



Sports

Cougars get back in the swing of things following long Easter break -- 1C

The State Port

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Schools submit request

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Last year's funding settlement between Brunswick County commissioners and the board of education was intended to meet school needs for years to come, but school officials claim it has fallen short.

The school board will ask commissioners to approve an additional \$645,717 above the settlement amount for the next fiscal year.

A \$13.4-million local budget proposal was unanimously approved Monday night by the Brunswick County Board of Education and will be forwarded to county commissioners.

In the settlement, county commissioners agreed to allocate 23 cents of the county tax rate to the school system, and this year the county finance office expects that to equal about \$12.7 million, said school finance officer Mary Hazel Small. With state and federal allocations, the school system's budget is expected to total about \$40 million for fiscal year 1996-97.

Part of the settlement also called for the school's building needs -- See Request, page 7

Political hopefuls to speak

More than 25 candidates for public office plan to attend a candidates forum sponsored by the Brunswick County Home Builders Association this Saturday afternoon, April 20.

The forum will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Moose Lodge on Long Beach Road and is open to the public.

Candidates for U. S. Congress, North Carolina state legislature, the Brunswick County Board of Education and Brunswick County Board of Commissioners will offer their views on issues. Free hot dogs and refreshments will be served.

Each candidate will speak, and the public will have a chance to meet with them one-on-one. Long Beach mayor Joan Altman will serve as moderator.

U. S. House candidates who have indicated they plan to attend are Jim Cooper, Howard Greenebaum, Mike McIntyre, Marcus Williams, Robert Anderson, Bill Caster, Tim See Sheriff, page 10



With Old Glory looking over her shoulder, Southport delegate Debbie Aldridge favored four-year terms for county elected offices at the

Brunswick County Democratic Party annual convention Saturday.

Close Democratic vote

Party seeks return to four-year terms

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Democrats narrowly defeated a resolution introduced by Oak Island II precinct Saturday which supported two-year terms for county commissioners.

Delegates to the 1996 Brunswick County Democratic convention rejected the proposal by two votes and instead approved a substitute resolution which asks state Rep. David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach) to introduce special legislation this year to

allow another public referendum on the issue. The Democratic party joins the Republicans and other county boards that seek a return to staggered four-year terms for school board members and the board of commissioners. Term limits were swatched after a referendum in 1992, but the mood of county voters since apparently has changed. Oak Island II delegates point to that 1992 referendum as reason to leave things the way they are today. All school board and commission candidates are. See Four-year, page 8

Mining dispute

Public safety? illegal zoning? Court decides

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A ruling is expected later this month on whether a law adopted by county commissioners in 1993 as protection against certain types of mines can stand its ground in court.

Attorneys for Martin Marietta Corp. label the county's ordinance an attempt at land regulation, or a clever disguise for illegal zoning. Defense attorneys for Brunswick County call it a police action designed to protect public safety.

What's important is how judge Ronald Stevens now sees it after hearing five hours of debate in Brunswick County Superior Court last week. His ruling, due in the next two to three weeks, could either propel the case to a jury trial or declare the county's stance unconstitutional.

There is no precedent-setting decision in North Carolina law which covers a county's right to adopt an ordinance that directly affects a cor-

'You can put a bridle and a saddle on a cow and ride the cow, but it is still a cow.'

Ronald Stevens
Superior Court judge

poration's ability to mine for limestone on its own property. That's why the battle between Brunswick County and Martin Marietta has significance that reaches beyond the boundaries of the company's 1,345-acre tract off Bethel Church Road north of Southport.

"You can put a bridle and a saddle See Court decides, page 9

Wastewater disposal

Smaller-scale plan may speed Yaupon project

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A consultant to the Town of Yaupon Beach Monday night estimated the town could win approval of a plan to dispose of an additional 50,000 gallons of wastewater per day within 30 to 45 days, assuring an agreement to allocate some 40,000 gpd flow to Standard Products Inc. could be met.

Mayor Dot Kelly called the plan a "win, win" proposal and an alternative to waiting six months or longer to win approval of a larger plan involving disposal of an additional 100,000 gpd on the Oak Island Golf and Country Club golf course.

The smaller plan, brought about largely by intense pressure from Standard Products this month, would utilize seven acres Yaupon See Project, page 9

'Standard (Products) asks only for what they need, bargained, and contracted for in 1993.'

Mark Farrell



Forecast

Each day brings warmer weather as we head into Spring. The extended forecast for the period of Thursday through Sunday, calls for highs in the 80's and partly cloudy skies.

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Sheriff honored after 88 years

'Saddening' yet gratifying experience, FOP says

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Unraveling the story of a fellow law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty 88 years ago has been both a saddening and gratifying experience for Tom Vernon of Long Beach, president of the Brunswick County Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police.

And it was just by chance Vernon stumbled upon the information in February as he read the "Time and Tide" column in *The State Port Pilot* that told of headlines from 60 years ago.

"The big news in the *Pilot* for February 5, 1936, was that Jesse C. Walker, the man who escaped from prison after being convicted of the murder of

Brunswick County sheriff Jackson Stanland, had been recaptured in Gulfport, MS, where he had been living a model life for many years...."

Previously, it was thought no Brunswick County law enforcement officer had ever been killed while on duty. At least, no one could recall such an instance. It is the mission of the state FOP office in Long Beach to track down details of slain North Carolina officers and to honor them.

On Stanland's six-foot-tall grave marker just outside Shallotte are carved the words, "No greater love has a man that he lay down his life for his country." It is a phrase the FOP takes to heart.

"It is saddening because the family of sheriff Jackson Stanland lost a loved one," said Vernon. "It is gratifying because the paperwork will be completed." See Sheriff, page 6



STANLAND