



Sports

The Cougars open their Waccamaw 2A/3A season Friday vs. the Vikes -- 8B

The State Port

PILOT

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

50 CENTS

Neighbors

The Sea Notes will perform their Easter concert this Sunday, 3 p.m. -- 1B

Our Town

Bald Head Island has won permission to place groins along the beach -- Page 2

BEMC support weighed

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

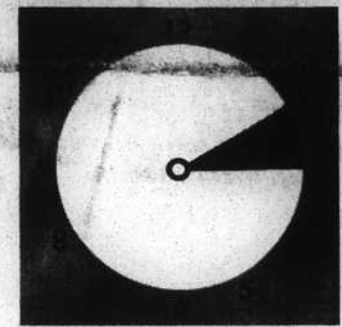
Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation will offer a presentation of ways it can assume some of the operational and management functions of the Southport electric department in three to four weeks, and Carolina Power and Light Co. wants a chance to review that proposal and perhaps offer one of its own.

BEMC officials first met with Southport aldermen two weeks ago for initial discussions of some contract arrangement. The announcement of CP&L's interest came as aldermen met in workshop session Thursday night.

City manager Rob Gandy said he had provided information about the city's electric operation to BEMC district manager Don Hughes who, with co-op attorneys, will seek to identify

See BEMC, page 10

SPRING FORWARD



Sunday, April 2, 2:00 a.m.
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour



Photo by Jim Harper

Jon Francke, a visitor from Wilmington, discovered daffodils and other delights in a recent visit to Southport's Waterfront Park. The riverside is a favorite gathering place for visitors and residents alike, especially in the growing warmth of spring.

Mrs. Harper is recognized as volunteer

Margaret Harper of Southport was one of six recipients of the 12th annual Distinguished Women of North Carolina Awards presented by Gov. James B. Hunt Tuesday night.

Award recipients were Mollie Gloyne Blankenship of Cherokee, the arts; Barbara K. Allen of Raleigh, business/profession; Norma H. Sermon-Boyd of Pollocksville, education; Eva McPherson Clayton of Littleton, government; and Mrs. Harper, volunteerism.

U. S. Ambassador Jeanette W. Hyde of Raleigh received a special award of public service for contributions in all five categories.

"These women truly are distinguished." See Harper, page 15

Larger county library system seeks additional public funding

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Brunswick County library director Reecie Tate says she was told not to expect any "huge increases" in her budget for the next fiscal year because the county school system would get a large portion of local funds.

County commissioners and school board members recently reached an out-of-court settlement that guarantees the schools about \$13 million in

local funds each of the next two years. Despite the county's caveat, Tate said she will ask for \$793,702 for the next fiscal year, \$393,000 more than the current year budget.

"As far as I'm concerned, we've increased library services 25 percent and we need a huge increase," Tate told the library board Monday night.

When the Southport branch opens next month the county will have four full-service libraries in operation. Board members approved Tate's

budget proposal, and said they would do what they could to persuade county commissioners the funding is needed.

Some of the major expenditures in Tate's proposal are \$279,481 for salaries, \$67,550 for group insurance, \$30,000 for electricity, \$120,000 for books and \$154,968 for a computerized card catalog system.

With the cost of a book estimated to be about \$30, Tate noted that

See Funding, page 15

Southport branch schedule to reopen, page 8

Oak Island project

Second bridge hearing brings public support

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Between 150 and 200 persons strolled past maps, displays and other depictions of proposed routes for a second Oak Island bridge Thursday as N. C. Department of Transportation and its consultants conducted an informational workshop on the long-awaited bridge project at the Long Beach Recreation Center.

Most came just to urge the transportation department on, said DOT's Philip Edwards, bridge project engineer.

"Most people were there just to show support and to ask when we were going to start," Edwards said. An additional 50 persons filled out questionnaires about the proposed bridge project and DOT will receive mail-in questionnaires for another week.

"I did talk to one or two who did not favor the bridge," the engineer said. "They wanted to keep the island

'I did talk to one or two who did not favor the bridge. They wanted to keep the island as inaccessible as possible.'

