



**Sports**

The Cougars try to get back on the winning track, but it's a tough assignment -- 1C

# The State Port PILOT

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**Neighbors**

Nothing crabby about the kids who participated in Saturday's crab derby -- 1B

**Our Town**

The arts and crafts fair held at Middleton Park was the largest event yet -- Page 2

## Health report

Study shows high incidence of cancer

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

An alarming mark on Brunswick County's 1995 health "report card" is the high rate of cancer found locally compared with the other 99 North Carolina counties.

Brunswick ranks sixth highest in lung cancer incidents and is also near the top in female breast cancer cases. It is 14th highest in infant mortality.

Statistics recently released by the N. C. Health Planning Commission as a guide for health policy makers. According to those figures, the incidence of lung cancer is higher in only five other North Carolina counties. Only 21 counties have a higher rate of female breast cancer incidence than Brunswick.

But state health experts who analyzed cancer clusters reported in the county last year say higher rates are more likely attributed to an aging retirement population rather than to a specific cause -- such as an adjacent industry or air and water pollution. Cancer rates increase among older patients, and the county is quickly becoming a popular coastal retirement community.

"One of the things people don't realize is how common cancer is," said Dr. Tim Aldrich, director of the N. C. Central Cancer Registry of the N. C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources. "They don't realize that one out of three people get cancer at some point in their life. When they begin to hear of other cases, it seems like an alarming number."

Figures also show Brunswick ranks 24th from the top in the number of residents 65 or older, with 9,542 senior citizens. It is also near the bottom, 88th, in the number of residents  
See Report, page 6

### NOT SO CRABBY



Taking your catch to the tent for measurement was no frowning matter Saturday as everybody got caught up in the good times of the Southport Kids Crab Derby. The annual Labor Day competition at the yacht basin drew 72 youngsters and 112 crabs.

### Pending DEM approval

## Yaupon, club agree on plan for wastewater

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

A deal whereby the Oak Island Golf and Country Club will accept the effluent of the Yaupon Beach wastewater treatment plant for spray-irrigation of its golf course for the next 20 years was struck in principle Tuesday night when town commissioners voted to execute a contract to that effect.

The deal, however, is contingent upon the willingness of the state's Division of Environmental Management (DEM) to permit spray-irrigation of the golf course. Just whether it will or not remains up in the air.

Under terms of the contract ratified by commissioners Tuesday night, the town will be permitted to supply up to 80 percent of its anticipated 500,000-gallon-per-day volume of treated wastewater for spray-irrigation by the golf course. This summer the town treated less than 180,000 gallons of wastewater during times of peak consumption. However, execution of the deal will allow the town to expand its treatment plant capacity by 100,000 gallons per day to 500,000 gallons per day.

The new-found ability to dispose of that much effluent will also allow the town to begin accepting customers from outside town limits, thus

*The cost of conversion to a spray-irrigation disposal system has been estimated to be \$371,000; the town will spend another estimated \$260,000 for expansion of treatment plant capacity*

boosting the amount of wastewater treated at the plant. The actual 500,000-gallon-per-day capacity likely will not be reached for years, however.

Although the town and DEM officials have worked closely to agree on golf course irrigation as a valid disposal method, Yaupon Beach mayor May Moore said the town still has no written assurance that permits for the spray-irrigation will be issued. That is why she pushed for permit issuance as a contingency of the contract with the golf and country club.

"We have a contract we feel comfortable with, but we want to adopt it subject to DEM putting something in writing saying what we are doing is what will be permitted. We've gotten written correspondences from DEM, but they've never said 'golf course.'"

Others would make the permitting path more difficult. Members of the Arboretum Community Association, a homeowners association, say they want the state to perform an environmental impact study and conduct public hearings on the golf course spray-irrigation proposal before it can proceed.

The golf course spray-irrigation proposal was the subject of a public informational meeting in Yaupon Beach Thursday night. Arboretum Community Association president  
See Wastewater, page 9

## Long Beach wants county to keep plant

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

The Town of Long Beach wants Brunswick County to continue to operate its wastewater treatment plant on N. C. 211 regardless of the recommendation of consulting engineers.

