

Our Town

Work continues on the Southport branch of the county library -- page 2

The State Port PILOT

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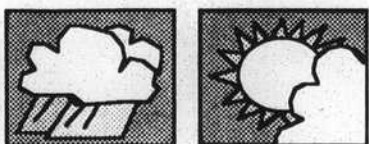
50 CENTS

Neighbors

VISTA workers are helping spread the word about the literacy program - 3B

Sports

Football practice for Brunswick county schools opens Saturday -- page 12



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for a 60-percent chance of showers on Thursday with a high in the mid-80s. Partly cloudy skies are expected Friday through Sunday, with highs in the 80s and lows between 70 and 75 degrees.

Pilot Line
THE TALKING NEWSPAPER

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

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JULY 28	LOW
12:23 a.m.		6:31 a.m.
12:51 p.m.		6:53 p.m.
FRIDAY, JULY 29		
1:05 a.m.		7:15 a.m.
1:37 p.m.		7:43 p.m.
SATURDAY, JULY 30		
1:50 a.m.		8:02 a.m.
2:27 p.m.		8:38 p.m.
SUNDAY, JULY 31		
2:40 a.m.		8:54 a.m.
3:19 p.m.		9:36 p.m.
MONDAY, AUGUST 1		
3:34 a.m.		9:48 a.m.
4:13 p.m.		10:35 p.m.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2		
4:30 a.m.		10:42 a.m.
5:07 p.m.		11:31 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3		
5:25 a.m.		11:35 a.m.
5:58 p.m.		----- 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.

Sewer fix gets okay from state

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

State officials have given Yaupon Beach permission to halt a dechlorination process in use at its wastewater treatment plant. Engineering consultants say this may abate a growth of algae in the system's rapid infiltration basin and allow treated effluent levels in the basin to drop.

Meanwhile, a local clammer, oysterman and member of a state advisory panel on shellfishing says the closure of the Carolina Power and Light Co. canal to shellfishing interests will cost him and others money, particularly if the closure continues through the late-fall oyster season. (See related story.)

On the advice of the Shellfish Sanitation Branch of the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, the state's Division of Marine Fisheries July 7 ordered all waters north of the mouth of the CP&L canal closed for shellfishing, citing "potential" pollution

See Sewer, page 7

FEEDING THE MULTITUDES



Volunteers O. W. Carrier (left) and David Mull were among 14 local Baptists who prepared and served 15,898 meals to flood victims in Albany, Ga. last week. The two women in the foreground are members of a group of Salisbury volunteers who were relieved by the Brunswick County group.

The rain descended, and the floods came

Matthew 7:25

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

The flood of 1994 devastated the city of Albany, Ga. As the angry waters of the Flint River receded, the city's 80,000 residents were left with the overwhelming task of cleaning up the mess. Huge piles of mildewed and foul-smelling belongings now line virtually every street; hundreds of coffins that were unearthed are being reburied in local graveyards; hundreds of sinkholes threaten structures all over the city; the stench from broken sewer lines hangs thick in the air; 4,500 homes are uninhabitable; five people drowned.

An estimated 5,000 people were housed in shelters during the flood, and about 2,000 people remain without a permanent place to live.

Only ten percent of the city's population had flood insurance, and many are now searching for the means to start over.

To ease the plight of these people who are now struggling with the basic requirements of life, a group of Brunswick County Baptist volunteers went to Albany last week to assist the Red Cross in providing meals to needy flood victims.

From Thursday afternoon to Saturday evening, the group of 14 volunteers served 15,898 meals, proceeded on less than four hours of sleep per night, slept on U. S. Army cots in a local church, and

'We were acting as God's hands. It was really rewarding to know that you had a part in something like this.'

Bill Owens

showered in plastic-wrapped stalls that had two temperatures -- cold and lukewarm.

"In reality, it was exhausting," proclaimed volunteer Bill Owens. "But the rewards are something I can't explain to you."

Owens said the volunteers were "running on energy supplied by the Lord," and relied on the worship services held every evening at nine o'clock for the mental and physical strength to continue.

"We were acting as God's hands," Owens said. "It was really rewarding to know that you had a part in something like this."

Another local volunteer, *State Port Pilot* business manager Diane McKeithan, said she would have left after the first day if she had the chance.

"I'm not a morning person, and when they said we had to be up and out by 4 a.m. I said 'Surely you jest,'" McKeithan declared, adding that the volunteers were awakened each morning at 3:30 by one of the cooks banging a pot with a wooden spoon.

But she said her supply of energy was continuously restored, and that she would go back to Albany and do it all over again if given the opportunity.

"It was a very rewarding experience," she said. McKeithan may get her chance. Owens said there are ten regional

See Flood, page 8

Jury trial

No compromise so court decides schools' funding

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The battle over school spending entered the courtroom Tuesday as judge Jack Thompson warned both sides to stick to the main issue -- how much money can maintain free public schools in the county.

A last-minute compromise may have been anticipated by many connected to the case, but one was not reached before the dispute headed to Brunswick County Superior Court.

Jury selection took most of the day. The six men and six women will settle the disagreement over how much local funding Brunswick County commissioners should appropriate to help operate the school system this fiscal year.

The Brunswick County Board of Education petitioned the courts to settle the case and has asked for \$4.2 million, the difference in what was actually requested and the \$8.7 million the schools received in the 1994-95 county budget.

A one-cent increase on the county's tax rate would generate about \$500,000 in additional revenue.

"The issue," said judge Thompson, "is not the desires of either party. Nor is it the desires of residents of the county. But the issue is..."

See Jury trial, page 9

Fire protection is questionable in outlying area

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Southport volunteer fire chief Greg Cumbee says firefighters have plans to deal with fires in outlying areas of the city -- notably in Smithville Woods -- while the city awaits a solution to its inadequate water supply and pressure problems.

Consulting engineer Street Lee of McKim and Creed Engineers, P.A., told Southport aldermen July 14 that adequate 500-gallon-per-minute water flow could not be maintained to fight fires in Smithville Woods, which is not a part of the city but is served by Southport fire and rescue. He said that draw on the city water system would drop pressure to zero and would reduce flow to zero.

Water supply, storage and distribution problems facing the city will be the subject of a

See Protection, page 9

'Breaking off into splintered groups'

Some Leland residents up in arms over chief

Armed patrols cause for concern among other townspeople

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A small revolution formed the Town of Leland five years ago, but residents are now divided among themselves -- over support or blame placed on police

chief Charles Cliff and his method for putting the clamps on crime in this town of 1,900 residents.

"I'm saddened with the way things are developing in this town," said Donald Gilbert, husband of councilman Jane Gilbert. "We seem to be breaking off into splintered groups, trying to put the blame off on someone, or trying to get the goods on someone."

If Cliff were a boxer, the referee would have raised his arm in victory last week for surviving the ordeal he faced when some residents unleashed their verbal attack on the two-year employee before the town council. They accused him of a felony for his role in retrieving a service revolver pawned by an auxiliary officer last year, and of violating policy when he

made an arrest outside of town limits recently.

It was a battle that has been brewing for months, ever since residents of Westover subdivision beside North Brunswick High School took to the streets armed with weapons to patrol against break-ins. Their vigilante style drew criticism from councilman Thomas Hyatt in the town's newsletter mailed to residents in June, a month before four full-time officers were hired



CLIFF

See Terry Pope column, page 5

See Leland, page 6