

Neighbors

Outdoor displays are lighting up Christmas spirits -- and sometimes the sky -- 1B

Our Town

Southport has granted a conditional use permit for Bald Head project -- Page 2

Sports

Preston McGriff is a tower of strength but he can't carry Seahawks by himself -- 1C

Yaupon sewer

Golf course plan may be stymied

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

A new problem has arisen that may put an end to plans to spray-irrigate the Oak Island Golf and Country Club golf course with treated effluent from the Yaupon Beach wastewater treatment plant.

And, this new development places additional pressure on Yaupon Beach officials to seek an alternative means of disposing of some 400,000 to 500,000 gallons of wastewater each day.

Engineers had figured a naturally existing pond on the 18th hole of the golf course could be used as a retention pond in which to store treated wastewater prior to spraying it to irrigate the golf course. As engineers

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Holiday deadlines

Next week's State Port Pilot will be printed and distributed on the regular Wednesday schedule, but deadlines for that edition have changed.

Real estate ad materials must be in the newspaper office by noon this Friday. The deadline for classified advertising is 3 p.m. Friday. Deadline for regular display advertising will be 2 p.m. next Tuesday. The office will be closed Monday in observance of Christmas.

All news material must be in hand by 2 p.m. Tuesday. The office will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon to accept materials that may be submitted early.

The staff of The State Port Pilot wishes you a happy and safe Christmas holiday.



Photo by Jim Harper

The adult and children's choirs and drama ministry of Southport Baptist Church joined a capacity congregation in celebration of the Christmas season with "Festival of Carols" on Sunday evening.

Observances of the most popular Christian holiday will continue in community churches through Sunday, concluding with evening candlelight services (listed under "Sermon Topics" inside).

'Report Card'

Scores vary by districts

By Holly Edwards Feature Editor

Variations in socioeconomic conditions and levels of parental involvement in Brunswick County largely explain the differences among end-of-course test scores in county schools, officials say.

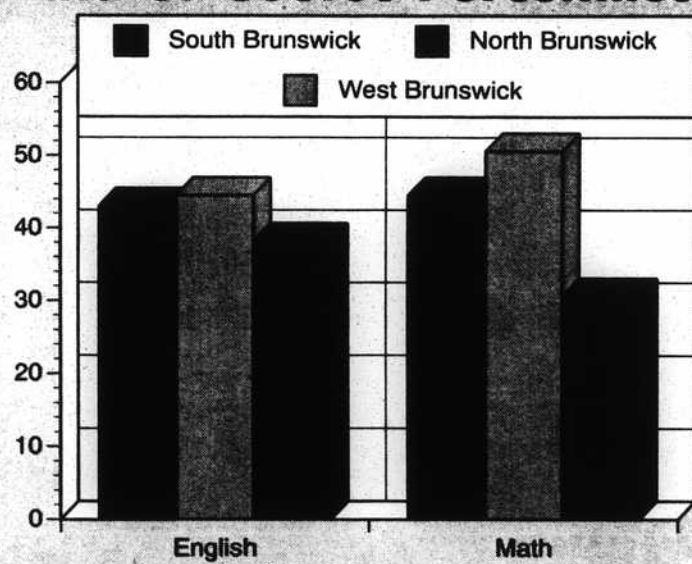
In general, schools in the southern part of the county scored above county average, schools in the western part of the county scored about average and schools in the northern part scored below average.

School officials say the scores reflect socioeconomic conditions in the three sections of the county.

"I've been in some of these homes, and some people's pets have a better

See Scores, page 10

End-of-Course Percentiles



Long Beach

Town finances in good shape

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

Three new councilors joined mayor Joan Altman and three returning councilors to repeat oaths of office as the governing body of the Town of Long Beach met and reorganized Tuesday night.

Sworn to office by resident District Court judge Napoleon B. (Poli) Barefoot Jr. to succeed themselves were mayor Altman and councilors Horace Collier, Jeff Ensminger and Kevin Bell, all reelected in November. Repeating the oath of office for the first time as Long Beach town councilors were newly elected members Helen Cashwell, Frances Allen and Doris Hertel.

But, amid the pomp and circumstance of installation ceremonies, independent auditor Menton Padgett may have delivered the most significant news of the night.

Last year, when presenting state-mandated audit results to council for the year ending in June, 1994, Padgett pronounced Long Beach "in the strongest cash position ever."

Padgett could have said the same this year, but didn't.

A synopsis of audit findings for the year ended June 30, 1995, showed the town increased fund balances in its two government funds and increased retained earnings.

See Long Beach, page 15

Northern sewer plan advanced

By Terry Pope County Editor

A regional sewer plan for northern Brunswick County is gaining support.

A resolution approved by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on Monday endorses the Leland Sanitary District's plan to link resources with the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority and draft a comprehensive sewer study for the northern communities.

Leland town government has become bogged down in sewer negotiations with the Town of Belville, which

See Sewer plan, page 6

Retiring Yaupon Beach mayor Legacy is incomplete

"The only two jobs I ever had were garbage and mayor -- and I thoroughly enjoyed being mayor."

May Moore

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

The mayor who leaves behind as her legacy to Yaupon Beach a strong commitment to the environment, to sound financial planning, to development of the single biggest public works project the town will ever undertake, began her career in town government with garbage.

May Moore was appointed first to the board of commissioners of the Town of Yaupon Beach in April, 1983, and was promptly assigned the role of garbage commissioner by her trusting fellow board members and mayor Bob Wilson. Well, she also had a few other responsibilities -- like beachfront maintenance and recreation programs that scarcely existed then. She was also put in charge of mosquito control.

Last Monday, Moore presided over

her last meeting of the board of commissioners of the Town of Yaupon Beach. She opted not to seek reelection this year.

But, the appointee of 1983 who would win election in her own right in 1985 and win election as mayor in 1987 by fellow commissioners for the first of four times, doesn't blame any "ol' boy" system of municipal politics for her early and humble government assignments.

"I was the town mother in charge of trash and I stayed so for many years," Moore said Thursday, three days after she presided over her final board meeting.

"It wasn't that I was the only female, that's just where people traditionally start -- sanitation, recreation and the beach."

"I think sanitation and the beach were hard," the mayor recalled of her earliest responsibilities in town gov-

ernment.

Those jobs were also a hard launching pad from which to propel oneself into a distinguished career in local government.

"With the beach, it continues to erode. With the garbage, it gets collected. With mosquitoes, they continue to bite," Moore observed.

But, distinguish herself Moore did. And, when her predecessor Wilson decided to end nine years as mayor in 1987 Moore was ready to step into the big job in town government.

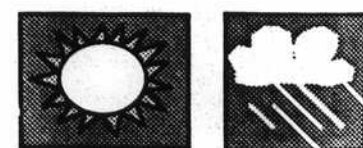
And there she has stayed for the last eight years, guiding the town through its usual growing pains and through its biggest challenge -- development of a public wastewater management system begun in 1990 and, unfortunately, still uncompleted today.

The transition from "town mother in charge of trash" to mayor allowed

See Legacy, page 11



May Moore had distinguished career as mayor



Forecast

A cold front moves through the area bringing with it winter weather. Highs each day only in the 40's.

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