



**Sports**  
South Brunswick will host South Columbus here Friday in Waccamaw action -- 8B

# The State Port PILOT

VOLUME 64/ NUMBER 22 SOUTHPORT, N.C. 50 CENTS

**IB**  
She joined the Air Force, saw the world, and now is taking on Washington -- 1B

**Our Town**  
The sanitary district, unhappy with permit progress, tells the engineer -- Page 2

## 'Big decision for the county'

# County will study Vedco vs. landfill

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

If consultants stay on schedule, county commissioners will have two weeks to decide if a 25-year garbage contract offer from Vedco Energy Corp. is a good deal for residents.

David M. Griffith and Associates of Raleigh will report its analysis of the Vedco proposal at the commission's February 20 meeting. The board is expected to vote on the incineration proposal two weeks later, March 6.

For \$1.8 million per year, Vedco will accept the county's trash to burn at a high-tech plant it is building near the DuPont Co. in Cumberland County. Recyclables will be pulled from the fuel stream at an adjacent sorting facility.

Commissioners voted 3-2 last week to sign a resolution that indicates the county will accept the contract offer if Griffith's findings compare favorably with cost projections supplied by Vedco. The contract also includes an option to allow the county to end the deal after 12 years, if written notice is given in the tenth year.

Commissioners Bill Sue and Tom Rabon Sr. voted against the resolution, which had included a February 20 date for signing the deal. Sue said the multi-million-dollar contract is too big of a commitment on taxpayers for it to be rushed. Vedco officials agreed to extend the deadline for a final decision to March 6.

"This is a big decision for the county," said Sue. "To get the numbers and to make a decision so soon doesn't allow our citizens a chance to look at what this

board will obligate the county to for the next 12 years."

Vedco is negotiating with other counties to reach its 300,000 tons of garbage per year needed to operate the incinerator efficiently. The resolution doesn't bind the county to sign any deal but provides Vedco with an intent clause it can provide to meet the requirement of investors financing the project in the first quarter of 1995.

"This is a large block of waste for us," said George Armistead, president of Vedco, a Texas-based firm that is also building an incinerator in Kinston. "It is important to us to determine if Brunswick County is coming into the project."

Vedco is betting the cost of incineration is cheaper than projected costs to operate a new lined sanitary landfill over the same period. David M. Griffith

See Landfill, page 9

# Pilot wins eight

The State Port Pilot will receive eight news and editorial contest awards -- the most of any community newspaper in the state -- at the annual Press Institute sponsored by the North Carolina Press Association.

The awards ceremony will be held Thursday in Chapel Hill. Gov. Jim Hunt will make the presentations.

Awards include general excellence, second place; news coverage, third place; best use of photographs, second place; editorial page, third place.

The general excellence award represents the sixth consecutive year The State Port Pilot has been recognized in this category.

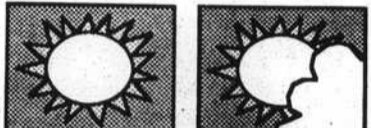
Photographer Jim Harper won three awards in this year's competition: feature photo, second place; spot news photo, third place; photo page, third place.

Terry Pope won second place in investigative reporting for coverage of shipment of spent nuclear fuel rods through Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point.

Pilot editor Ed Harper said the awards reflect the hard work of the entire newspaper staff.

"The general excellence award is based on the whole newspaper -- news, advertising, design," Harper said. "To

See Wins, page 15



## Forecast

Colder weather is in store for the area Thursday through Sunday. We can expect partly cloudy skies with temperature reading in the 40's each day and 30's at night.

## Tide Table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JANUARY 26	LOW
3:32 a.m.		9:51 a.m.
3:46 p.m.		10:05 p.m.
HIGH	FRIDAY, JANUARY 27	LOW
4:37 a.m.		10:54 a.m.
4:52 p.m.		11:07 p.m.
HIGH	SATURDAY, JANUARY 28	LOW
5:38 a.m.		11:52 a.m.
5:53 p.m.		----- p.m.
HIGH	SUNDAY, JANUARY 29	LOW
6:35 a.m.		12:04 a.m.
6:50 p.m.		12:45 p.m.
HIGH	MONDAY, JANUARY 30	LOW
7:27 a.m.		12:57 a.m.
7:43 p.m.		1:34 p.m.
HIGH	TUESDAY, JANUARY 31	LOW
8:16 a.m.		1:48 a.m.
8:32 p.m.		2:21 p.m.
HIGH	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1	LOW
9:02 a.m.		2:35 a.m.
9:19 p.m.		3:05 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; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.



