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Fullwood, Frink lead 1996 all-Brunswick County basketball selections -- Page 1C

The State Port

# PILOT

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### Neighbors

Young and old alike have a good time when the carnival comes to town -- Page 1B

### Our Town

'Just Say No' message is brought by some with first-hand experience -- Page 2

## Site based

### Improvements simple as 'ABC'

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

A fresh chance to operate under site-based management the way it is intended to work will be given Brunswick County schools under a new state school improvement program, board of education members say.

The board voted unanimously Monday to discontinue the three-year Performance Based Accountability Plan (PBAP) for Brunswick County schools at the end of this school year and operate under the state's New Accountability, Basics and Control (ABCs) program, with a strong emphasis on site-based decision-making. State and local boards of education will establish goals and individual schools will develop plans to meet those goals.

While school board members call their decision a fresh start, some educators complain that the board's decision is an attempt to enfeeble principals and teachers.

"It really sent a message to teachers, principals and parents that they do not want our input," declared Mary Yates, president of the Brunswick County Association of Educators (BCAE). "We just see this vote as another way of saying that they can run everything by themselves and they don't need our help."

Part of the PBAP included a provision for early release on Wednesdays, an issue that is now pending litigation in Brunswick County Superior Court.

The BCAE filed suit against the school board last year after it abolished the early release policy, and a request for summary judgment to reinstate the policy has been filed by the BCAE.

BCAE attorney Tom Stern said the lawsuit will move forward despite the board's decision to abolish PBAP at the end of the school year.

"I think it's important to clarify the question and to get a ruling," he said. "The school board could change its mind about PBAP, or members of the board could change."

If a judge were to rule in favor of See Site, page 5

## SUPER SLIDE



Pure delight showed on faces young and old as the community enjoyed the Jonny A. Stine Shows at Wilson's Plaza over the past week. Part of the proceeds were designated for Cans For Kids, whose

leaders encouraged the carnival visit. More delight, and a little concern, is evident in our Neighbors section.

Photo by Jim Harper

## Long Beach

# Town council seeks regional sewer partner

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

With a 5-1 affirmative vote Tuesday night, Long Beach Town Council sent staff in search of any local government partners wishing to cooperate with that town to formulate a regional plan for wastewater disposal.

Only councilor Frances Allen opposed this direction to staff.

In other business, council adopted a resolution of intent to reinstate four-year, staggered terms of office for council members. Councilors

Allen and Helen Cashwell voted against this resolution. A public hearing on the proposal to return to four-year terms of office for councilors will be held at council's April 18 meeting.

Mayor Joan Altman shifted the focus of an open-ended council discussion of smaller sewer projects in portions of Long Beach -- the beachfront and business district primarily -- to the larger concern of wastewater disposal. She said development of specific sewer projects was fruitless unless a means of disposal was found. See Long Beach, page 8

## Brunswick County

# 'Long-range' plan requires attention now

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Getting a jump on Brunswick County's growth is a one-shot deal which should begin immediately.

That's the way District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach sees it.

"We have in Brunswick County one chance to do it right," said Ms. Collier.

She convinced fellow commissioners Monday to schedule a special workshop with county department managers April 4 to incorporate in the 1996-97 budget a list of long-range planning recommendations drafted last month by a committee which

spent a year mapping out strategies.

The county's 3.7-percent annual growth rate and a projected doubling of the population by the year 2000 has county officials worried that plans for the future are lagging behind.

"If we don't do it right, we end up with problems like our neighbors," said Ms. Collier. "That chance is now. We need to implement those plans."

The long-range list was discussed by the board at its annual retreat last month. It was agreed that improvements in education would be the county's top priority. It was also agreed that department managers would begin to tackle the concerns and integrate them into their 1995-96 budget requests.

"They've all been given what was discussed," said county manager Jim Varner. "The directions that were presented. So I'm sure they're working on it."

However, budget requests were presented last Friday, and Ms. Collier believes the long-range recommendations. See Attention, page 6

## SOUTHPORT ELECTRIC

# Commercial users can 'demand' rate

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

While cutting electric use at times of peak demand may be a greater challenge to Southport's 35 commercial demand customers, these greatest consumers of electricity will receive greater assistance from the city in doing so and will reap the biggest rewards if successful.

City officials hope to implement a new electric rate structure by July 1 which places a firm emphasis on electric load management -- rewarding those who allow the city to cut electric supply to major power-consuming appliances at times when the city's own electric costs jump nearly 2,000 percent.

Peak demand occurs when the See Demand, page 9

**Fourth in series**

This is the fourth in a five-part series on an electric rate restructuring proposed by the City of Southport. The proposed rate structure targets consumption of electricity at times of peak demand and offers incentives to all city electric customers to participate in one or more load management programs.

# Rate structuring to meet expenses

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

A new structure for electric rates to be charged customers of the Southport electric distribution system should be designed to ensure that financial obligations of the city will be met, and that all customers will be charged fairly, public services director Ed Honeycutt told aldermen Thursday.

"It was not a goal to either raise or lower electric rates," Honeycutt said of the rate restructuring process.

But, by charging customers for electricity they actually use and by rewarding those who participate in load management, Honeycutt's study suggests:

■ Base rates for all customers may be lowered.

■ User rates may be lowered for those who allow conventional load management of water heaters and air conditioning units, and rates will be even lower

'Last year we had a two-percent retail increase and lost money. This year there was no increase and we are just breaking even. So, something is wrong.'

Ed Honeycutt  
Public services director

for those who allow absolute load management of air conditioners at times of peak demand instead of on-off cycling of their air conditioning units.

■ Rates for those customers who do not See Expenses, page 11



## Forecast

Spring officially starts today and along with it basically unpredictable weather. We can look forward to cooler weather for the period of Thursday through Sunday but still a chance of showers.

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