Philip Edwards
Project engineer

as inaccessible as possible." Thursday's informational workshop offered the first opportunity for the public to address the project before those who will be making decisions about siting the bridge and a two-lane highway -- with enough right-of-way

See Bridge, page 6

\$40 million possible

Chamber seeks renourishment of island beach

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce has jumped into local governments' effort to expedite a federal beach renourishment program for Oak Island, urging its members in a letter this week to write Congress, the Corps of Engineers and state coastal officials to make Oak Island's case for beach stabilization.

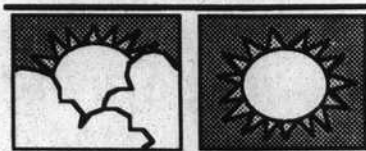
"Erosion is an important issue to any waterfront community or surrounding community that relies on this resource to bring people to the area or increase the quality of life for its residents," wrote William D. Carter, the chamber's vice-president for governmental affairs.

"A committee of Oak Island offi-

cials and independent businesses have composed the enclosed information for your review. They are requesting our state and federal public officials to speed up the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' evaluation of beach (re)nourishment."

The corps is presently engaged in evaluating Oak Island as a possible candidate for a federal 933 beach renourishment program. Initial estimates by the corps place the cost of

See Chamber, page 6



Forecast

We can expect partly cloudy but otherwise nice weather for the period of Thursday-Saturday. Highs each will be in the high 60's with lows in the 40's.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MARCH 30	LOW
7:28 a.m.		1:10 a.m.
7:44 p.m.		1:25 p.m.
	FRIDAY, MARCH 31	
8:09 a.m.		1:53 a.m.
8:24 p.m.		2:05 p.m.
	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	
	SATURDAY, APRIL 1	
8:47 a.m.		2:33 a.m.
9:01 p.m.		2:44 p.m.
	SUNDAY, APRIL 2	
10:24 a.m.		4:13 a.m.
10:38 p.m.		4:21 p.m.
	MONDAY, APRIL 3	
11:00 a.m.		4:52 a.m.
11:14 p.m.		4:59 p.m.
	TUESDAY, APRIL 4	
11:36 a.m.		5:31 a.m.
11:52 p.m.		5:39 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5	
--- a.m.		6:12 a.m.
12:15 p.m.		6:21 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.

Welfare reform causes local concern

By Terry Pope
County Editor

What kind of pressure will the state put on counties regarding welfare reform?

County officials will outline a response before that question is even raised.

"We've been working from top down for a long time," said Department of Social Services director Jamie Orrock. "We sit back and wait for something to happen and then we cry and whine once it happens."

"I want to get our two cents in this time before it happens."

Orrock and his DSS board want interim county manager George McGinnis and Brunswick County commissioners to sit down together and draft a position statement for state legislators.

Some welfare reform packages freeze AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) expenditures to 1993 levels. It is the central theme in at least two of the state bills under consideration.

The impact may be significant for some counties with growing lists of welfare recipients. The financial burden may be passed on to counties that may struggle with already tight budgets.

'We sit back and wait for something to happen and then we cry and whine once it happens. I want to get our two cents in this time before it happens.'

Jamie Orrock
DSS director

"I've never seen the climate like it is now," said Orrock. "It's scary if you're a recipient."

The DSS board has submitted its budget request for 1995-96. Welfare reform is a key item on the Republi-

cans' contract of topics to debate in the legislature this year. Changes are also forthcoming on the national level, some in the form of mandates for states.

"It's just my concern, the way it's set up now, that in a few years we're going to have more people eligible to receive benefits than the state or county can give," said Foster McKoy, DSS board member.

He was appointed to the DSS board last year and has plans to meet with county leaders to help draft the statement. The board wants the ear of 14th District State House members David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach) and Dewey Hill (D-Lake Waccamaw) and 98th House District member Thomas Wright (D-Wilmington).

"In this short period of time I've seen some things that I just can't see how it can continue," said McKoy. "You can see the numbers here. We're going to outrun the funds."

As states move to adapt to the national changes with some plans of their own, DSS board member Moses Stanley said some recipients may move to where the benefits are greater. There is a growing generation of families who won't work and who find the benefits too attractive.

"I guess my concern is, whatever comes down I hope it has some

See Concern, page 6