No better thing than frolic amidst a flock of gulls, or to watch long ships gliding by, and no better place to do it than Southport's Waterfront Park, which this youngster learned in a recent outing.

# Jail escapee still at-large, no criminal fault by jailers

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Jailers inadvertently set the stage for disaster last week when, due to potentially harmful paint fumes, they moved Darryl Alexis Hewett and two other accused felons incarcerated at the Brunswick County jail from the high-security area in the center of the jail to a less-secure area, located near a rear door leading to a fenced courtyard.

Sometime after 7 p.m. Thursday someone pushed a button that unlocked the door and Darryl Hewett escaped.

He scaled the ten-foot, chain-link and razor-wire fence and apparently was picked up by someone in a vehicle.

Bloodhounds lost his scent a short distance from the jail.

Between 7 p.m. Thursday and 8:20 a.m. Friday, when Darryl Hewett was discovered missing, none of the three jailers on duty knew whether the prisoner was there or whether the rear door was securely locked.

This is the series of events offered

by sheriff Ron Hewett last week.

The State Bureau of Investigation concluded Monday that the jailers did nothing criminally wrong and did not intentionally aid Darryl Hewett's escape.

However, the sheriff declared, "Obviously there has been a breakdown in the system."

The jailers failed to count the inmates every half-hour as required and did not check the lock on the rear door, Ron Hewett said.

Lights on the jailers' control panel indicate only whether the door is open or closed, and not whether it's locked or unlocked, he explained.

Written reprimands were issued each jailer, but they will be taken off administrative leave immediately and will resume their duties as scheduled, the sheriff said. He refused to release

See Escapee, page 9

## Free flu shots

Dosher Memorial Hospital will give free flu shots next fall to residents who request the service now.

To receive a free vaccination, residents must contact hospital marketing director Margaret Minuth by Tuesday, January 31. The shots will be given throughout the month of September.

Minuth can be reached by calling 457-9271, extension 276.

## Behind Town Hall

# Offer is made for beach tract

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Disagreeing whether or not the move signaled a shift in recreation "focus," Long Beach Town Council Monday night voted 5-1 to offer \$460,000 for 3.5 acres of land behind Town Hall and Middleton Park.

Council members said the land would likely be first developed as recreational space -- for use as a larger baseball field and a soccer field -- but ultimately could be used for other government purposes.

Most council members felt the time to secure the land is now, mainly because it is available.

"I'm not saying that's going to be the ultimate recreation site for the next 100 years," councilman Kevin

*'I'm not saying that's going to be the ultimate recreation site for the next 100 years. I can see a town hall sitting there. We need to get it, because it's not going to be available.'*

Kevin Bell  
Council member

See Tract, page 8

# 'Breakdown' keys city woe with finances

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Mayor Norman Holden said Tuesday a breakdown in communications between city staff and the board of aldermen was to blame for financial problems revealed last week in an independent auditor's review of books and records of the City of Southport for fiscal year 1993-94.

"Looking at what was in the audit and what I can recall when we put the budget together, there was a breakdown in communications," Holden said. "I'm sure we had the information, but it wasn't pointed out to us in a manner

See Finances, page 15

## Representatives off to Raleigh

# Welfare reform, economy top the list

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Local legislators who head back to Raleigh today (Wednesday) to open the 1995 session of the N. C. General Assembly carry with them a mixed bag of concerns along with their own priorities for the new year.

Brunswick County is represented by three Democrats in the State House, which became Republican-controlled in the November election. Can the trio work well with the new political make-up?

"The world didn't end, it was just the end of an

election," says state Rep. David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach), who along with Dewey Hill (D-Lake Waccamaw) represents the 14th House District. It includes most of Brunswick County.

The minority 98th House District is represented by Thomas Wright (D-Wilmington) and includes the communities of Navassa, Phoenix and Northwest.

Redwine says his top concerns for 1995 are education and welfare reform. He serves on a welfare reform study commission, which is expected to present its findings to legislators within two weeks. He will also serve in a new role -- as minority house whip, to keep Democrats abreast of pending legislation changes.

Both political parties favor welfare reform, but Republicans carry to Raleigh a mythical mandated "contract" with the people and a promise to cut spending by at least \$200 million. The contract also contains eight points that promise less taxes and less government interference with the public. It may help a plan to revise welfare programs for families on public assistance. Changes are also expected out of Washington, for programs are experiencing a shortage in funds.

"Welfare is out of control, and many believe it has caused a moral decay in our society," said Redwine. "I

See Reform, page 6