



**Sports**

Former Cougar star Quinton McCracken makes the move towards the big league -- 1C

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**Neighbors**

Festival fun and frolic, from children's events to Beach Day to the big parade -- 1B

**Our Town**

We've been watching turtles become more and more threatened by man -- Page 2

## County approves cable fee

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Franchise fees may boost the cost of cable to the county's mostly rural customers three percent in August.

Residents complained to county commissioners at a public hearing Monday that user fees are not fair and represent another tax. Agreements with the two largest companies -- Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. and Time-Warner Inc. -- were renewed for another 15 years with the fee subject to reach up to five percent of revenues to pay for county administrative costs.

For years, the companies have operated without paying county franchise fees. Residents in most towns, however, are paying three percent.

Commissioners had proposed a five-percent fee but trimmed that back with the option to raise it at a future date. The planning department will study the issue to determine the county's costs.

"I see it as a franchise fee imposed on private enterprise," said District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach. "The companies have the option to pass it on to the users. I do not feel it is fair to make the statement that the county commissioners have taxed citizens for this fee."

A letter most ATMC customers received in the mail Friday stated commissioners had decided to impose a five-percent fee and said a

See Cable, page 6



And did that Star-Spangled Banner still wave amid the rockets' red glare on the Southport waterfront Tuesday evening? You bet it did, presiding over a grand celebration of our nation's declared and continuing independence. Photos pages 8, 1B, 3B. Photo by Jim Harper

## City okays 53-cent tax rate, delays 'demand' surcharge

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Aldermen made two small changes to a proposal advanced by its budget committee two weeks ago before adopting a \$6.44-million budget for fiscal year 1995-96 Thursday night.

Before adopting the budget by unanimous vote, aldermen removed a recommended \$5-per-vehicle municipal auto registration fee from the budget. The fee, recommended by the city's budget committee and staff, was to have brought \$7,500 in additional revenue. To compensate for the loss of that money, the board reduced a planned \$45,000 contingency item in

### The budget does raise water, sewer and residential solid waste collection rates

the city's general fund by a like amount.

The board, in a second action, voted to delay charging higher demand electricity rates until May 1, 1996. The budget committee had considered upping the rate for demand electric-

ity, purchased by the city's 34 largest customers, in January.

The budget adopted Thursday night does not increase the city's property tax rate of 53 cents per \$100 valuation, but increases water, sewer and residential solid waste collection rates. Beginning July 1, water will cost 50 cents more per 1,000 gallons, sewer will cost 64 cents more per 1,000 gallons of water purchased and monthly solid waste fees will rise \$2.50.

While the increase in demand electricity charges — from \$3.16 per kilowatt to \$6 per kilowatt — was pushed back until May, aldermen adopted the

See Surcharge, page 6

*'I don't want to pay for the administrative fee for the 26,000. Cable is not an accessory. Cable is a luxury. I don't want to pay for the ride if I'm not on the bus.'*

Randall Brown  
County consultant

## No viable plan

# SBSD fires its engineer

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Boney and Associates, the only consulting engineering firm to serve the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District in its history, was fired by the district's board of commissioners last week.

The move leaves the district without a wastewater collection system and in jeopardy of losing funding necessary to build one. Most importantly, and key to the termination of the Boney contract, the move leaves the five-year-old district without a viable plan to build a wastewater treatment collection, treatment and disposal system.

Fed up with delays and changes in venue and engineering design of a

workable wastewater disposal system, commissioners told senior engineer Finley Boney he was through after a 38-minute closed session at which Boney's contract was discussed with him. The motion to "sever the contract with Boney and Associates for failure to perform" came on the motion of commissioner Louise Laster, seconded by commissioner Ginger Harper.

When chairman James (Bubba) Smith called for a voice vote, only Laster and Harper could be heard declaring "aye." Nothing was heard when Smith called for those against the motion to declare themselves and the meeting was quickly adjourned.

Boney had had fair warning. Meeting May 17, district commis-

See Architect, page 5

## Injunction lifted

# Nuclear fuel rod shipment will continue

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

The final action that could block another shipment of spent nuclear fuel rods through Brunswick County lies with the U. S. Supreme Court.

Otherwise, a recent federal appeals court ruling will allow another shipment of weapons-grade fuel elements from overseas research reactors to enter the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point ammunition depot north of Southport as early as this summer.

In a 2-1 decision, the 4th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals lifted a temporary injunction that barred a second shipment of 151 spent rods through the county. Elements will arrive by transport ship at Sunny Point and be transported by rail to Aiken, SC, but no date has yet been set.

The shipment originally was scheduled to arrive in February, but environmental activists and South Carolina officials filed a lawsuit to block

that move after 153 rods were shipped to the U. S. Department of Energy's Savannah River storage site near Aiken last September.

South Carolina has not decided if it will file an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Both shipments are part of a one-time deal to rid foreign countries of stockpiled highly-enriched uranium rods that could be made into weapons if they fall into the wrong hands. Overall, there are 22,700 rods that need to be returned to the United States over the next decade, said Jon Wolfsthal, foreign affairs specialist

See Shipment, page 5



## Forecast

Summer months always bring the chance of severe thunderstorms, as we saw this past week. This pattern will continue throughout the weekend with temperatures ranging from 85 to low 90's.

## Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JULY 6	LOW
2:09 a.m.		8:39 a.m.
3:07 p.m.		9:28 p.m.
HIGH	FRIDAY, JULY 7	LOW
3:13 a.m.		9:41 a.m.
4:12 p.m.		10:35 p.m.
HIGH	SATURDAY, JULY 8	LOW
4:19 a.m.		10:44 a.m.
5:16 p.m.		11:39 p.m.
HIGH	SUNDAY, JULY 9	LOW
5:26 a.m.		11:46 a.m.
6:18 p.m.		----- p.m.
HIGH	MONDAY, JULY 10	LOW
6:30 a.m.		12:39 a.m.
7:17 p.m.		12:45 p.m.
HIGH	TUESDAY, JULY 11	LOW
7:32 a.m.		1:35 a.m.
8:13 p.m.		1:42 p.m.
HIGH	WEDNESDAY, JULY 12	LOW
8:30 a.m.		2:28 a.m.
9:07 p.m.		2:36 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.

## New tenure law may be 'stepping stone'

# Are teachers being taught a lesson?

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

A new state law will abolish future tenure for school principals, assistant principals and instructional supervisors, and some school officials say it is the first step toward abolishing tenure for teachers as well.

The law will not affect employees already tenured, but only persons hired after July 1, said Brunswick County personnel director Ralph Ward. In the past, Ward said, employees in tenured positions received tenure after performing an effective job for three years.

Once tenured, Ward noted, a voluminous amount of documentation was required to terminate that em-

*'If you have to constantly prove and improve yourself, you're going to be more effective. But, if you're not up to snuff, they can just say "good-bye."*

Diana Mintz  
Leland Middle School

ployee. Some state legislators and school officials criticize the ten-

ure system, claiming it encourages some school officials to work hard for a few years and then rest on their laurels.

Many tenured school officials in Brunswick County agree that tenure can promote complacency, but some also noted that the loss of tenure will mean a loss of job security and internal stability.

"I'm sure there are abuses of tenure, and that's unfortunate," said North Brunswick High School principal Bob Harris. "But, tenure does protect employees from some arbitrary actions."

Southport Elementary School assistant principal Ronnie Jenkins agreed that the new law will enable the system to terminate ineffective employees, but said it was the first step to doing away with tenure

See Teachers, page 11