



**Sports**

The annual *Pilot* football contest begins this week; games and rules -- 15B

The State Port

**PILLOW**

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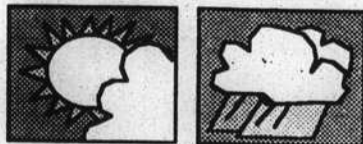
50 CENTS

**Our Town**

Aldermen 'retreat' but talk on annexation by the city moves forward -- page 2

**Neighbors**

Big Sweep '94 volunteers find a variety of items on Oak Island strand -- 1B



**Forecast**

The extended forecast calls for a chance of rain Thursday, followed by partly cloudy skies on Friday and Saturday. Nighttime lows are expected to be in the 60s, with daytime highs ranging between 75 and 80 degrees.

**Tide table**

HIGH	LOW
<b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22</b>	
10:12 a.m.	3:58 a.m.
10:30 p.m.	4:22 p.m.
<b>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23</b>	
10:48 a.m.	4:35 a.m.
11:04 p.m.	5:01 p.m.
<b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24</b>	
11:25 a.m.	5:12 a.m.
11:39 p.m.	5:41 p.m.
<b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25</b>	
----- a.m.	5:51 a.m.
12:04 p.m.	6:24 p.m.
<b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26</b>	
12:18 a.m.	6:35 a.m.
12:50 p.m.	7:13 p.m.
<b>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27</b>	
1:05 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
1:42 p.m.	8:09 p.m.
<b>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28</b>	
2:03 a.m.	8:22 a.m.
2:39 p.m.	9:09 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.

**REFUGEE RAFT**



Photo by Jim Harper

Capt. Jeff Peoples hauled this strange craft aboard his *Kingsfisher* some 30 miles offshore last Friday. Presumably one of many Cuban escape craft, it bears Spanish slogans or names both on the bow and on its rudder. More information on the discovery is in "Waterfront".

**Beach fire claims life of resident**

An early morning fire on 4th Street SW claimed the life of a Long Beach woman Monday.

Estelle Bebianne (Bea) McGowen, 57, was pronounced dead at the scene of her burned home by coroner Greg White, major Johnny Freeman of the Long Beach Police Department said.

Freeman said emergency services were called to the fire at 106-4th Street SW at 7:12 a.m. Monday by Robert Edmund McGowen, the victim's husband.

Freeman and Mike Sullivan, a Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation employee who is also a Yaupon Beach volunteer firefighter, were first to arrive on the scene.

"When I arrived Mr. McGowen was on the front screened porch and a female was lying face up with burns to her face and hands," Freeman said.

A preliminary autopsy report from a state medical examiner in Jacksonville set the cause of Ms. McGowen's death as asphyxiation from carbon monoxide inhalation.

Freeman said police believe the fire began with a cooking accident.

"Apparently Ms. McGowen woke up and started cooking," Freeman said. "Something in the pan caught fire and it apparently spread to the cabinets. Once you get that much smoke.... That smoke is

See *Beach fire*, page 8

**Fuel rod shipment stranded in court**

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Shipment of radioactive fuel rods into the county have been placed on hold for now.

The first containers loaded with nuclear elements were en route to Brunswick County when plans suddenly ran aground in a South Carolina courtroom last week.

U. S. District Court judge Matthew Perry issued an injunction to block the shipment of foreign fuel elements into the country until a more detailed environmental study is completed.

U. S. Department of Energy officials immediately appealed the decision to the U. S. Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit, in Richmond, Va.

See *Fuel rod*, page 6

*Less than expected*

**Long Beach water needs will be met with new storage**

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Long Beach will have to construct an additional 500,000 gallons of overhead water storage tank and tower at an estimated cost of \$523,000 to adequately assure water supply for the next 20 years.

Those are the estimates and the recommendation of consulting engineers Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates presented to town council Tuesday night.

"For the next 20 years, according to our design scale, we recommend you proceed with an half-million, not a million, gallon storage tank," consulting engineer Eric Webber said.

This comes as good news to Long Beach. Some town officials had unofficially estimated the additional overhead drinking water storage need to be double the estimate of the consulting engineers. In fact, the engineer started out on the premise need would be just about double the eventual recommendation.

