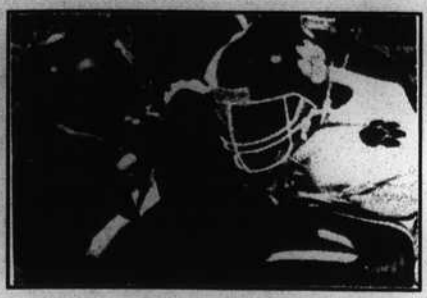


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Sports

South Brunswick hosts the defending state champion Trojans Friday -- page 12

The State Port

PILOT

VOLUME 63/ NUMBER 52

SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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Our Town

Sunny Point is a military installation; zoning change may indicate that -- page 2

Neighbors

Two, four, six, eight; we appreciate the athleticism of Cougar cheerleaders -- 1B



Forecast

The forecast for Thursday through Saturday calls for partly cloudy skies with a chance of thunderstorms each evening. Highs will be in the mid-80s with nighttime lows in the 70s.

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, AUGUST 25	LOW
11:26 a.m.	5:10 a.m.	
11:42 p.m.	5:32 p.m.	
	FRIDAY, AUGUST 26	
----- a.m.	5:50 a.m.	
12:06 p.m.	6:14 p.m.	
	SATURDAY, AUGUST 27	
12:20 a.m.	6:31 a.m.	
12:49 p.m.	7:01 p.m.	
	SUNDAY, AUGUST 28	
1:02 a.m.	7:17 a.m.	
1:37 p.m.	7:53 p.m.	
	MONDAY, AUGUST 29	
1:51 a.m.	8:08 a.m.	
2:30 p.m.	8:51 p.m.	
	TUESDAY, AUGUST 30	
2:47 a.m.	9:04 a.m.	
3:21 p.m.	9:52 p.m.	
	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31	
3:47 a.m.	10:03 a.m.	
4:24 p.m.	10:51 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.

Fuel rods shipment will begin

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

The first of three shipments of spent nuclear fuel rods from European research reactors is expected to arrive at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point within the next few weeks.

From there, the fuel rods will be transported by rail to the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site near Aiken, S. C. The 333-mile journey is expected to take 24

See Fuel rods, page 7

SCHOOL DAYS



Photo by Jim Harper

Classes started at all county schools on Tuesday, including Supply Elementary, where educators have been given permission by county health officials to operate while trying to solve a wastewater disposal problem.

Reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic will add up for first graders

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Summervacation came to an end Tuesday for students throughout Brunswick County.

For some youngsters, Tuesday marked not only their first day of school for the year, but their first day of school ever.

First graders arrived at Southport Elementary School Tuesday morning equipped with pencils, paper, knapsacks and lunch boxes with their names neatly inscribed on the side.

"Check this out -- Cheetos!" said one excited boy, bragging to a new friend and opening his Batman lunch box.

The first graders sat fidgeting and giggling in class, as teachers went over the basics: work quietly, listen and follow directions, raise hand before talking, use only clean words, keep hands, feet and objects to yourselves (a rule that the boys, in particular,

seemed to have a problem with).

There is no doubt that these first grade teachers have their hands full, but they seem to enjoy the challenge.

One of the first exercises assigned by teacher Carol Midgett was to have each student draw a self-portrait. Midgett said the drawings are placed in the students' portfolios and she repeats the exercise at the end of the school year. The comparison is astounding, she said.

"The thing that's so great is they recognize their own growth," she said.

Midgett uses both free-flowing praise and quick rebukes to keep her students on track.

"I can already tell which seats I'm going to have to rearrange," she said, two hours into the first day.

In another first grade classroom, instructor Kelly Kolander

See Reading, page 8

County requests new trial

Motion: jury ignored instructions by judge to 'maintain' schools

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The battle between county commissioners and the school board returns to the courtroom Monday.

Several motions filed by county attorney Mike Ramos ask that last month's jury verdict that awarded the schools \$14 million in local funds be set aside and a new trial held.

Superior Court judge Jack Thompson will hear arguments beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the county courthouse near Bolivia.

It may take up to 30 days before Thompson reaches a decision.

