



**Neighbors**

Get out your cookie cutters for the annual baking contest; prizes galore -- 11B

# The State Port PILOT

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

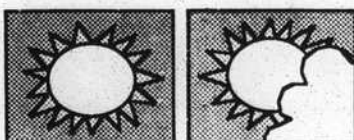
50 CENTS

**Our Town**

Southport continues effort to annex areas outside present boundary -- Page 2

**Sports**

Whiteville blocks South's bid for a huge Waccamaw conference victory -- 12B



**Forecast**

The extended forecast calls for autumn weather Thursday through Sunday. Lows will range in temperature from 45 to 55 and highs each day in the mid 60's to 70. Showers are possible towards the end of the week.

**Tide table**

HIGH	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20	LOW
9:07 a.m.		2:50 a.m.
9:26 p.m.		3:19 p.m.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21		
9:42 a.m.		3:27 a.m.
9:59 p.m.		3:57 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22		
10:17 a.m.		4:03 a.m.
10:32 p.m.		4:35 p.m.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23		
10:52 a.m.		4:40 a.m.
11:06 p.m.		5:13 p.m.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24		
11:29 a.m.		5:18 a.m.
11:44 p.m.		5:54 p.m.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25		
----- a.m.		6:00 a.m.
12:11 p.m.		6:39 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26		
12:30 a.m.		6:48 a.m.
1:00 p.m.		7:30 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.

**School tax: no; so what about sewer?**

County commissioners, take note. Pilot Line callers this week resoundingly said "No way" to your proposal to give local school systems in North Carolina authority to levy property taxes to support public education.

In all, 69.7 percent of callers to The State Port Pilot's interactive service said they do not wish to pay a separate property tax for school system needs. These callers want county commissioners to continue in their historic role of appropriators of school system money.

**What about sewers on barrier islands?**  
 Yaupon Beach is having a bit of trouble getting its new wastewater treatment system up and running. Long Beach is beginning a new study of wastewater and stormwater techniques.

**What is the appropriate means of household wastewater disposal on a barrier island?**

To let your voice be heard, call one of two Pilot Line extensions through Sunday night this week. Your call will register your feelings for one of two options presented only; there is no opportunity to offer comment.

**Question:** Which is the better way for a Brunswick County barrier island town to manage its wastewater?

To vote for a public sewer system, dial 457-5084, extension 193.

To vote for individual septic tanks, dial 457-5084, extension 195.



Deborah Cooper was quite certain about her selection Saturday as she chose from the back of Boyd Inman's pickup at the

Olde Brunswick General Store, and it was equally certain that she had her mind on jack-o-lantern, not pumpkin pie.

Photo by Jim Harper

*...But county is puzzled*

## Supply septic repair awaits county action, schools claim

By Holly Edwards  
 Feature Editor

Brunswick County manager Wyman Yelton says he received a copy of the school board's 1994-95 budget resolution last week reflecting \$9.4 million in local funding, but says that school officials made no specific request regarding what action they wanted the county to take.

County commissioners neither discussed nor approved the resolution at their Monday night meeting, and without commissioners' approval school officials say they cannot begin repairs of the Supply Elementary School septic system.

The school board has accepted a \$179,130 bid from Pipeline Utilities of Wilmington to repair the system, but said it cannot enter into formal contract with the company until county commissioners release at least \$385,000 in half-cent sales tax revenues.

Yelton said he is willing to work with school officials, but said they must first communicate with him.

"They need to talk to us, and not just fax us a copy of the resolution and expect us to know what they want us to do," he said. "If they contact us and ask to be put on the agenda, then we can discuss something."

Commissioners meet again November 7, but even if they approve the budget resolution at

that meeting it is unlikely the school system can have the septic system repaired by the November 12 deadline imposed by the county health department.

School officials also are awaiting final approval of the repair plan from the state.

Superintendent of schools Ralph Johnston said it will take three to four weeks to complete the repair once the project begins.

In the past, schools finance officer Rudi Fallon said, commissioners have approved half-cent sales tax revenues indirectly by approving the overall budget resolution. Once the resolution is approved, she said, school officials can then spend half-cent sales tax revenues with

See Action, page 9

## Schools financing proposed County request to be presented

By Terry Pope  
 County Editor

The N. C. Association of County Commissioners Board of Directors will decide November 29 whether to back plans to allow school districts to raise their own tax dollars.

Brunswick County commissioners adopted a resolution October 3 that asks the association to lobby state legislators for a change in how taxes are assessed to finance schools.

They want school systems to have authority to set their own tax rate separate from county government. It could relieve conflicts between two boards of government.

Don Warren, chairman of the Brunswick County commissioners, presented the resolution at an associational board meeting on Friday. He was elected to the board of directors last month.

But the issue was tabled to allow some staff members time to present other options at the upcoming November 29 meeting.

"Some of the members agreed that the law is very vague in the General Statutes in identifying what is adequate to maintain public schools," said Warren.

A change will require a vote of the N. C. General Assembly. Property tax bills would note an assessment to operate county departments plus a separate assessment to finance the schools. Boards of education would be held accountable for setting the necessary tax rate and for keeping the spending in check.

"I think it's a wonderful idea," said Brunswick County school board chairman Donna Baxter. "We've been begging for that for two years."

The past two years, the local school board has carried county commissioners into mediation or before a Superior Court jury to seek more funds. In August, a jury awarded the schools \$14 million in local funds when only \$9.2 million had been allocated.

The case is pending before the N. C. Court of Appeals and could be heard before Christmas. County commissioners appealed judge Jack Thompson's ruling that the jury verdict should stand.

Warren said he was able to walk the item onto last week's agenda at the board of directors' meeting because it is currently a hot topic among counties. The organization is composed of members from the 100 counties, and Warren represents Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties.

Ms. Baxter said school officials have agreed that authority over school funding would help end the disputes with county officials. The people would still control what amount of money should be set aside for education, she said.

"You can't raise any more taxes than what the people are willing to pay," said Ms. Baxter.

The options presented to the association next

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Former coach Bill Hewett at Monday's hearing

## Hewett may lose teaching license

By Richard Nubel  
 Municipal Editor

An administrative law judge will decide if former South Brunswick football coach Bill Hewett's license to teach in the public schools of North Carolina should be revoked.

Seated in Southport Monday and Tuesday, judge Beecher Gray of the state Office of Administrative Hearings heard an assistant attorney general and Hewett's attorney wrangle over the lengths to which the state could go to try to take Hewett's license to teach. He also heard Hewett say it was an accident that he touched the breast of a female South Brunswick High School stu-

*'I reached over to take her by the arm and thank her and I touched her breast.... I didn't mean to do that.'*

Bill Hewett

successful in persuading Gray to admit for the hearing record only evidence relative to the complaint of that one student who worked that night as a waitress at the Shamrock.

Although she attempted to do so on several occasions, assistant attorney general Barbara Shaw, representing the N. C. Department of Public Instruction, could not get evidence of a second female South Brunswick High School senior's sexual assault allegation into the record. Neither could she get into the record a letter written Brunswick County school officials alleging a 1990 act of sexual misconduct against Hewett while

dent on November 16, 1993, at Southport's Shamrock Restaurant after an evening of drinking. Hewett's attorney, Don Viets of Whiteville, was

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