Recently, county commissioners asked HDR Engineering Inc. to examine means to increase county water production as demand continues to grow. But, county commissioners specifically asked HDR to determine if the N. C. 211 water treatment plant west of Southport should be closed in favor of expanding the county's Cape Fear River water treatment plant at Malmö.

The N. C. 211 plant treats six million gallons of groundwater per day when operated at capacity, but requires the same manpower as the Malmö surface water plant which can treat up to 24 million gallons per day.

Meeting in retreat session last week, Long Beach Town Council in-  
See Long Beach, page 8

## Central purchasing for county

# Some don't buy into the idea

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Brunswick County commissioners, board of education members and Brunswick Community College trustees are negotiating for a mutually beneficial agreement that would centralize purchasing, printing and the use and maintenance of equipment and vehicles.

But while the board of commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution in support of such an agreement, saying it would streamline services these public bodies provide and decrease

*'What if the county uses one of our lawn mowers. Who brings it back and who pays for the repair if it gets broken?'*

Dean Walters  
Trustees chairman

the cost to taxpayers, the county's resolution has not yet been discussed publicly by the board of education, and was not well received by college trustees.  
Trustees chairman Dean Walters

and college president Mike Reaves will soon meet with county manager Jimmy Varner and assistant county manager Robert Hyatt to discuss the idea and the board is expected to take action on the proposal later this month.

Some trustees said they do not feel comfortable with some aspects of the proposal.

"What if the county uses one of our lawn mowers. Who brings it back and who pays for the repair if it gets broken?" asked Walters.

Trustee Donna Baxter also asked  
See Don't buy, page 6

# Registrar, board feud won't compute

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Disputes between county commissioners and registrar of deeds Robert Robinson show no sign of easing up.

It brought representatives from the Secretary of State's office and the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill down last week to try to iron out problems.

County officials are seeking an agreement with Robinson to allow installation of computer equipment that will link his department to all others. But Robinson says he will be held responsible if any official deeds are tampered with or destroyed in such a system. He wants legal clearance to remove himself from liability.

Robinson has filed suit against commissioners over an administrative pay cut he received earlier this year and to obtain a legal ruling on a hiring freeze the board imposed on county departments. That action has caused tension between the two parties and an occasional exchange of heated words.

It happened again at Tuesday night's commission meeting. "In a rational situation, I don't think there would be a problem," said county attorney Mike Ramos. "I suggest a third attorney be contracted, have that person draft the agreement and present it to him (Robinson)."

That is what commissioners recommended last week, and a list of three outside attorneys were suggested. But Robinson has asked to use his personal attorney to handle the paperwork instead.

"He was not willing to use our attorney and wants us to use his attorney?" asked commission chairman Jerry Jones of District 2. "He's the gentleman that has filed suit against the county, and he wants us to use his attorney. That doesn't make a lot of sense to me. That's all I can say about that."

Assistant county manager Robert Hyatt said a new imaging system will be state-required by 1997 and that the county wants to move a step forward now. County agencies are now linked by computers and fiber optic cables to share data for its central permitting department. But Robinson has held out from joining the system.

"I suggest if he's not going to cooperate, we just drive on with the other departments," said District 5 commissioner Bill  
See Registrar, page 10



### Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies and a chance of thunderstorms. Highs each day in the mid to upper 80's.

### Tide table

HIGH	LOW
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7	
7:04 a.m.	12:56 a.m.
7:38 p.m.	1:13 p.m.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8	
7:57 a.m.	1:45 a.m.
8:27 p.m.	2:04 p.m.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9	
8:46 a.m.	2:32 a.m.
9:13 p.m.	2:52 p.m.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10	
9:32 a.m.	3:15 a.m.
9:56 p.m.	3:38 p.m.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11	
10:16 a.m.	3:57 a.m.
10:38 p.m.	4:22 p.m.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12	
10:59 a.m.	4:39 a.m.
11:19 p.m.	5:05 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13	
11:42 a.m.	5:20 a.m.
----- p.m.	5:49 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.