



**Neighbors**

Nothing sweeter to the taste than strawberries, and you can preserve the flavor

# The State Port PILOT

VOLUME 64/ NUMBER 35

SOUTHPORT, N.C.

50 CENTS

**Sports**

It was a pitchers battle *par excellence* -- 22 strikeouts, seven hits, just one run -- 9B

**Our Town**

Dosher hospital is looking to assure its future; JCAHO preparations made -- Page 2

## Schools audit is critical

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Tightening financial controls and streamlining the organizational structure of the Brunswick County school system topped school officials' list of concerns Tuesday afternoon following presentation of results of the performance audit conducted by the state auditor's office.

If all of the recommendations are enacted by the school board, the report indicates about \$250,000 will be saved.

But state auditor Ralph Campbell Jr. said there is no way to determine the annual impact of the proposed changes because of the disorganized condition of school records.

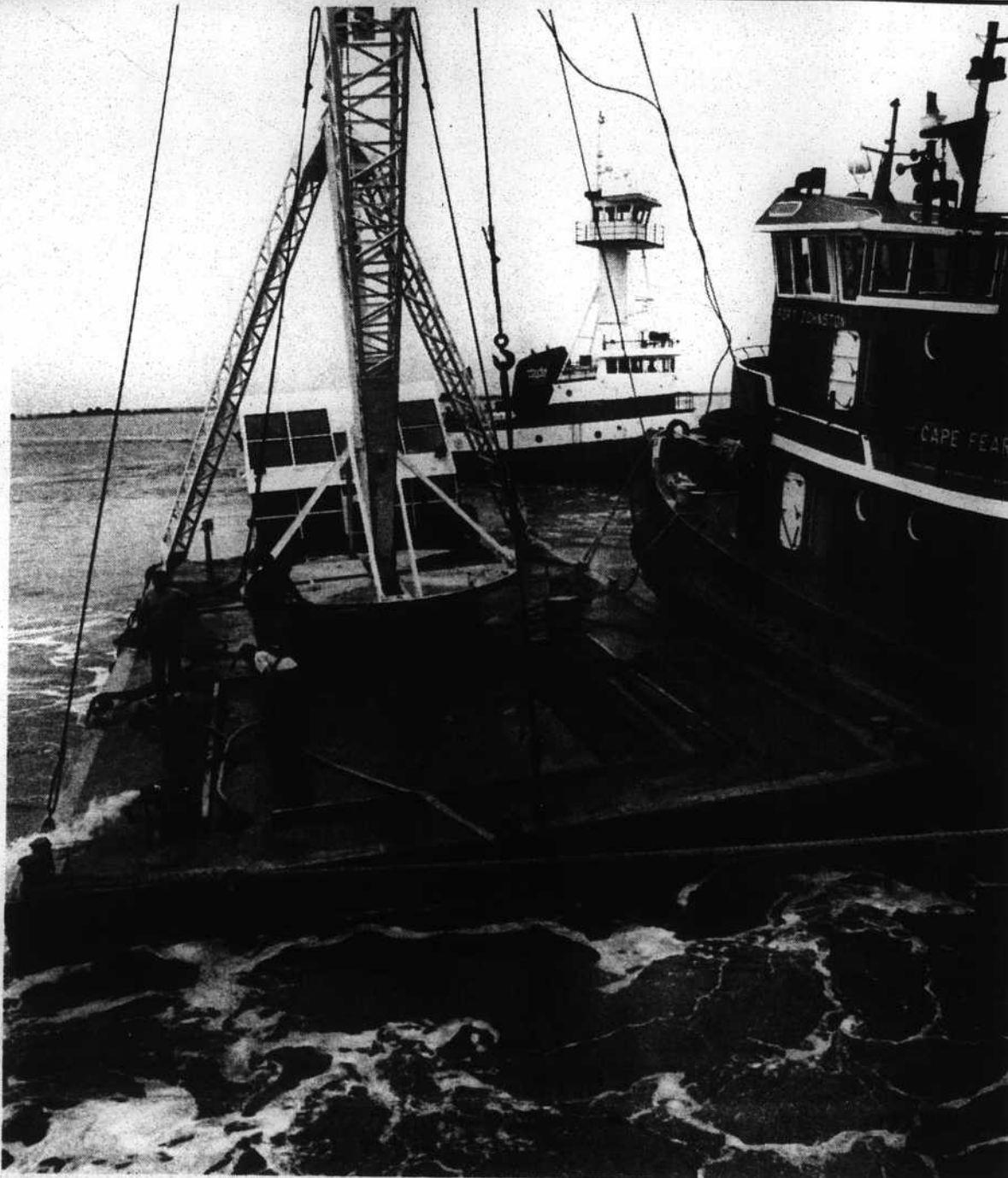
Auditors said they had much difficulty locating records, files and documentation of various events and actions.

