

The State Port

PILOT

VOLUME 65/ NUMBER 38 SOUTHPORT, N.C. 50 CENTS

Neighbors

Every day near the end especially at

Our

West-side r to keep area aldermen he

Sports

Cougars' Myra Williams named outstanding athlete in conference track -- 1C

Smart Start chosen

Area legislators pledge support

By Holly Edwards Feature Editor

Nearly \$1 million per year could be allocated for Brunswick County children and families if the N. C. General Assembly votes in the upcoming short session to expand the Smart Start program.

The Brunswick County Partnership for Children is one of 12 new Smart Start programs and could receive \$100,000 for planning this year and \$995,000 annually in future years.

Smart Start was initiated by Gov. Jim Hunt three years ago and is intended to ensure that all children under age five are healthy and ready to attend kindergarten. About 44 percent of children entering kindergarten statewide test below the recommended level.

Area legislators vowed to fight for the Smart Start program in Brunswick County and throughout the state.

"We've lobbied pretty hard for this, and we're very, very pleased Brunswick County was selected," said Rep. David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach). "We've been turned down for two years, but the need for children in our county has been there all the time. Our next battle is going to be in Raleigh because there are still some in the House Republican leadership who don't support Smart Start."

Gov. Hunt is requesting \$58 million to continue Smart Start programs already in place and expand the program to 12 additional counties, Redwine said.

Despite the substantial price tag, Sen. R. C. Soles (D-Tabor City) said state legislators have been "cautious" in doling out Smart Start funding.

An independent audit conducted by Coopers & Lybrand concluded that Smart Start is an innovative program that is improving the lives of children under age five, Soles said.

"We asked for a comprehensive See Chosen, page 5



Photo by Jim Harper

Just Joey the juggler was just right on Saturday as he entertained youngsters at "Arts in the Park" in Southport. The annual event celebrating both performing and graphic arts was sponsored by the

Associated Artists of Southport, Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department and the North Carolina Arts Council.

ElectriCities impact looms large for state

Neither Southport as an electric distributor, nor NCEMPA as a wholesaler, stand to be competitive in a deregulated environment

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

Deregulation of the electric distribution industry may bring savings to many electric customers, just as deregulation of the telephone industry has by allowing phone customers to

pick and chose long-distance carriers offering rate savings. But, officials of ElectriCities, the parent company of Southport's wholesale electric provider, told city aldermen Thursday night they should lobby state and federal legislators against deregulation of the industry.

"What we try to emphasize is that the federal government should stay out of deregulation and let the states handle it," said Cary Washburn, chairman of the board of ElectriCities. "That would be the better way to handle it."

Allowing the State of North Carolina to "handle" deregulation of the See Impact, page 8

EDITORIAL COMMENT, PAGE 4

Regional approach

Coastal towns receive grants

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

With two of three regional grants it has sought in hand, a coalition of Brunswick County beach towns will seek a legislative appropriation to strengthen and formalize its regional wastewater management efforts.

Roger N. Schechter, director of the state's Division of Coastal Management, announced the award of two regional local planning and management grants this week to the Brunswick beaches coalition, now known as the Brunswick County Effluent Disposal Organization (BCEDO).

See Grants, page 6

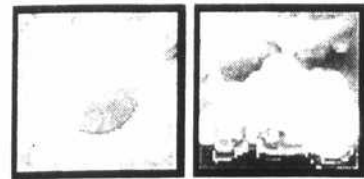
"We are trying to put the steps in place. Should we be the recipient of the legislative appropriation, we can move forward."

Jerry Walters Long Beach manager

Yaupon motel gets conditional permit

By Richard Nubel Municipal Editor

Although a number of residents complained traffic congestion on Yaupon Drive at McGlamery Street



Forecast

Unseasonably cool temperatures and partly cloudy skies can be expected for the period of Thursday-Saturday. Highs will only be 70-75.

