

June 1, 1994



Sports

Good pitching continued Tuesday but it was not the Scorpions this time -- 12B

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Our Town

Road work, excavation at Sunny Point intersection has us wondering -- Page 2

Neighbors

Working for a living is something these students are getting used to -- 1B

Cafeteria equipment report due

By Terry Pope County Editor

A written report could be made public later this week on the controversial sale of used surplus cafeteria equipment...

Brunswick County school superintendent Ralph Johnston said Tuesday he will make the report public once he receives a copy.

It should detail how 46 pieces of cafeteria equipment from Southport Elementary School ended up in the hands of Jarvis Jones, a Long Beach restaurant owner, for just \$350.

At question is whether any school employees acted improperly in the deal.

"There have been no personnel decisions at this point," said Johnston, who met with the Brunswick County Board of Education in executive session...

Shaw, representing the firm hired to conduct the internal investigation, presented the final part of the findings to the board.

"In terms of what he was charged to do," said Johnston, "it is complete. Now he is compiling a summary of that for the board."

Johnston said Tuesday he doesn't know if the school board will want to hold another meeting to present the findings or if his office will simply release the information.

Peterson refused to disclose what that action involved, adding that he could not comment on sensitive personnel matters.

The board has met twice in executive session to go over details of the probe ordered after questions were raised about the equipment sale, which took place last summer.

See Equipment, page 9

REACHING SKYWARD



Photo by Jim Harper

Southport city workers were called into action last week to reeve a halyard block on the Garrison weather tower. The city also is called when tower lighting needs repair.

Projects added

Beach tax rate could go down, but how much?

By Holly Edwards Municipal Editor

A part-time town planner position, an answer to Poly-carts along Beach Drive, a new youth work program, a stepped-up street paving program, a basketball court and funding that will contribute to planning and future construction of a gymnasium at the recreation center...

A number of changes were made to the proposal Tuesday, and therefore the final numbers are not yet available. But mayor Joan Altman promised the tax rate would be lower than the current rate of 41 cents per \$100 of property valuation.

The proposal calls for no increase in the water rate, though a decision ultimately will depend on the county's water rate for the next fiscal year, the mayor said.

A five-percent, cost-of-living salary increase for all full-time employees also is included in the budget.

A public hearing on the proposal will be held prior to the council's See Beach tax, page 9

Walters named beach manager

By Holly Edwards Municipal Editor

Cape Fear Council of Governments executive director Jerry Walters is expected to assume his new position as Long Beach town manager on Monday, June 27.

The Long Beach Town Council voted unanimously at Tuesday night's budget workshop to enter into a one-year contract with Walters at an annual salary of \$45,000.

Walters also will be provided \$300 a month for use of his private vehicle for town business, and up to \$1,000 for to cover costs of moving from Wilmington to Long Beach.

Walters, 41, has been providing town officials with advice and has acted as a consultant since April 5. His \$7,240 contract for consulting services expires June 30.

The town has been without a manager since Tim Johnson resigned effective February 14. Town clerk Pat Brunell has been acting town manager during the interim.

Walters was selected from among 24 applicants, and mayor Joan Altman indicated that there were a number of highly qualified people among them. She pointed to Walters' ambition and expertise as the prime reasons for his selection.

"He has a broad range of qualifications," she said. "And, the board has had the advantage of being able to work with him for a while, and I think they all feel very comfortable with him."

Walters also said he has established a good working relationship with town officials.

"I think it's a good situation and a very positive board," he said. See Walters, page 9

'The manager is not political by the nature of the position. The manager's responsibility is to carry out the council's policies.'

Jerry Walters

'Progress' new rallying cry for these concerned citizens

By Holly Edwards Municipal Editor

Long Beach United for Progress stands for exactly what its name implies, declared the group's president.

Frances Allen said she wants the organization to incorporate and unite all elements in Long Beach, both young and old, in the pursuit of progress.

"Progress" defined by political committee chairman Rupert Riley means continuing the residential expansion of the town.

"I don't think anybody has tried to impede growth," Riley said. "But we as a group would not like to see the town change into a so-called 'Myrtle Beach.'"

At the same time, Allen acknowledged that the group is a political action committee (PAC), and makes no secret of her feelings toward the current town council nor her future plans for launching another political campaign.

Allen ran for a seat on the town council and Riley ran for mayor in the last election. They, along with council candidates Helen Cashwell and David Drummond, were supported by Concerned Citizens of Long Beach. All were defeated by incumbents and new council member Kevin Bell.

The state board of elections later ruled that the group had to register as a PAC if it wanted to continue to raise See Progress, page 6



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies on Thursday, highs in the 80s and a good chance of a thunderstorm. Partly cloudy skies are expected Friday and Saturday as well, with highs near 80 degrees and lows in the 50s.



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

Tide table

Table with columns for HIGH, THURSDAY, JUNE 2, LOW, and subsequent days (FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY) with corresponding times.

Commission denies AEC request Environmental protections already in place, panel says

By Terry Pope County Editor

Local zoning laws are now viewed as the best way to provide environmental protection for an area north of Southport where a mining operation is proposed.

Last week, the Coastal Resources Commission voted not to designate a 5,000-acre tract around the Walden Creek estuary as an "area of environmental concern".

AECs are used to regulate development in sensitive coastal areas. The map includes 1,000 acres either owned or leased by Martin Marietta Aggregates, which has applied for state mining permits to operate a limestone quarry north of Bethel Church Road.

The vote doesn't actively kill the goal of protecting the underground Castle Hayne

aquifer from heavy industrial damage, said CRC chairman Eugene Tomlinson of Southport.

Long Beach resident and CRC Advisory Board member Rosetta Short submitted the proposal in March.

"We want to proceed with the county on zoning to get the area zoned for a non-water dependent industrial use," said Tomlinson. "Her motion is not dead."

Last month, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to ask the county planning board to study whether the area should be rezoned from heavy industrial use to residential use.

Commissioners also passed a protective ordinance to ban mines which use explosives and dewatering of the aquifer within five miles of the Military Ocean

See Commission, page 6