Specifically, the report stated that policies are needed immediately to address the issues of travel reimbursements, the purchase of gifts for employees and inadequate documentation of such expenditures.

Auditors noted the personal use of the school system's credit card, cellular phones and vehicles by school employees.

Also, some school cafeterias were being rented by school employees to outside groups, and payments made to school employees after these events may have violated IRS

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Tug crews and Coast Guard personnel combined Monday to save a crane barge that was close to sinking off the Cape Fear bar after dredging pipeline tore away from it in heavy seas. The barge was

towed to the Southport city pier and pumped out, and on Tuesday the tugs set about recovering the pipeline still adrift in the ocean.

Photo by Jim Harper

## No assurances

# Yaupon sewer repair figures stun officials

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Stunned by the amount of bids to repair the ill-constructed and perhaps ill-designed rapid-infiltration basin at the town's wastewater treatment plant, Yaupon Beach commissioners Monday night pondered new technologies and how much more they are willing to pay consulting engineers who have advised them until now.

Faced with basin repair bids ranging from \$144,193 to \$212,800, commissioners said they have no assurance that repair of the basin will increase system capacity. Mayor May Moore and others pushed to investigate disposing of treated wastewater by spray irrigation and application of that treated effluent on the land the basin occupies.

"I am stunned at the size of these bids," mayor May Moore told consulting engineers Finley Boney and Robert Graham. "I can't, in any comfort zone, say let's spend \$144,000 with no assurance it will work."

Moore's comments came as the town prepares to enter the 11th month of a state-imposed moratorium on new sewer taps. The moratorium was ordered by the state's Division of Environmental Management (DEM) in July, 1994, after it was discovered treated effluent was not seeping through the rapid-infiltration basin -- a large, divided pond -- quickly enough.

Although the basin was designed by Boney and Associates to accommodate flow of 400,000 gallons of treated effluent per day, recent hydrogeological analysis confirmed the basin only allows infiltration of 250,000 gallons per day.

Although poor-quality sand was placed in the basin by a rogue contractor, Boney today says replacing that sand -- as the town is bound to do by state order -- will not increase capacity of the basin. Capacity will remain at 250,000 gallons per day after repair work. Only expansion of the basin system -- at sizable cost to the town -- will increase capacity to the 500,000 gallons per day the town has sought.

Not only did commissioners Monday night balk at repairing the basin, they balked at paying additional engineering fees sought by Boney for the repair job.

"I have a problem with the amount of this bid," Moore said. "I have a problem with engineering costs when

part of the problem is design. It may be time for us to look to legal counsel and say you all (the Boney firm) got us into this mess and you've got to figure out a way to get us out without any more money."

Boney said if the town rejects the bids -- good for the next 60 days -- it might see higher bids in the future. Graham said the high bids were likely because construction contractors all have a great deal of work right now.

But, Moore scolded the engineers  
See Yaupon, page 10

## Shiver; spraying is option

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

The regional director of the state Division of Environmental Management said Tuesday that spray irrigation of wastewater treatment system effluent may, in fact, be a better alternative to disposal through a rapid-infiltration basin at Yaupon Beach.

DEM's Rick Shiver of the Wilmington regional office said spray application of treated effluent on the existing treatment plant and basin site has never been proposed by the town or its consulting engineers before. Engineers had discussed redirecting some of the plant flow to an area off-site for spray irrigation, however.

