a fisherman on May 8, a week

after he failed to return to his twin brother's apartment in Wilmington and was reported missing. The 1991 South Brunswick High School graduate was wearing just a T-shirt and socks when pulled from the water. An autopsy later revealed his throat had been cut.

"I don't want to hear any more speculation, because rumors hurt hard," said Mrs. See Bryan, page 7

County projects could be granted 'windfall' monies

By Terry Pope
County Editor

State Rep. David Redwine's \$28-million wish list may not all be funded, but the veteran lawmaker says you can't get what you don't ask for.

The list Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach) is seeking includes \$200,000 to remove old tires from a disintegrating artificial reef off Oak Island and \$1 million to begin an aquaculture program at Brunswick Community College's main campus near Supply.

The largest chunk of what Redwine is seeking is \$23 million to build a marine science center at UNC-Wilmington. State legislators gathering for a budget session in Raleigh this week each hope to receive a slice of the state's windfall pie.

It is estimated to be around \$500 million to spend on new projects this year, a result of conservative budgeting in the past.

Another \$500 million surplus in the state's

State legislators gathering for a budget session in Raleigh this week each hope to receive a slice of the \$500-million pie

bank account may be set aside for a four-percent teacher pay raise and other recurring needs, such as the Smart Start program for preschool children and the state's fiber optics Information Highway system.

Redwine would like for his 14th District to get a fair portion of the surplus, but he realizes bills he introduced, along with Rep. Dewey Hill

See 'Windfall', page 6

Towns question water rate hike

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Long Beach, Caswell Beach and Southport are asking Brunswick County to justify a proposed 15-cent-per-1,000-gallon increase in the cost of water.

The county now sells water to the municipalities at a rate of \$1.35 per 1,000 gallons, and the towns in turn resell the water to residents.

The current price of water in Caswell Beach is \$1.60 per 1,000 gallons, in Long Beach the cost is \$1.42 per 1,000 gallons, and in Southport the cost is \$1.14 per 1,000 gallons.

Southport relied solely on well water until the Franklin Square Park well was infiltrated with salt water and closed in October. Since

then, city manager Rob Gandy said the city has purchased about 25 million gallons of water from the county. Gandy said the cost of water in Southport will increase in the next fiscal year, but he is not prepared to say how much.

The contract between the county and the municipalities states that the county can be compelled to justify any rate increase.

"I think at this point the town's not necessarily saying the increase is right or wrong," said Long Beach public works director Charles Derrick. "But our contract with Brunswick County does give us the right to ask for justification."

County utilities director Jerry Webb stressed that just because he has asked for a 15-cent See Rate hike, page 8

Leland writes new chapter in testing

By Terry Pope
County Editor

All eyes are now on Leland Middle School and how eighth graders there soared past state and county averages with their yearly writing scores.

A comparison of scores released last week of Brunswick County students in grades four, six and eight show sustained progress at most schools. For others, it is an annual roller-coaster ride with few explanations for the difference in results.

South Brunswick eighth graders fall farthest

The lowest eighth grade scores were posted at South Brunswick Middle, where just 37.7 percent of students scored a 2.5 or higher on a scale of one to four. That was a decline from 66 percent last year.

The highest was at Leland Middle, at 75.3 percent, on the annual writing exam which this year featured a persuasive essay for eighth graders.

"Leland Middle did very well," said Gloria

Talley, director of staff development and assessment for Brunswick County schools. "They have held a lot of writing workshops for teachers and have really concentrated on writing for the past three years."

Teachers there have also introduced the Paideia teaching method, using a Socratic seminar mode at least once a week in every classroom. The faculty has also integrated the teaching of writing skills into all subjects, or writing

across the curriculum, and have not limited it just to language arts.

"Other schools have dabbled a bit in Paideia," said Ms. Talley. "Now they're looking at that very closely after seeing how well Leland Middle did on its scores."

Eighth graders were given a writing prompt which asked them to address a letter to the manager of a mall considering a new policy. Students were told to either support or oppose the idea of banning teens inside the mall unless accompanied by a parent, as a way to cut down

See Testing, page 8



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies Thursday with a high near 90 degrees. Showers are expected on Friday, followed by fair -- but cooler -- weather Saturday and Sunday with highs only in the 70s and lows in the 60s.

The State Port Pilot
Pilot Line
THE TALKING NEWSPAPER

Weather updates are available on Pilot Line. Dial 457-5084, then extension 191.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MAY 26	LOW
9:42 a.m.		3:38 a.m.
10:16 p.m.		3:43 p.m.
HIGH	FRIDAY, MAY 27	LOW
10:36 a.m.		4:29 a.m.
11:09 p.m.		4:35 p.m.
HIGH	SATURDAY, MAY 28	LOW
11:31 a.m.		5:20 a.m.
----- p.m.		25:26 p.m.
HIGH	SUNDAY, MAY 29	LOW
12:00 a.m.		6:10 a.m.
12:25 p.m.		6:20 p.m.
HIGH	MONDAY, MAY 30	LOW
12:52 a.m.		7:01 a.m.
1:19 p.m.		7:15 p.m.
HIGH	TUESDAY, MAY 31	LOW
1:43 a.m.		7:52 a.m.
2:14 p.m.		8:12 p.m.
HIGH	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1	LOW
2:35 a.m.		8:43 a.m.
3:07 p.m.		9:10 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.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY SCHOOLS

Grades 4, 6 & 8 Writing

