



Sports

Former North Brunswick star helped the Rockets win NBA championship -- 1C

The State Port PILOT

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Neighbors

Miss Brunswick County is in Raleigh this week seeking the state crown -- 1B

Our Town

Large users of Southport's electrical system will have to pay the price -- Page 2

Long Beach

Tax rate the same

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

There wasn't much to talk about at the Long Beach Recreation Center Tuesday night.

No property tax increase was proposed. No water rate increase was proposed.

Monthly residential solid waste fees will only increase six cents, commercial fees about 1.8 percent.

That pesky municipal motor vehicle license sticker is gone.

Yacht Drive will be paved as will 72nd, 73rd, 74th and 75th streets SE.

The recreation center will have \$40,000 for expansion and the ball-fields behind Middleton Park will have \$25,000 for development.

No one from the public offered any comment. No one.

Council had talked for the better part of a month and members had reached agreement with one another.

Without discussion, council voted unanimously to adopt a \$5-million budget for 1995-96 on a motion by councilman Jeff Ensminger, seconded by councilman Horace Collier.

Thanks were issued all around.

Although adoption of the budget was easy Tuesday night, the path to adoption was strewn with stumbling blocks at every step. On May 1, town manager Jerry Walters presented council with a budget proposal calling for no tax increase, no solid waste fee increase and some \$125,000 earmarked for recreation center expansion. His proposal also included the estimate \$560,000 cost of paving Yacht Drive.

In an initial round of budget deliberations, council sought to incorporate solid waste collection costs - initially estimated to be \$254,000 - in the town's general fund, thus doing away with monthly solid waste fees. Mayor Joan Altman broke a tie vote of council to effect that change, siding with councilman Collier, Danny Leonard and Ensminger. On June 1, however, Ensminger made a motion to remove the solid waste effort from the general fund and reestablish a solid waste fee. He was the lone defector, but his shift was enough to reinstate the solid waste fee.

The issue of solid waste serves as only one example of how divided council was on many matters affecting the formulation of the budget for 1995-96.

Minutes of the several budget workshop sessions indicate council split 3-3 on policy decisions seven times. Mayor Joan Altman broke the tie vote of council seven times.

Three of those votes had to do
See Long Beach, page 6

SAFELY ASHORE



The emotions of many anguished hours show on the faces of Billy Ray Locklear Jr. and his mother, Delilah, at Oak Island Coast Guard station Tuesday afternoon. Locklear and his father were in peril off the Cape Fear River mouth since Saturday and his mother began her terrible waiting Monday as searchers started looking for the two.

Photo by Jim Harper

No life jacket or radio, but father and son survive at sea

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A bottle of Mountain Dew, a bag of potato chips and the prayers of a large family landside kept a Robeson County father and son alive through three days and stormy nights adrift at sea without the comfort of even a life jacket.

Billy Ray Locklear, 43, of St. Pauls and his son Billy Ray Jr., 15, of Pembroke, stepped from U. S. Coast Guard Station Oak Island's 41-foot utility boat to the station's cement dock Tuesday about 11:30 a.m., returned from a fishing day-trip to Frying Pan Tower that went terribly awry.

In remarkably good condition after their ordeal,

the two required no medical attention.

The father and son had been discovered aboard their disabled 25-foot cruiser earlier that morning about 40 miles off Little River, SC, by the crew of the *Triumphant Lady*, a 90-foot yacht bound for a Florida vacation.

"I knew we were way south," said Billy Ray Sr., who had owned the unnamed boat for about a year but had only taken it out two or three times. "The Sunday storm took us way out, but then it turned and brought us back in."

The Locklears set out from the N. C. Wildlife Commission boat ramp on Fish Factory Road Saturday morning about 7:30 with plans to fish the area

See Survive, page 8

'Superior performance'

CP&L given highest mark in evaluation

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The Brunswick nuclear plant has received superior ratings from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in all operating categories for the period November 7, 1993, through May 13.

"The entire (CP&L) organization, corporate and station, is commended for the superior performance," Stewart D. Ebnetter, regional NRC administrator, wrote in his Tuesday cover letter announcing the grades.

The particulars of the four superior marks -- "All 'ones,'" exulted Brunswick vice-president Roy Anderson on Tuesday -- will be discussed in a public meeting at the Brunswick plant's technical training center at 1 p.m. July 10.

