



**Sports**

A South Brunswick junior captured two first places in state 3A track competition

# The State Port PILOT

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50 CENTS

**Neighbors**

C-COM often is the lifeline for Brunswick residents in need of emergency services

**Our Town**

Proposed mobile home park rule changes would cost the owner, critics say



Photo by Jim Harper

Preparations for the upcoming holiday weekend were foremost in everyone's mind at the beaches this week. Workers were busy even in last Friday's gathering storm putting finishing touches on the new St. James Plantation beach club at Long Beach.

## Budget proposal

# Long Beach: same tax rate, fees expected

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

The cost of living in Long Beach apparently will not go up next year. Town manager Jerry Walters has submitted a \$5.095-million fiscal year 1995-96 budget proposal calling for no increase in the town's tax rate of 36 cents per \$100 property valuation, no increase in water rates and no increase in solid waste collection fees.

"The recommended FY 1995-96 budget can be characterized as a conservative budget which still addresses a variety of community service delivery needs," Walters wrote in his budget message to the public. "Overall funding levels are essentially comparable to those of the FY 1994-95 budget."

Water cost could only rise if Brunswick County -- the town's supplier of treated water -- raises its rates. Historically, the county has notified its customers of rate increases as late as September.

*The budget built 'upon works in progress and a philosophy aimed at enhancing the positive quality of life enjoyed by citizen and visitor alike.'*

Similarly, Brunswick County has entered into a long-term contract with VEDCO, a solid-waste-to-energy company, beginning January 1. This could impact the cost of solid waste disposal in Long Beach if the county passes its anticipated cost increases to the town. If those costs rise, cost to the Long Beach consumer could

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## Many costs are fixed

# County faces 12-cent hike to meet expenses

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

How did county commissioners accept news of an impending 12-cent tax hike for the 1995-96 budget?

"With a deep breath," District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach said following the meeting.

"I'm a little surprised. I wasn't expecting quite that much, but I hope we'll be able to do some work to perhaps trim it. I'm sure we're going to be looking at it with that in mind."

Commissioners were forewarned to expect a tax hike, but most feared a six- to eight-cent jump. Interim county manager Charles McGinnis gave them a draft Monday that will raise the property tax rate from 58.5 cents to 70.5 cents per \$100 valuation.

For the owner of a \$50,000 home the increase will result in a \$60 jump on the tax bill, from \$292 to \$352. On a \$100,000 home, it will result in a \$120 increase.

"I think we have our work cut out for us in reviewing that budget," said

*'... the community and the citizens expect up to provide a service to them, and it takes dollars. I don't like to pay any more in taxes than anyone else.'*

Jerry Jones  
Commission chairman

board chairman Jerry Jones of District 2. "I hope we can find two or three cents that we can adjust."

Much of the increase is a given, said Jones. The lawsuit settlement that will increase funding to the schools amounts to a five-cent hike. Closing

the county landfill will cost \$1.08 million this year, and more to follow, as the county moves towards an incineration contract with Vedco Energy Corp.'s plant in Bladen County, a deal that starts in January.

Five new road deputies to keep the sheriff's department open 24 hours, and seven new shift responders for the emergency medical services crew, all add up.

"I don't really know what we can do, other than to look at the numbers," said Jones. "But the community and the citizens expect up to provide a service to them, and it takes dollars. I don't like to pay any more in taxes than anyone else."

McGinnis accepted more than \$76.6 million in requests from departments that would have been an 86.6-cent tax rate. The budget is based on a county valuation of \$5.75 billion, or a six-percent increase over last year. It will net an additional \$1.85 million in property taxes.

McGinnis said he took that into consideration with \$5.9 million

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## Sunny Point zoning

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Although some residents prefer a conservation zone, a plan to tab the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point ammunition depot near Southport as a military installation (M-I) has avoided fire.

Others want to leave it free of zoning controls.

"It describes the property for what it is," said resident Sabrina Puckett, "but it has no bearing on the military facility. They're going to do what they want to do with that property."

County commissioners will decide June 5 what to do about the Sunny Point terminal, an 8,500-acre site on the Cape Fear River currently zoned for heavy manufacturing. It is operated by the U. S. Army and serves as the nation's largest ammunition depot.

A zoning proposal that went to public hearing Monday

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# Spent fuel rod shipment topic of debate here

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

So far, the U. S. Department of Energy has failed to address possible sinkhole activity on railroads leading from the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point facility north of Southport.

Concerns raised by some local residents Tuesday may change that.

The Army ammunition depot is one of ten ports considered for the acceptance of more than 27,000 spent nuclear fuel rods from overseas research reactors.

That railroad was used to ship several containers last fall to a holding facility at Aiken, SC, before a judge in South Carolina halted the process. There were no incidents in

Brunswick County.

How a proposed Martin Marietta mine adjacent to Sunny Point could affect the government railroad was a main point stressed at a DOE hearing in Southport Tuesday. DOE officials say they will study that concern.

"I am sure what will happen now is we will address what the danger is to the rail line," said Jon Wolfsthal, foreign affairs specialist for DOE's office of arms control and non-

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## Forecast

The extended forecast calls for a chance of showers of thunderstorms for the period of Thursday through Saturday with highs in the 80's and lows in the 60's.

## Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MAY 25	LOW
5:57 a.m.		11:57 a.m.
6:24 p.m.		---- p.m.
	FRIDAY, MAY 26	
6:44 a.m.		12:37 a.m.
7:08 p.m.		12:42 p.m.
	SATURDAY, MAY 27	
7:28 a.m.		1:22 a.m.
7:50 p.m.		1:24 p.m.
	SUNDAY, MAY 28	
8:10 a.m.		2:04 a.m.
8:29 p.m.		2:05 p.m.
	MONDAY, MAY 29	
8:49 a.m.		2:45 a.m.
9:06 p.m.		2:45 p.m.
	TUESDAY, MAY 30	
9:27 a.m.		3:24 a.m.
9:42 p.m.		3:24 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, MAY 31	
10:03 a.m.		4:02 a.m.
10:16 p.m.		4:02 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.

# SBSD engineer is given ultimatum

## Board frustrated as deadlines near

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Faced with a July 1 deadline to present engineering plans to state officials, a frustrated Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District board last week said it would give consulting engineer Finley Boney 30 days to finalize a redesign of a wastewater disposal system or would terminate his contract.

Commissioners also acknowledged the district will miss a June 1 deadline to apply for needed federal financing, but hopes to pick up money in mid-August when unused funds awarded in this financing cycle

*'I've been disappointed in the time frame. It seems we've been sent down a road that doesn't take us home.'*

Gene Pinkerton  
Long Beach Road businessman and former county commissioner

are returned to the federal agency.

Boney, president of Boney and Associates of Raleigh, the firm that designed the initial SBSB rapid-infiltration system, will design a spray irrigation disposal sys-

tem whereby treated wastewater will be spread on some 150 acres of wooded land south of Georgetown Road.

The redesign for the woodland irrigation will cost the district nothing beyond Boney's contractually guaranteed "basic engineering fee", but Boney hedged at doing the work until he is paid some \$20,000 he said he billed the district after plans to dispose treated effluent in a rapid-infiltration basin were scrapped in February and the district turned its attention towards spray disposal on a St. James Plantation golf course.

The agreement now calls for Boney to be paid half that \$20,000 fee on June 1 and half on July 1 -- if the new woodland irrigation design is completed. Boney's standard contract with the district calls for him to be paid 6.2 percent of 70 percent of the estimated project cost as a basic engineering fee for the disposal design.

Under terms of the agreement, the district will pro

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