



**Neighbors**

How people lived in colonial days was the theme of historic site program -- 1B

# The State Port PILOT

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**CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS INSIDE**

## Whole new boards, sheriff up for election

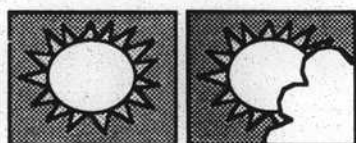
By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Tuesday's election has the right ingredients for a big showdown. But do county voters view it that way? The ballot is loaded with ten candidates for school board and ten competing for the county commission. As a result of two-year terms, it's the first general election where all five seats on the two county boards are up for grabs. The polls will open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. One-stop absentee voting will continue through Friday. Yet, in the community it has been relatively quiet this campaign season for seats on those two boards. What has grabbed the headlines is the battle for sheriff between Democrat Ronald Hewett and Republican James Brown. "I can't even get a feel for what the turnout is going to be," said Lynda

Britt, Brunswick County supervisor of elections. "Probably about 45 percent." An average number of voters has requested absentee ballots. The usual number has one-stop voted at the elections office near Bolivia. On paper, 32,815 county residents are registered to vote on Tuesday. Of those, 18,841 are Democrats and 11,460 are Republicans. Twelve are Libertarians and 2,502 unaffiliated with any political party. The highest number that has voted in a Brunswick County election was 68 percent. In the May primary this year, only 31 percent cast ballots. Five incumbents on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners are seeking re-election. Democrats Don Warren, Wayland Vereen and Tom Rabon Sr. are trying for another two-year term. Republicans Donald Shaw and Jerry Jones were elected to four-year terms in 1990. Warren faces Republican Douglas Simmons in District 1. Vereen is

competing against Republican Leslie Collier in District 3, and Rabon will try to hold off Republican Theron (Woody) Leonard in District 4. Jones faces Democrat Alfonza Roach in District 2, and Shaw will battle Democrat Bill Sue, a former board of education member, in District 5. Candidates represent the districts where they live, but they are seated on local boards by countywide vote. There will be at least four new faces on the board of education. Only one incumbent, Yvonne Bright of District 5, is on the ballot. She will face Democrat Glenda Browning. Two incumbents were defeated in May, and two dropped out of the race. The other races are filled with newcomers -- Democrat Olaf (Bud) Thorsen and Republican Rozell Hewett in District 1; Democrat Clara

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**Forecast**

The extended forecast calls for 'Fall-like' weather with cooler temperatures prevailing each day. Highs will reach mid 60's with the low's in the 40's.

### Caswell may add to board membership

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Should the Caswell Beach Board of Commissioners grow in membership from three to five? That question will be put to registered voters of the town Tuesday. Since its incorporation in 1975 Caswell Beach has elected a mayor every four years and either one or two commissioners in alternating odd-numbered years. If voters wish to increase the size of the board of commissioners to five members from the current three, they must vote "yes" to two questions posed on the ballot presented them by election officials. Two sections of the town charter must be amended by two separate affirmative votes to change the number of commissioners at Caswell Beach. Question 1 -- on the left-hand side of the ballot -- speaks to the need to amend Article III, Section 3.2 of the town charter. By voting "yes" the voter simply agrees to change the composition of the board of commissioners to a body of five. A "no" vote should be cast on this question by those who wish to keep the board as it is -- composed of a mayor and three commis-

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Photo by Jim Harper

On Halloween day Southport Elementary School fourth graders dressed up in pumpkin colors and collected trash along Bay Street in Southport as part of their ecology unit. The classes of Cindy Dishman and Sandy Kaufhold adopted Bay Street last year and will return three or four times this year to collect trash.

## \$10,000 is spent on city delegation to league meeting

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

The City of Southport spent nearly \$10,000 to send eight elected officials and staff plus four spouses and friends to a meeting of the N. C. League of Municipalities in Asheville October 16-18. Although the convention began on Sunday, October 16, the Southport delegation spent an additional night -- Saturday, October 15 -- at Asheville's opulent Grove Park Inn, a record of expenditures at City Hall indicates. The convention adjourned late Tuesday, October 18, and the Southport delegation stayed in Asheville that night, traveling home Wednesday, October 19. The sizable general fund expenditure -- equal to 1.1 cents per \$100 valuation in city property taxes -- comes in a year in which city officials have said Southport is strapped for cash. At budget formulation time last spring aldermen denied police requests for additional personnel and automobiles. Also denied were additional funds for parks and recreation. Unappropriated general fund balance dipped to about \$130,000 by the beginning of the fiscal year and city officials said the cost of cleaning up after a hurricane could have wiped out all general fund reserves. The estimated \$9,611 for the eight official delegates to spend four days at the convention means the city spent an average of \$1,200 per attendee. Spouses and friends have reimbursed the city for convention registration fees and stayed without additional charge in rooms occupied by the official delegates. By contrast, the Town of Long Beach sent a delegation of five to the league convention and stayed at the less-expensive Radisson Hotel. Total expenditures for the three days Long

Beach delegates spent at the convention were \$2,552 -- about \$510 per delegate. Attending the convention from the City of Southport were mayor Norman Holden and his wife Janice, alderman Phil Joyner, alderman Paul Fisher and his wife Karen, alderman Meezie Childs and her husband Robert, alderman Jim Brown, city manager Rob Gandy, secretary to

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### Lakes frugal; others didn't send anyone

One elected official and two staff members represented the City of Boiling Spring Lakes at the 1994 annual convention of the N. C. League of Municipalities in Asheville October 16-18. The entire trip for three cost Boiling Spring Lakes taxpayers about \$1,249 -- not much more than the City of Southport paid for each of its eight delegates to the convention. Neither Yaupon Beach nor Caswell Beach sent a delegation to the league convention, town officials said. Boiling Spring Lakes city clerk Barbara Cumbee said she and her husband, public works director Thurston Cumbee, and commissioner Tom

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## Beachgrass could turn the tide for ecology

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Much of the plant life in southeastern North Carolina is not found anywhere else on Earth. This area's climate -- dominated by hot sun, dry winds and salt spray -- has led to the domination of a select number of hardy plants. While the uniqueness of coastal Carolina plants has been a source of fascination for ecologists, it has been a source of frustration for gardeners trying to create a colorful landscape. What's the solution? Learn to appreciate and work with the plants that are native to this area, Brunswick County turfgrass specialist Bruce Williams told a group of local residents attending a coastal plant workshop last week at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. "Forget about the plants you had in Pennsylv-

*'Forget about the plants you had in Pennsylvania, New York or Charlotte -- or anywhere else in the world for that matter.'*

Bruce Williams  
Turfgrass specialist

nia, New York or Charlotte -- or anywhere else in the world for that matter," Williams advised. "You'll be extremely frustrated if you try to mimic the type of gardens you've seen elsewhere." Apparently, many gardeners are extremely frus-

trated. Williams said he receives numerous calls from coastal residents trying to kill the plants growing naturally in their yards, and cultivate plants foreign to the area. The result, he said, is utter exasperation. One of the most common questions Williams said he receives is how to kill pennywort, the low-growing weed with circular leaves that can quickly eliminate all plants growing in its path. Williams' response to these gardeners is to learn to live with it. "If you have a pennywort problem, don't fight it. Just use pennywort as the ground cover," he said. "If you're trying to get rid of it completely, you'll spend a lot of money, and you'll only be partially successful at best." Because many coastal residents are transplants from other areas, Williams said, they bring their concept of the perfect yard from other areas. Most

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Bruce Williams, area turfgrass specialist