



Sports

McGriff vs. Parker for the championship... that would be 'March Madness' - 9B

The State Port PILOT

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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Neighbors

Does 'massage' rub you wrong? Let your fingers do the walking to page 1B

Our Town

Education is what you make of it, and this student has made the most - Page 2

Pilot Line expansion announced

With this week's upgrade of *The State Port Pilot's* audiotext system -- Pilot Line -- readers can now become even greater participants in their hometown newspaper.

Pilot Line system improvements allow newspaper readers to interact with the *Pilot* newsroom, seek twice weekly news updates and sound off on issues of the day.

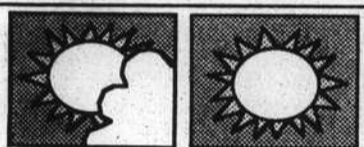
High school and middle school students with touch-tone access are able to call Pilot Line for their homework assignments, and 457- and 253- telephone users have access to 800 lines of recorded information on subjects ranging from auto repair to zoology. A partial listing of Pilot Line information topics appears in this edition of *The State Port Pilot*.

Students note: Your homework assignment extensions have changed with addition of a "7" before the same three-digit access used before. A new list of classroom extensions is included in this edition.

Accessing Pilot Line is as easy as dialing 457-5084. Or, if you live outside the Southport-Oak Island exchange area in Brunswick County, dial 253-8427. Just know the Pilot Line extension you want to reach and, when directed, press that number on your touch-tone phone.

Upgrade of the Pilot Line system means more than just additional in-

See Pilot Line, page 8



Forecast

Cloudy skies will prevail with daily temperatures in the 50's for the period Thursday through Sunday. Nightly lows will cool down to 35-40.

Tide tables

HIGH	THURSDAY, MARCH 2	LOW
8:37 a.m.		2:15 a.m.
8:52 p.m.		2:36 p.m.
	FRIDAY, MARCH 3	
9:17 a.m.		2:58 a.m.
9:32 p.m.		3:16 p.m.
	SATURDAY, MARCH 4	
9:56 a.m.		3:39 a.m.
10:12 p.m.		3:55 p.m.
	SUNDAY, MARCH 5	
10:34 a.m.		4:20 a.m.
10:51 p.m.		4:35 p.m.
	MONDAY, MARCH 6	
11:13 a.m.		5:02 a.m.
11:32 p.m.		5:16 p.m.
	TUESDAY, MARCH 7	
11:55 a.m.		5:46 a.m.
--- p.m.		6:01 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8	
12:17 a.m.		6:35 a.m.
12:42 p.m.		6:51 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.



Photo by Jim Harper

Commercial boats were stacked up at the Southport Fish Market dock early this week unloading swordfish, shark and tuna taken in the longline drift fishery off our coast. Michael Prince brings in a shark for icing and shipment while bait, provisions, ice and fuel are loaded so the boats can fish again.

CIS will involve community in education of our children

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

The purpose of Brunswick County's new Communities in Schools (CIS) program is exactly what its name suggests -- to bring people and services from the community into county schools.

The goals that can be reached through this basic idea are as diverse as the people and services themselves, declared Cynthia Tart, county CIS

coordinator. As all levels of government struggle to downsize, Tart said, citizens will increasingly be charged with solving their own problems. The CIS program is part of Gov. Jim Hunt's effort to form community partnerships to solve community problems, she said.

Although CIS has been the largest national drop-out prevention program for 20 years, it is relatively new in North Carolina. Tart said Brunswick

County is the 23rd county in the state to establish a CIS program. Tart stressed that the more the community invests in schools, the more schools will give back to the community. "Everybody's being charged with getting involved with at-risk kids because everybody can benefit by it," Tart said. "They don't just go away when they drop out of school -- they drop out and stay here. The ones that

See Education, page 8

Utility maintenance

BEMC may take a load off the city

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

With the exception of providing it everyday power, Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation can effectively run all aspects of the City of Southport's electric distribution and sales operation, representatives of the co-op told aldermen Thursday night.

And, the co-op can likely manage the system at less cost than the city does now.

"That's what we would really like to help you with," said David Batten, BEMC's president and chief executive officer. "We have some fixed costs you can help us with. You have some operating costs we can help you with. It's a partnership."

Batten and BEMC's district manager Don Hughes attended the specially called board meeting at the

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David Batten
BEMC president

city's invitation. Since N. C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency, the city's provider of raw power, announced See BEMC, page 6

The way it was

County plans on foreclosure to collect taxes

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A county foreclosure policy abruptly ended seven years ago is back.

Brunswick County tax officials see it as an important weapon in the collection of delinquent taxes.

County attorney Mike Ramos sees it as a way to collect \$250,000 in delinquent water assessments that have never been paid, too.

"We have never taken steps to collect that," said Ramos. He is also attorney for the Brunswick County Utility Operations Board, which recommends county water-line expansion projects.

The water assessments are for lines run in special districts, based on foot-

The previous policy charged property owners \$300 in legal fees as part of the costs to do title searches and to recover taxes

age or per-parcel fees. The first district paid its assessment in 1986, and the time is fast approaching when the See Taxes, page 8

Cable franchises required to pay

County picks up on fee signal

By Terry Pope
County Editor

If the county decides to pick up on the signal, it could collect about \$142,000 annually in cable television franchise fees.

Counties are entitled to five percent of gross revenues paid by viewers.

But that amount is not being paid now by the companies that have agreements with Brunswick County.

Contracts with the two largest firms -- Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. and Vision Cable of Wilmington -- will expire April 21. Despite taking in more than \$2.6 million in 1994, because of contract clauses not a penny was paid to the county.

County officials have drafted one plan that may

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either demand the payment or pull the plug on some cable companies.

"Today, most counties are collecting five percent from cable companies," said Brunswick County assistant county manager Wade Horne.

"We've drafted this from 15 franchise agreements from the state. We have taken several from this past year."

Horne studied the issue with consultant Randall Brown, a resident who once owned a cable franchise in another state. There are nine franchise agreements with seven different cable companies. Two franchises were issued but were never used.

Contracts with Atlantic Telephone and Vision Cable stated no fee was due until a number of subscribers had signed on. Atlantic Telephone reported income of \$2,490,150 from its cable service last year. It covers most unincorporated areas where the company has telephone customers.

Vision Cable -- with service to Southport-Oak Island, Boiling Spring Lakes and Leland -- reported See Cable, page 6

	1992	1993	1994
Atlantic	\$1,790,381	\$2,180,649	\$2,490,150
Vision Cable	\$121,110	\$134,517	\$135,797
Tryon	\$60,500	\$70,000	\$65,000
Brunsun	\$51,362	\$73,218	\$61,355
GWC	\$32,445	\$35,730	\$36,220
BLB Cable	---	---	\$27,314
Times Com.	---	---	---

Tryon - Holden Beach Mainland; Brunsun - Sunset Harbor; GWC - Northwest, Sandy Creek; BLB - Brickland; Times Com. - St. James Plantation