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would be exacerbated, Yaupon Beach commissioners Monday night awarded a conditional use permit for construction of a planned 51-unit motel and restaurant.

Bill and Sarah Gordon of Long Beach plan to build the motel on three and a half lots spanning an area to McDougale Street and Country Club Drive.

"If it meets the conditions of the zoning ordinance, we can't stop it," commissioner Bill Smith said.

Meeting March 28, the town's planning board voted to recommend issuance of the permit with four conditions:

That a vegetative buffer consisting of bushes and trees be installed on the property along the right-of-way of McGlamery and McDougale streets;

That an eight-foot privacy fence be constructed around the motel's dumpster;

That a vegetative screen consisting of bushes be installed around the dumpster enclosure;

That, if needed, a parapet wall be constructed up to three feet tall on top of the building to hide any heating and air conditioning units.

Four of five persons who opposed See Permit, page 9

Same county rate

By Terry Pope County Editor

Taxes would remain the same -- 68.5 cents per \$100 of property value -- under a proposed budget the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners received from county manager Jim Varner on Monday.

"Our direction was no tax increase and no new positions," said Varner.

The 1996-97 proposal will go to public hearing Tuesday, May 28, and must be adopted prior to July 1. It does raise wholesale and retail customer water rates by 33 percent. It will boost wholesale rates from \$1.45 to \$1.98 per 1,000 gallons and the monthly minimum on residential bills from

See Rate, page 6

Mom and the kids

Graduation is a family affair for the Cumbees

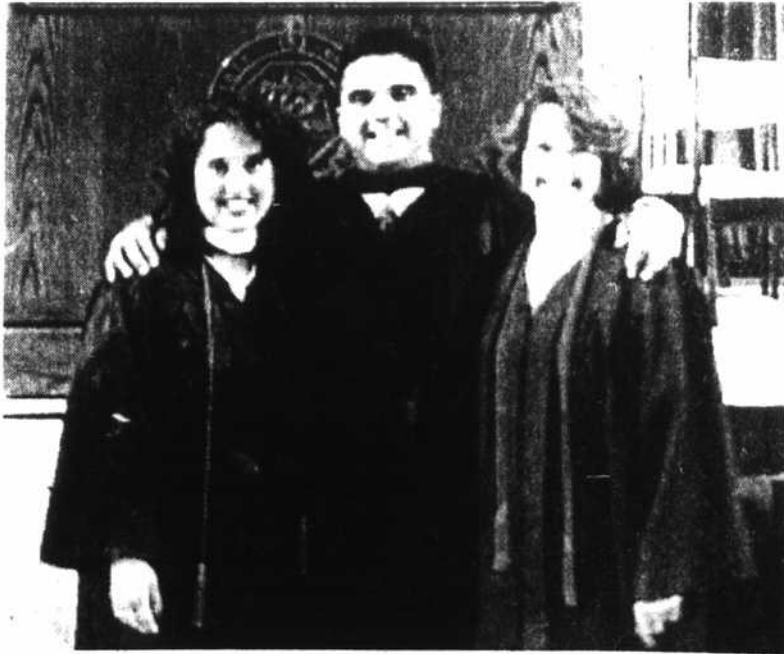
By Marybeth K. Bianchi Special to the Pilot

She owned children's clothing and women's apparel stores, established a maritime museum and raised three children, yet there was something else Pamela Cumbee wanted to achieve in life.

The Southport resident wanted a bachelor's degree, and on Saturday the University of North Carolina at Wilmington graduate was awarded one with two of her children in a unique ceremony at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

Because her children would be graduating the same day as she would be, Mrs. Cumbee asked UNCW officials if she could postpone receiving her diploma until the December commencement ceremony. UNCW officials said no, but looked for an alternative.

UNCW registrar Ron Whittaker ar- See Family, page 7



Pam Cumbee shares the joy of graduation with son Greg Jr. and daughter Alison on Saturday. She is a UNCW graduate, while the children got their diplomas from Liberty University.