



Neighbors

Ashley Summerlin carries a smile, best wishes to Miss North Carolina Pageant

The State Port

PILOT

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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Sports

West Brunswick state football championship was the top story this school year

Our Town

County zoning mistakes are being corrected one by one to meet residents' needs

Festival '94 prepares to greet crowd

By Cindy Aldridge
Feature Editor

Final touches are being put on plans for the 1994 N. C. Fourth of July Festival, to be held here July 2-4 as the state's official observance of Independence Day.

Arts and crafts, military exhibits and the Fourth of July parade, fireworks and performance by the Embers highlight the three-day celebration.

Opening ceremonies and a community church service will be held at Southport Baptist Church on Thursday, June 30, 7:15 p.m.

Beach Day will be held Friday, July 1, starting at 8 a.m. at the Long Beach cabana. The day will be filled with surfing, volleyball, horseshoes and watermelon-eating contests. Beach Day will conclude with a concert by The Breeze Band and a shag contest between the cabana and Middleton Park.

The official festival kickoff is Saturday, July 2, with the five-kilometer Freedom Run/Walk, starting on the waterfront and winding through the streets of Southport. One of the festival's most popular attractions, the arts and crafts exhibit in Franklin Square will open on Saturday and continue through Monday, July 4.

Also featured all three days are military exhibits on the waterfront, an art show at Franklin Square Gallery, tours of the Old Brunswick Jail and nearly continuous entertainment on the waterfront stage. Southport Maritime Museum will be open to festival visitors throughout the event.

Food vendors will line the streets selling everything from sausage to seafood, said Carolyn Price, president of the 1994 N. C. Fourth of July Festival Committee.

Saturday will offer a variety of other activities, including children's field events on the Garrison and the used book sale at the Brunswick Community College annex.

Entertainment will include Category 5, Wild Heart, Brian Manus, Southport Seacoast Cloggers, Gary Nunnelee and Co.

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'Nothing but good' can result

Discipline is among top school concerns

By Terry Pope
County Editor

When residents analyze the Brunswick County school system, negative thoughts most often come to mind.

That's the result of a February poll conducted by an education coalition led by the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce.

"Forty-four percent gave us a grade of D or F," said Frank Blackmon, school volunteer and a Carolina Power and Light Co. Brunswick nuclear plant employee who facilitated the survey. "So we have some work to do. We just need to go out and do it."

A survey was sent to 1,636 persons who live or work in Brunswick County and was randomly distributed to get a cross section of the community. Of those, 668 surveys were returned, or 43.5 percent.

For the most part, answers reveal the public has a poor opinion of the school system and believes its main

problems are a lack of discipline, a lack of parent and student interest and poor teacher performance in the classrooms.

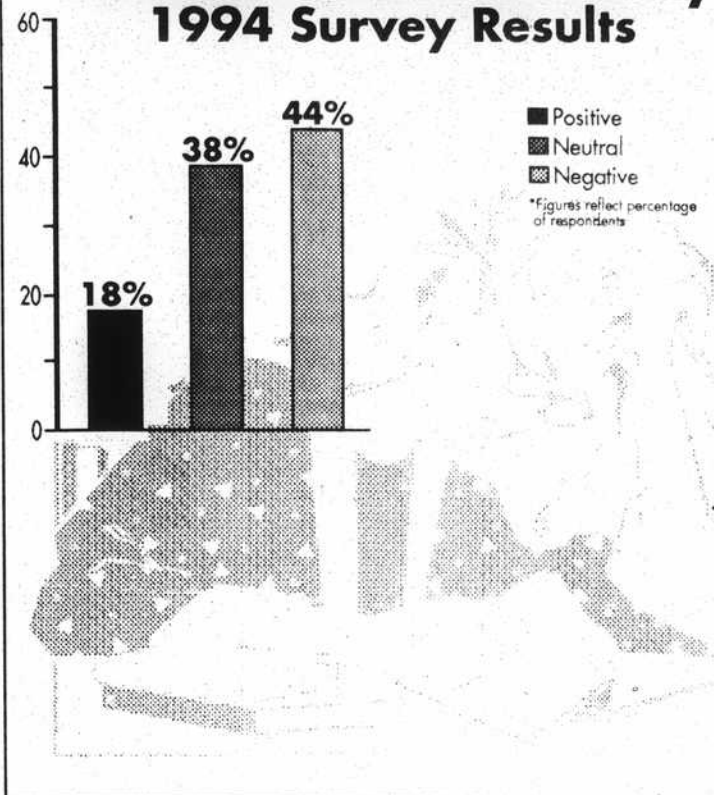
Educators say they must work harder to build public trust in the schools. Opinions show there is work to be done, said school superintendent Ralph Johnston.

