



**Sports**

The younger Parkers have a star to follow as Carl reaches new heights -- 1C

**The State Port**

**PILOT**

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**Neighbors**

Traditions are different for everybody, but they are special to everyone -- 1B

**Our Town**

The Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District searches for the special site -- Page 2

**Schools feeling impact**

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

The rapid influx of new residents to Brunswick County has brought overcrowded schools while state and federal spending for school construction is at an all-time low.

Eight of the county's 12 school buildings are operating above capacity and the new Belville Elementary School will be at capacity when it opens next fall.

"As we look at the growth pro- See Schools, page 7

**Keeping pace with growth**

**'Quality' attracting residents**

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

A superior quality of life is what has attracted a wave of new year-round residents to the three Oak Island communities in the first half of the 1990s, municipal officials say.

"I think there's a very simple answer to it," Long Beach town manager Jerry Walters said. "That's quality of life. There are a bunch of things that factor into that, but it's a

**MUNICIPAL POPULATION GROWTH 1990-94**

	APRIL 1990	JULY 1994	INCREASE	% OF CHANGE	RANK	CITY SIZE
LONG BEACH	3816	4805	989	25.9	14	2500-9,999
BOILING SPRING LAKES	1650	1968	318	19.3	21	1000-2499
YAUPON	734	873	139	18.9	23	<1000
CASWELL	175	208	33	18.9	24	<1000
SOUTHPORT	2369	2482	114	4.8	N/A	1000-2499

quality of life issue."

Statistics released by the N. C. Office of Planning indicate Long Beach experienced an extraordinary 25.9 percent increase in full-time population between 1990 and 1994. Long Beach population growth ranked it the

14th fastest-growing municipality in the state with a population between 2,500 and 9,999. Populations at Caswell Beach and Yaupon Beach grew 18.9 percent each in the period, ranking them 23rd and 24th, respectively. See Residents, page 9

**Industrial progress helping meet costs**

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

As 1995 slips away, industrial recruiters and homebuilders may need a break just to catch their breath.

It was the busiest year ever in Brunswick County for new industries.

And new home construction has climbed the charts as well in the second-fastest growing county in North Carolina.

"This has been a sleeping pearl that has continued to grow," said Jim Varner, county manager. "And it's going to continue to grow."

As of December 1, the county had issued 230 permits this year for new homes with a value of \$17.3 million, plus 46 commercial per-

See Progress, page 8

**City up some, BSL is rising**

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Boiling Spring Lakes in the first half of the 1990s grew at a pace comparable to the beach communities because of its easy, trouble-free pace and its "country style" manner, mayor Mark Stewart said.

Southport, however, grew at a much more modest rate than did the beach communities. Former mayor Norman Holden said that is because the city lacks an industrial base with its attendant jobs and points to the need for annexation.

"I would think one of the biggest reasons we have grown is because it

is a nice, quiet place to live," mayor Stewart said. He points to an absence of traffic and other urban-like problems other area municipalities have encountered.

According to statistics released by the N. C. Office of State Planning, Boiling Spring Lakes' growth in the period between 1990 and 1994 ranked it the 23rd fastest-growing city in the state among those with populations between 1,000 and 2,499.

Population in Boiling Spring Lakes rose 19.3 percent to 1,968 in 1994.

Southport, on the other hand, experienced a lesser rate of growth than did the beach communities and Boil- See Rising, page 7

**Judge considers BCAE's request**

Superior Court judge Coy E. Brewer is not expected to rule until after January 9 on a Brunswick County Association of Educators request for a temporary order reinstating weekly half-days in county schools.

The BCAE says it is suing the board of education to reinstate weekly half-days to allow educators time to implement student performance improvement plans. If teachers do not have time to implement the plans student performance will suffer, argued Tom Stern, BCAE attorney.

School board members abolished the early-release policy this year because they said it was academically disruptive and created an additional burden on parents to provide day care and babysitting services.

The early-release policy was implemented after the state Board of Education granted the Brunswick County school system a waiver to conduct one shortened instructional day per week as long as the other See Request, page 6