In formulating the capacity recommendation, Webber said, the firm consulted the N. C. Department of Environment Health and Natural Resources. He said DEHNR formerly recommended beach towns with seasonally high consumption keep a full day's supply of water in overhead storage. He said DEHNR had recently revised that requirement to a half-day's supply.

Long Beach now has two overhead storage tanks with a combined capacity of 600,000 gallons of water -- enough, Webber said, to meet present needs, based on consumption figures the engineers evaluated.

The additional half-million gallons of storage capacity recommended by the firm will be sufficient to meet consumption demands for the next 20 years, based on a projected population growth of 83 percent in that time period.

Webber said water quality would also be better by cutting storage capacity to a half-million additional gallons. Water will move out of storage more quickly and have less time to stagnate.

Long Beach will next begin a search for a means to finance the \$523,000 project. Webber said the town is neither eligible for Farmers Home Administration grants nor low-interest FmHA loans, as the town's median income exceeds grant and lost

an eligibility standards. Financing through FmHA would likely be at an interest rate approaching 7.5 percent, he said.

The engineering firm has recommended Long

*The town is not eligible for Farmers Home Administration grants nor low-interest loans, as the town's median income exceeds grant and loan eligibility standards*

Beach apply for five- to six-percent interest loans offered on a competitive basis to local governments by the state under the federal Clean Water Act. Deadline for application for Clean Water Act loans is September 30. Town council will conduct a required public hearing on its loan application at a special meeting next Wednesday, September 28, 6 p.m.

Town manager Jerry Walters was also directed by council to survey local lending institutions to see if a loan could be made at a favorable interest rate to the town.

Councilman Jeff Ensminger was the sole commissioner to question Hobbs and Upchurch's evaluation. He said the town's population was projected to more than double in the next 20 years, disputing the firm's projection of

See *Long Beach*, page 8

**Coastal sewer problems become part of the system**

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Leaky or overworked sewer systems and the health problems they pose to coastal Brunswick County are no longer a buried issue.

Disputes are slowly surfacing, more and more, inside courtrooms.

The September 6 conviction of the owner of a Leland area mobile home park increased awareness that sewer is a major public health issue and won't be taken

See *System*, page 6

*New forum scheduled tonight*

**Pogey, town officials differ on 1985 'gentlemen's pact'**

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Two of Beaufort Fisheries' menhaden boats arrived last week and began fishing off Lockwood Folly Inlet through Thursday -- a day before the beginning of the South Brunswick Islands king mackerel tournament -- in apparent violation of a "gentlemen's agreement" struck between legislators and pogey fishermen in 1985.

The arrival of the *Gregory Poole* and the *Mariner* so close to a tournament for which menhaden are sought as baitfish set off a hail of telephone calls to local legislators and local government officials.

Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce officials, set to begin the U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament September 30, tried to open discussions with Beaufort Fisheries owner Jule Wheatly Friday in an effort to stave-off any presence of the menhaden fleet prior to the state's second largest tournament.

"We're trying to contact them ourselves to speak to them," said Karen Hope, executive vice-president of the Southport-Oak Island chamber. "We don't know how they're going to affect our tournament."

Hope said the chamber wishes to speak to the menhaden operator

See *Pogey*, page 6

**Fishermen won't let Redwine off the hook**

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

State Rep. E. David Redwine said he has taken heat from local fishermen who believe he should not have intervened when local beach towns approved resolutions seeking a N. C. Marine Fisheries Commission ban of menhaden fishing within 1.5 miles of shore during tourist and prime pogey fishing season.

Redwine hosted a meeting of beach town representatives and pogey fishing interests at Brunswick Community College. At that meeting, rudiments of an agreement between the two sides emerged. The Marine Fisheries Commission in late August refused to entertain the resolutions for a "rule" to ban menhaden fishing and ordered the two sides to continue negotiating toward a "gentlemen's agreement."

Redwine said this week some sports fishermen have said they are angry with him for interfering with attempts to get a Marine Fisheries Commission rule.

"The reason for the meeting was because I had no reason to believe the Marine

See *Redwine*, page 6