The ratings reflect an improvement from the 2.4 average in SALP (Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance) ratings in 1992, when the Brunswick plant was in the throes of both self-repair and self-assessment, through a 1.5 average in November,

'What it says is that you can run a superior operation and keep costs in line. We are the low-cost operation in the company.'

Roy Anderson
Plant vice-president

1993, to the present "all 'ones,'" and represent the highest marks the Brunswick plant has ever attained under the NRC grading system.

"I am very pleased with how things (in the assessment) went," Anderson
See Evaluation, page 6

Ten-cent increase

County okays 68.5-cent rate

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Property taxes will increase, but not as much as first expected.

County commissioners cut two cents off the proposed rate and approved a ten-cent hike at 68.5 cents per \$100 valuation at a special meeting Tuesday night. It ends a month of calculating the figures in an effort to avoid a county tax hike for the first time in four years.

"I don't think there's any one of us that wants to vote to increase taxes," said Jerry Jones, chairman from District 2. "I think we've done a pretty good job of getting it to this point. I hope we can keep it at 68.5 cents for another year or two."

District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach made a last-minute pitch to trim another half-cent from the rate by eliminating six

emergency medical technicians (EMT), new positions, and a substation at a cost of \$320,000. But her motion failed, 3-2.

"I'm a nurse, and I've worked with rescue squads, and I'm very, very sensitive to this issue," said Ms. Collier. "As a nurse, I've taken an oath. I have faith in the volunteer rescue units. I'm just not sure this is the right move at the right time."

District 1 commissioner Doug Simmons voted with her. One cent

See Tax cut, page 11



Forecast

Partly cloudy skies will prevail for the period of Thursday through Saturday with highs in the 80's and lows in the 70's.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JUNE 22	LOW
4:30 a.m.		10:34 a.m.
5:04 p.m.		11:17 p.m.
	FRIDAY, JUNE 23	
5:21 a.m.		11:23 a.m.
5:53 p.m.		----- p.m.
	SATURDAY, JUNE 24	
6:10 a.m.		12:07 a.m.
6:38 p.m.		12:10 p.m.
	SUNDAY, JUNE 25	
6:57 a.m.		12:54 a.m.
7:22 p.m.		12:55 p.m.
	MONDAY, JUNE 26	
7:41 a.m.		1:38 a.m.
8:02 p.m.		1:38 p.m.
	TUESDAY, JUNE 27	
8:22 a.m.		2:20 a.m.
8:41 p.m.		2:19 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28	
9:01 a.m.		2:59 a.m.
9:17 p.m.		2:59 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.

Festival celebrates 200th year



By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Two hundred years. When the opening ceremonies are held for the 1995 N. C. Fourth of July Festival next Friday, June 30, it will mark the 200th time the people of Southport -- and lately the region -- have gathered to celebrate the birth of a nation.

Opening ceremonies for this year's festival are to begin at 7:15 p.m. at festival headquarters on Moore Street next to the Southport branch of the Brunswick County Library.

Two hundred years. Does that excite 1995 festival president Don Hughes?

"You bet it does," Hughes said, taking a break Tuesday from last-minute preparations.

"It excites me and it makes me proud," Hughes said. "This is the 200th anniversary of the first formal celebration of Independence Day in the city now called Southport and all of us who have worked to bring the festival together this year are especially proud to be a part of this historic moment."

If the last decade proves any guide, about 30,000 visitors will flock to the city limits of Southport at any given time during the N. C. Fourth of July Festival. Intense festival activity begins Saturday, July 1, and culminates Tuesday, July 4, with the 11 p.m. N. C. Fourth of July Festival parade and 9 p.m. fireworks display.

But, even before the Friday evening opening ceremonies, "The Division's Own" Second Division Marine Band will have played a 7 p.m. concert on the Garrison at Fort Johnston Wednesday, June 28.

From top to bottom, beginning to end, the 200th anniversary 1995 N. C. Fourth of July Festival is packed with events sure to please the entire family.

"We anticipate this being as big and as fun a festival as ever produced in the celebration's 200-year history in Southport," Hughes said. "From the special events, to the stage entertainment, to the arts and crafts and other static exhibits to the parade and fireworks, this festival is shaping up to be plain ol' good fun."

The 1995 200th anniversary festival will have a special family flavor to it, Hughes said. Special children's events have been planned on the Garrison at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 1, and magician Gary Nunnally will be stationed in a booth near the waterfront Sunday afternoon, July 2, with his crew

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