



**Sports**

South Brunswick defeats Pinecrest, its second 4A victim of the '95 season -- 1C

# The State Port PILOT

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**Neighbors**

The Great Pumpkin would have been lost in the crowd at this fun-filled event -- 1B

**Our Town**

Southport looks for ways to trim use of electricity by largest customers -- Page 2

## Point access

Long Beach allows west beach driving

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Operators of four-wheel-drive vehicles may apply for a \$50 annual permit to drive from the end of the pavement on West Beach Drive to "The Point" of Long Beach on the Lockwood Folly Inlet.

That new privilege came about when a majority of council Tuesday night rejected councilman Jeff Ensminger's proposal to make The Point accessible by vehicle only to those residents who could convince the town manager they suffered a physical limitation which prevents them from getting to the extreme western end of the island on foot.

The amendment to the town's code as adopted by council Tuesday night extends the right to seek a permit to any resident or property

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## Long-range planning

Thursday night at visitors center

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Planners chose the right location for a discussion on transportation needs.

A small gathering in Leland last week spoke at length on highway and waterway concerns during the third in a series of seven planning sessions sponsored by the Brunswick County Long-Range Planning Committee.

Leland's growth is a product of Wilmington's expansion and of Interstate 40's influence on travelers headed southward. Traffic flows through northern Brunswick County from I-40 at a rapid pace, but roadways in the Leland community may not be able to accommodate the demand in future years, residents fear.

"This area, you may not realize it in a maximum of ten years or possibly five," said V. A. Creech Jr. of Belville. "That is already set."

The committee is charged by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners as a fact-gathering body to develop planning recommendations to prepare for heavy growth over the next 20 years. The panel will submit a report to the commission by the end of the year.

Two more public meetings were to  
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**Forecast**

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a chance of showers and Fall-like weather with highs each day in the mid 70's.

**INSIDE**

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**STEPPING STONES**



Ab, the perils of the castnetter working the Southport shore, where one misstep may mean you miss a mess of mullets. This rock-hopper was plying his craft in Monday's midday brilliance at the foot of the Garrison.

Photo by Jim Harper

## Early-release policy

# NCAE will file suit if schools don't concede

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Unless the Brunswick County Board of Education concedes it wrongfully abolished the Wednesday early-release policy and expresses a "genuine interest" in working with county educators, the North Carolina Association of Educators will file suit against the board, the NCAE attorney

said Tuesday. "I'm in the process of drafting a lawsuit and I'm not delaying what I'm doing at all," Tom Stern said. "The fear among some county educators is that the board is paying lip service but has no interest in compromise." He said if the school board concession is not made within two weeks he will bring the matter before Brunswick County Superior Court.

Stern said a state statute stipulates that changes in schools' performance-based accountability plans can be made only by each school and not by

See NCAE, page 8

**'I'm not asking the board to change its position simply because it's illegal. I'm asking them to change their position because principals and teachers are telling us that there will be irreparable damage....'**

Tom Stern  
NCAE attorney

## Rate-hike opposition

# Water, water everywhere in town concerns

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

An entourage of wholesale water customers, led by Long Beach mayor Joan Altman, convinced county officials Monday to take a closer look at drastic rate increases proposed for this fiscal year.

County commissioners tabled the action and agreed to meet with municipal and sanitary district representatives before any measure is approved, a vote that could hike rates 88 percent over four years to wean the water system off tax dollars.

"Personally, I had some more questions that I wanted answered," said District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach. "But the towns definitely have some valid

points." Ms. Collier asked county attorney Mike Ramos to study the county's contract with Long Beach and to interpret language that may exclude the town from any responsibility for certain debt incurred by the system. Commissioners received a study from consultants David M. Griffith and Associates which shows how county officials can raise water rates over a period of four years to eliminate the need to commit general fund revenues, including ad valorem tax dollars, to offset water system deficits.

Over the past three years, more than \$10 million in tax dollars has been used to keep the system afloat, and it has currently sunk more than \$500,000 in the hole since June. Com-

See Water, page 7

## EIS to be sought

# Caswell looks to halt Yaupon disposal plan

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Do we have the power to stop it? That will be one of the questions Caswell Beach commissioners will put to officials of the state Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources concerning the Yaupon Beach proposal to spray treated wastewater on the Oak Island Golf and Country Club property.

The question, commissioners decided Thursday, will be put in the form of a letter to DEHNR officials, along with a request that the department conduct a public hearing on the Yaupon Beach plan as soon as possible and before permits for the project are issued.

"I would feel that a public hearing is one of the things we should ask for," said commissioner Bill Boyd. "Let's get the pros in here.... If the burden of responsibility falls on the mayor and council to make a decision, we can make it informed."

But earlier, in public discussion of

The club plans to spray the treated effluent on its golf course, which spans both Yaupon Beach and Caswell Beach and is bordered by the upscale Arboretum subdivision

the Yaupon Beach wastewater disposal plan, commissioner Joe O'Brien, a mayoral candidate, cut to the chase.

"Do we have any legal power to

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## Pilot Line school calls reach 2,600

More than 2,600 calls were made to Pilot Line school extensions during September.

South Brunswick Middle School numbers were called 1,864 times; South Brunswick High School numbers, 737 times.

"It is gratifying that so many students and parents have taken advantage of Pilot Line," said Ed Harper, editor of The State Port Pilot which provides the service. The school extensions are sponsored by Carolina Power and Light Co. as part of its community schools program.

"Without CP&L this service would not be possible," said Harper. "And without the cooperation of teachers it would not be successful. We hear much discussion about where fault lies in our educational system, but certainly it is not with these people who make the extra effort to see their students succeed."

Pilot Line school extension numbers are published weekly in The State Port Pilot.

## Church access

Free Pilot Line service is available to any church that can access either the 457- or 253- telephone exchange.

Sermon topics, prayer lists or other messages can be recorded by the pastor, then accessed by dialing Pilot Line and the church extension. A touch-tone phone is required.

More information is available from Pilot business manager Diane McKeithan, 457-4568 or 253-7733.