Monday night, Yaupon Beach commissioners expressed doubt that repair of the town's faulty rapid-infiltration basin would  
See Spraying, page 10



## Forecast

Partly cloudy will prevail for the period of Thursday-Friday with highs 75 to 80. There is a slight chance of a thunderstorm on Saturday with a high in the mid 70's

## Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, APRIL 27	LOW
7:16 a.m.		1:02 a.m.
7:36 p.m.		1:13 p.m.
	FRIDAY, APRIL 28	
7:59 a.m.		1:47 a.m.
8:17 p.m.		1:55 p.m.
	SATURDAY, APRIL 29	
8:39 a.m.		2:29 a.m.
8:56 p.m.		2:34 p.m.
	SUNDAY, APRIL 30	
9:18 a.m.		3:09 a.m.
9:32 p.m.		3:13 p.m.
	MONDAY, MAY 1	
9:54 a.m.		3:48 a.m.
10:08 p.m.		3:51 p.m.
	TUESDAY, MAY 2	
10:30 a.m.		4:26 a.m.
10:43 p.m.		4:28 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, MAY 3	
11:05 a.m.		5:04 a.m.
11:18 p.m.		5:07 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.

## City ready to approve equal pay

An equal payment plan for Southport electric department customers will be offered beginning next month, city manager Rob Gandy said.

Aldermen are expected to grant approval to a final draft of the equal payment plan when they meet May 11. Gandy said he would immediately begin promoting the equal payment option to city electric customers on Pilot Line, the city's information line on *The State Port Pilot's* telephone information service. Customers may begin registration for the equal payment option on Monday, May 15.

Under terms of the equal payment option, city electric customers may elect to have their annual electric bill averaged and pay that fixed average amount in each of 11 months of the year.

June of each year would be designed.  
See Equal pay, page 7

## Regional system bogs down

# Leland's sewer plans rest with state permit

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Leland's push for its own sewer system will depend on a state discharge permit.

But obtaining the state's permission to discharge into the Brunswick River may be more difficult than implied at a town council meeting last week.

A regional supervisor for water quality at the N. C. Division of Environmental Management office in Wilmington says there is no "tentative agreement" with Leland on a 300,000-gallon-per-day discharge application.

Town engineer Bob Lyons of Char-

*'I hope we're not going to jump out and get something that's only going to serve a part of the community. Then we've not got the right vision.'*

Joe Bryant  
Leland resident

lotte told an audience at the council meeting that there was.

"I don't know anything about that," said Dave Adkins of DEM. "I told him

that we would accept an application. I told him what we felt would be a

See Leland, page 8

## Brunswick Democrats reorganize

# 'Communication' is ticket for party

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Across the state and nation, the Democratic Party took a beating last fall.

But the new chairman of the Brunswick County Democrats is gearing up for the 1996 campaign.

"We'll be ready," said Connie Powell in a confident tone. "We don't intend for that to happen again."

The Shallotte resident was elected to a two-year term as chairman of the party on Saturday by a 63-36 vote. Jerry Dove, a retired Highway Patrol officer from Long Beach who sought the Democratic nomination for sheriff last fall, came in second at the Democratic convention held at party headquarters near Supply.

She replaces Roney Cheers, who chose not to seek re-election. Ms. Powell has been active with the Brunswick County Democratic Women's organization for a number of years.

"I just felt that this is something that I could do and be my contribution to the party," she said.

Other officers elected Saturday are Moses Stanley, first vice-chairman; Bernest Hewett, second vice-chairman; Tracie Franks, third vice-chairman; Vernon Ward, treasurer; Donna Baxter, secretary.

Democrats lost a majority on the board of commissioners but almost swept the school board, losing just one seat to the GOP in District 4 last fall.

Republicans gained control of the State House and U. S. Congress during that election. The GOP is gaining strength in the county as well, but Ms. Powell believes the key to main-

taining Democratic control is communication, organization and unity.

"We don't anticipate a swing in this county," she said. "We elected some very good candidates in the last election. I feel they are doing a very good job, and we're going to stand behind them."

Democrats seated Bill Sue of Leland as District 5 representative on the county board of commissioners and re-elected Tom Rabon Sr. to his District 4 seat.

On the school board, Democrats seated four of five -- Olaf (Bud) Thorsen, District 1; Clara Carter, District 2; William D. (Billy) Carter, District 3; Glenda Browning, District 5.

At the convention Saturday, Democrats elected four representatives to the State Executive Committee -- Ms. Powell, Tom

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