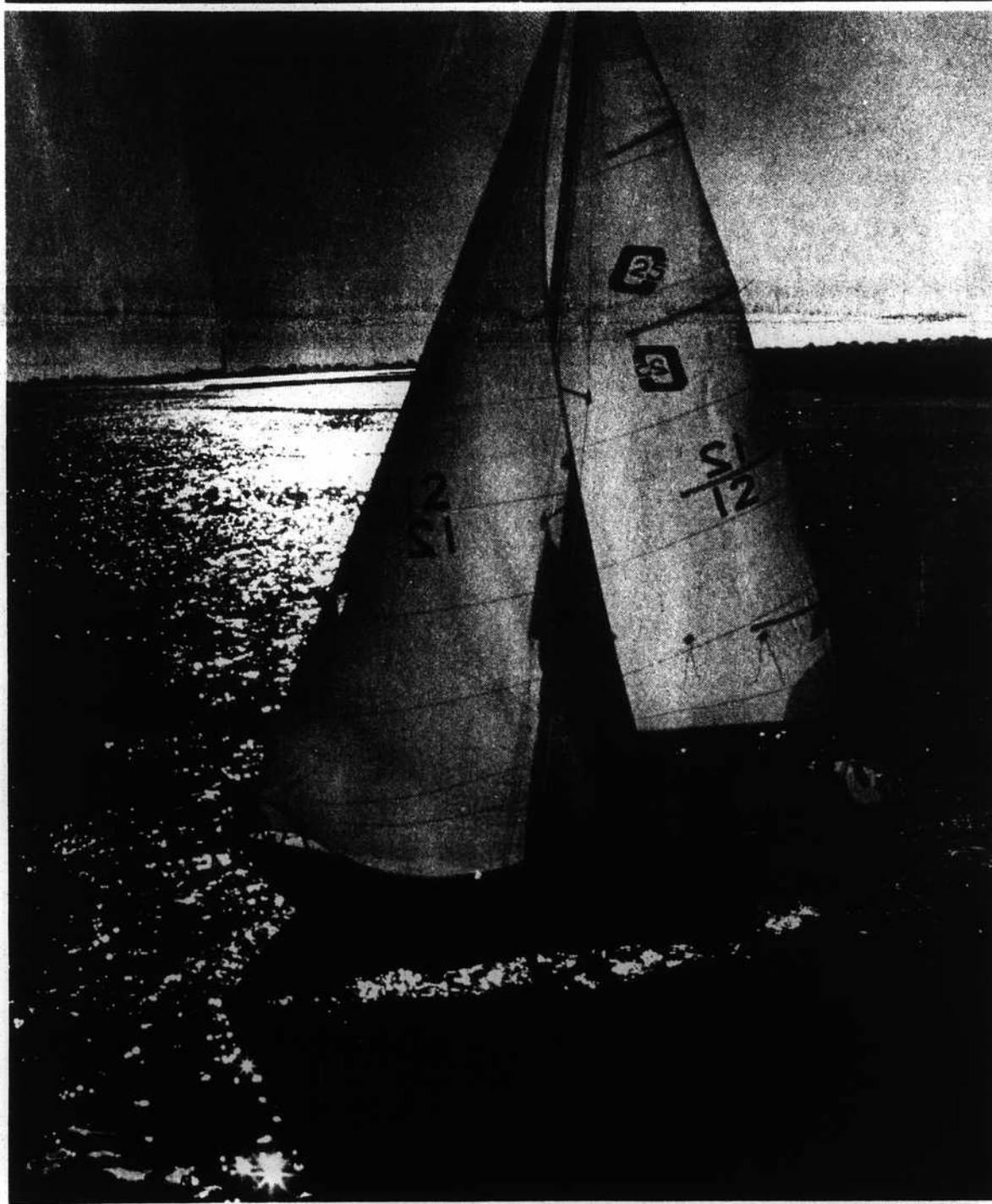


Photo by Jim Harper

Though the term "frostbiter" is most often applied to small-boat sailors in cold weather there is a good deal of big-boat frostbiting which goes on in the

Southport harbor each winter, especially on bright, crisp afternoons such as this one.

**County settles lawsuit**

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

An out-of-court settlement will pay former clerk to the board of commissioners Regina Alexander \$163,000 and keep the case from going to trial.

The agreement reached by Brunswick County commissioners and attorneys for Ms. Alexander last week forwards \$54,000 in county funds plus a \$109,000 insurance payment to the disgruntled employee who filed suit in January, 1993, as a result of her June, 1991, firing.

"Commissioners were extremely reluctant to pay her anything," said county attorney Mike Ramos. "But if the insurance company was willing to pay two-thirds, it was best to get this over with."

Ms. Alexander was longtime clerk to the board when after the November, 1990, election her reappointment as clerk was officially placed on hold by the Republican majority board. However, she continued to work until June, 1991, when the board voted 3-2 to eliminate her position from the budget and named Kelly Barefoot to a combined position as clerk and secretary to the county manager.

The agreement signed by the plaintiff and three defendants named individually -- commissioner Jerry Jones and former commissioners Kelly Holden and Donald Shaw -- offers a cash settlement. Ms. Alexander is See Lawsuit, page 8

**Brunswick newsmakers**

**Our 'quotable notables' of 1995**



**Forecast**

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

**INSIDE**

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New county leaders emerged in 1995.

Jim Varner was hired as county manager. School superintendent Ralph Johnson resigned. Five new school board members and three new county commissioners made their mark.

The story is best told with the most notable quotes:

■ January 4 -- "We can go to court. We can do a lot of things. But my personal feeling is this is a winning solution."

Boyd Williamson, Brunswick County tax supervisor, on an \$800,000 settlement with the DuPont Co. over taxes

■ January 11 -- "Any employee ought to feel free to express their opinion without fear of retaliation."

Clara Carter, school board chairman, prepares for a state performance audit of the schools

■ January 18 -- "That place down there is an accident waiting to happen."

District 5 county commissioner Bill Sue calls for a new school central office

■ January 25 -- "The world didn't end. It was just the end of an election."

Rep. David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach), after Republicans gain control of the State House

■ January 25 -- "Obviously, there has been a breakdown in the system."

Sheriff Ronald Hewett, on the escape of fugitive Darryl Alexis Hewett from the Brunswick County jail

■ February 1 -- "I think a lot of people feel like they lost their identity in that fire."

Ken Mabe, Southport Community Building Board of Directors chairman, after fire destroyed the landmark

■ February 1 -- "I don't hold anything against the Highway Patrol. I've learned that everything happens for a reason. But I missed law enforcement. Once you get it in your blood, it's there to stay."

Brian Barnhardt, hired as Leland's new police chief

■ February 15 -- "If we continue to expand the benefits given to criminals instead of demanding more protection for the common man, me and you, then we will soon have anarchy."

District attorney Rex Gore appeals to state legislators for more prosecutors

■ February 22 -- "We've finally got the heated argument behind us, and now the two boards can sit down and start to work together."

School board member Olaf (Bud) Thorsen, after a funding dispute is settled with commissioners

■ March 8 -- "One of the things people don't realize is how common cancer is already. They don't realize that one out of every three people will likely get cancer at some point in their life."

Dr. Tim Aldrich, N. C. Central Cancer Registry, after a cancer cluster is reported in Brunswick County

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