



## Sports

South Brunswick is well-represented on the all-county football team -- 10B

## The State Port

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## Our Town

The county airport, like the area, is ready to soar toward broader horizons -- Page 2

## Neighbors

World's largest supplier of police equipment operating at Highway 211 site -- 1B

## Pogy Wars headed for commission

There will likely be no end to the Brunswick County pogy wars before a December 2 meeting of the N. C. Marine Fisheries Commission.

Menhaden fishermen and representatives of Brunswick County beach towns did not meet Monday as planned. The towns and the fishermen were to have executed an agreement to govern menhaden fishing off Brunswick County beaches.

The schedule for agreement execution was thrown off course last week when beach towns amended a draft agreement forged in October to contain provisions that would force menhaden fishermen to stay one mile offshore at all times of the year.

The new provisions sought by the towns would also require menhaden companies to pay twice the cost of fish spill clean-ups and pay a \$1,000 penalty for failure to notify towns in advance of fishing off Brunswick shores.

Executive director Jerry Schill of the N. C. Fisheries Association, which represents three menhaden companies to be party to the agreement, said he was only presented with the towns' final draft Monday morning. Menhaden companies were reviewing the draft Monday.

"We really haven't decided anything," Schill said Monday. "We won't get to meet prior to the (Marine Fisheries) commission meeting. That's only a little over a week away."

The Marine Fisheries Commission was to ratify the agreement between the towns and the menhaden operators. But, mayor Joan Altman of Long Beach has said it may take longer than expected for all parties to the pact to come to terms.

Schill said the fishing interests would  
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## Offices close for holiday

Banks, post offices, all municipal town halls and the Brunswick County Government Center will close Thursday, November 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Banks and the postal service will resume operations on Friday.

Bald Head Island town hall also will reopen on Friday, but other municipal town halls will not re-open until Monday.

The Brunswick County Government Center also will remain closed until Monday.

The G. V. Barbee Sr. library branch on Oak Island will close Thursday through Sunday and will re-open for business on Monday.

The *State Port Pilot* office will close Thursday and Friday and will re-open on Monday. Pilot Line news updates also will be out of service until Monday.



Photo by Jim Harper  
Pipewelder Tim Ehling found both light and shelter on a murky, misty morning recently to get his work accomplished. He was welding on the bridge of a new sports yacht in the Southport yacht basin.

## Road request first step to cooperation

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

For the first time Brunswick County, local municipalities and the Brunswick County Airport will submit a collective request to the N. C. Department of Transportation board asking that a number of priority projects be included in the 1996 Transportation Improvement Plan.

Topping the list of priority projects are the Wilmington Bypass and a second bridge to Oak Island. (See related story, this page.)

The request was submitted to the DOT last week and Brunswick County commissioners gave their official support Monday night.

Planning director Wade Horne said he hopes that compiling proposed TIP projects throughout the county into one request will

encourage the DOT to give the request more attention. He said the collective request could serve to enhance county and municipal cooperation.

"At some point we have to begin to get the towns and the county together," Horne said. "We want to start acting as a county, as one unified body."

In other business discussed Monday night:

•The board recessed to reconvene Wednesday, November 23, 6 p.m., to make a number of board appointments and to review proposals from five banks on financing construction of the new Leland Elementary School.

Commissioners have agreed to finance construction of the school through certificates of participation. The school board will  
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## Highway projects

# County TIPs in our favor on road work

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

A second Oak Island bridge, improvement of Midway Road to provide better access to a second bridge to western Long Beach, and a new connector road between N. C. 211 and N. C. 133 north of Southport take a backseat only to a Wilmington bypass on Brunswick County's transportation wish-list for coming years.

These four priorities top a list of seven sent the N. C. Department of Transportation. The list was consolidated from all transportation needs identified by county and municipal governments recently. Brunswick's priorities will be incorporated in formulation of DOT's annual Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for 1996.

In an accompanying narrative, Brunswick

*'(A second Oak Island) bridge would relieve significant traffic congestion and provide a much-needed evacuation route in case of a major storm or industrial incident.'*

County asks state officials to expedite its number-two transportation priority -- the planning  
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## Bond rating may change

# City may face shock of new rate increase

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Electric customers of the City of Southport -- still smarting from a two-percent rate increase in October -- may face another increase of up to 4.1 percent next fall.

Alderman Paul Fisher, Southport's liaison to the consortium of municipal power buyers to which the city belongs, said N. C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency's budget plan for next fiscal year anticipates that rate increase.

"This is the assumption in the budget for cities which get their power from Carolina Power and Light Co.," Fisher said.

All but a few of the 31 cities which are members of NCEMPA are supplied power by CP&L through the agency. The power agency

*The proposed 4.1-percent rate increase for NCEMPA cities comes as investors react to a threat to the agency's bond rating*

was established about 12 years ago to purchase ownership interests in CP&L and other power generators in an attempt to control consumer costs and have a say in utility management and  
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## Like comparing apples and oranges

# Zoning of small tract puts county on the spot

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Descendants of 82-year-old Alice Crockett find their seven-acre homestead along the Cape Fear River just north of Southport a tiny island surrounded by 20,000 acres of heavy industry.

When one family member applied for a septic tank permit recently, he was told a home can't be built on the scenic property off Sheppard Road because it has been zoned for industrial use by the county zoning ordinance which took effect January 1.

"It seems like the manufacturers want us out of there," said Robert Nichols. "It's like the Indians having their land taken away from them. Because that's what's happening to us right now. It's ridiculous."

Ms. Crockett's wish is to have her children and their families come back to the 7.38-acre homestead and to build homes there

*'I understand, and I'm very sympathetic ... but it could be looked upon as spot zoning and not hold up in court.... It's basically an island when you look at the 20,000 acres as a whole.'*

during the last years of her life. The first home was built at the small Applegate Subdivision in 1970. And four more have been built since 1990, but that was before the county zoning ordinance labeled the tract

as heavy manufacturing (H-M), which excludes residential homes and designates those already there as non-conforming.

That means residents can't rebuild the homes, add to them or sell the property for residential use unless the zoning is changed. Last week, the Brunswick County Planning Board, following a public hearing, took the first step to correct the situation by voting unanimously to recommend county commissioners rezone the land to R-7500, medium-density residential use for mostly stick-built homes.

But the Brunswick County Planning Department says that may create "spot zoning" which could be challenged in court. The small subdivision is mostly surrounded by 400 acres of farmland the Pfizer Corp. purchased as application fields for by-products the chemical plant produces. Pfizer has since been purchased by the Archer-Daniels-Midland Corp.

Other manufacturers in the area are Carolina Power and Light  
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