County commissioners say they haven't decided, should the judge rule in the school board's favor, whether to appeal the case.

The dispute headed to a trial July 25 when a mediator wasn't available to hear the case. The panel's decision gave the school system approximately \$5 million more than what county commissioners had allocated in the 1994-95 budget.

County officials say it will take a ten-cent increase in the county tax rate to pay the judgment. School officials say the system has a history of being underfunded.

In the county's motion for a new trial Ramos will argue three points -- the jury disregarded the court instructions; there was insufficient evidence to justify the verdict; and an error occurred at the time of trial, stemming from a judge's order, and was objected to by the defendants.

Before the trial began, judge Thompson ordered both sides to stick to the sole issue -- what amount of funding is needed to maintain a system of free public schools. Ramos said judge Thompson called attorneys for both sides into his chambers before the case began and gave his instructions.

Restricted from evidence was any information regarding the county's ability to pay more funds, the county's tax base, other sources of revenue available to the county, the county's

See New trial, page 6

Five get suspended sentences for part in Davis' murder

By Terry Pope
County Editor

They were not active participants in the murder, but they did nothing to stop it either.

They still served as key players, they watched it unfold and told no one, and deserve stiff punishment.

That's how assistant district attorney Lee Bollinger outlined his case against five youths charged in connection to the death of Charles Wayne (Butch) Davis of Bolivia.

In all, ten persons ages 17 to 22 were present the night of November 28, 1993, when Davis, 37, was shot, beaten and killed in what prosecutors said was a "mob scene" outside the victim's home.

Of those charged, five pleaded no contest in Brunswick County Superior Court on Monday to a charge of conspiracy to commit assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury. They each received suspended sentences and probation in exchange for dismissal of other charges and agreement to cooperate with the investigation.

"You've found out the hard way that being with the wrong people at the wrong time is extremely costly," said judge Gregory Weeks. "Each of you is now a convicted felon. It doesn't matter where you go in this state, or outside of this state, this record is accessible to anyone. This is

See Sentences, page 6

Marine Fisheries meets Friday

Redwine tries to mend rift between towns, fishermen

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

For the time being, resolution of the dispute between aggrieved Brunswick County beach towns and the menhaden fishing industry remains in the hands of the N. C. Marine Fisheries Commission, which will hear both parties Friday in Atlantic Beach.

But, Wednesday night, the commission was given a way out of the fray when representatives of the towns and the menhaden companies working area waters hammered-out several proposals to end the dispute in a two-and-a-half-hour negotiating session facilitated by Rep. E. David Redwine of Brunswick County.

The towns, led by Long Beach, last month petitioned the Marine Fisheries Commission to ban menhaden fishing within 1.5 nautical miles of the Brunswick County coast from May to September and within a half-mile from October to December. The Long Beach action was triggered by a June spill which littered its beachfront with an estimated 2,000 pounds of pogy carcasses.

Beach towns say they are fed-up with men-

'I can't survive without Brunswick County. That's all there is to it.... We'll do anything for you, but if you take away our fishing grounds we're out of business.'

Jule Wheatly
Beaufort Fisheries

haden spills that foul their beaches with tons of dead pogies and chase tourist dollars. Menhaden fishermen say the ban would kill their industry.

Pogy fishing companies offered concessions to many of the towns' concerns, but rejected any measure that would limit their ability to fish as close to the beachfront as they wanted. In the end, representatives of the towns appeared disinclined to break the back of the fishery with distance limits.

"It is obvious to me that what is requested in this resolution (the distance limits) cannot be for the menhaden industry," Long Beach mayor Joan Altman said. "What we're getting to is, we're going to have to live together. I don't think council understood that by setting the regulation it would mean 'no' fishing."

Redwine suggested formation of a committee of town and fishing interests be formed to draft an agreement between them outlining solutions identified that night. But Altman asserted resolutions sent by all beach towns to the Marine Fisheries Commission could not be withdrawn. Individual town governing boards had acted to officially petition the Marine Fisheries Commission. She suggested the commission might order the committee-drafted agreement as a solution, but the mayor did not

See Fisheries, page 8