"While it may appear negative, I think it's one of the most positive pieces of work involving chambers across the county," said Johnston. "It can't produce anything but positive results."

The Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors was moved by recent regional, state and federal interests to become involved in long-range educational improvement at the local level. It worked with the school system and the Brunswick County Parent Teacher Association Council to form an education committee to study reform.

Members were also named from the Brunswick
See Schools, page 6

Public Attitudes Towards Education in Brunswick County 1994 Survey Results



Long Beach rate drops five cents

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Long Beach property owners will pay more in taxes despite the five-cent reduction in the tax rate, but will not see an increase in their water rates or garbage collection fees.

The town council Tuesday night unanimously approved a \$4.8-million budget for the next fiscal year with a tax rate of 36 cents. The budget will take effect July 1.

Due to the recent countywide property revaluation, the town's tax base increased from \$362 million to about \$457 million. That means despite the tax rate decrease the total tax levy will increase about \$150,000, for a total levy of \$1.6 million.

While there is no increase reflected in the water rate, that could change if the county approves its recommended ten-cents-per-1,000-gallon increase in the cost of water it provides, said public works director Charles Derrick.

Finance officer Cathy Harvell estimated that when the budget takes effect next month the
See Long Beach, page 8



Photo by Jim Harper

The 728, a World War II PT boat disguised as another World War II patrol-torpedo craft, was hauled out at Southport Marina on Tuesday and is expected to remain there some time

for repairs. Torpedo tubes are the only armament to be seen now, but when she sails machine guns and an automatic cannon are also prominently displayed.

Squad fund balance: no emergency

By Terry Pope
County Editor

When fire and rescue volunteers learned the proposed county budget cuts all emergency district allocations this year, they complained.

"I think they were misinformed," said Don Warren of District 1, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

No additional money will be set aside this year because the pot of funds has grown, and officials believe it should more than meet the departments' needs.

"I'm in better shape than I thought I was," said Donald Shaw, District 5 commissioner. Shaw had county finance director Lithia Hahn check on the balance for each district at a budget workshop on Monday.

Traditionally, \$50,000 is placed in a special account for each of the county's five districts each year.

That money is used to pay for fire and rescue
See Emergency, page 6

'Sustained improvement'

CP&L comes off NRC 'watch list'

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The Brunswick Nuclear Plant, on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's "watch list" for two years, is expected to be formally relieved from NRC "close scrutiny" Thursday after showing "sustained improvement sufficient to warrant removal from the problem plant category."

In a letter to CP&L president William S. Cavanaugh III on Tuesday the NRC's executive director for operations said, "Your actions have been effective in substantially improving the safety performance of the Brunswick Nuclear Plant. Therefore the NRC has determined that the enhanced level of regulatory monitoring is no longer warranted."

The Brunswick plant fell to the woeful state of having to shut itself down in the face of NRC
See CP&L, page 6

'Management has effectively corrected the weaknesses and underlying root causes that led to previous performance problems.'

James M. Taylor
NRC operations director

Lakes tax rate down by 10 cents

Boiling Spring Lakes commissioners lowered the city's tax rate from 40 cents per \$100 of property valuation to 30 cents following Tuesday night's public hearing on the budget proposal.

Commissioners then unanimously approved the \$904,300 budget, which will take effect July 1.

The recent countywide property revaluation increased the town's tax base from about \$58 million to an estimated \$72 million. Finance commissioner Bert Buckbee pointed out that some residents who live on Boiling Spring Lake will see a 30-percent increase in their county taxes due to the increased value of their property.

To achieve the reduction, commissioners Tuesday night deleted funding for an addition to City Hall and the purchase of a new police car.

The tax levy is now estimated to be
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Forecast

The extended forecast calls for more of the same: highs near 90, lows in the 70s, chance of afternoon thunderstorms throughout the period. A change in the forecast is expected sometime in early September.

Pilot Line
THE TALKING NEWSPAPER

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

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JUNE 23	LOW
8:30 a.m.		2:29 a.m.
9:08 p.m.		2:34 p.m.
	FRIDAY, JUNE 24	
9:25 a.m.		3:20 a.m.
9:58 p.m.		3:25 p.m.
	SATURDAY, JUNE 25	
10:17 a.m.		4:08 a.m.
10:46 p.m.		4:14 p.m.
	SUNDAY, JUNE 26	
11:07 a.m.		4:55 a.m.
11:33 p.m.		5:03 p.m.
	MONDAY, JUNE 27	
11:57 a.m.		5:41 a.m.
----- p.m.		5:52 p.m.
	TUESDAY, JUNE 28	
12:19 a.m.		6:26 a.m.
12:46 p.m.		6:42 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29	
1:05 a.m.		7:13 a.m.
1:35 p.m.		7:33 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.