

# The State Port PILOT

VOLUME 65/ NUMBER 39 SOUTHPORT, N.C. 50 CENTS

## Neighbors

Southport Elementary pays fitting tribute to former principal Latty Stanley -- 1B

## Our Town

Boiling Spring Lakes will host its annual Festival of Lakes on weekend -- Page 2



## Sports

South Brunswick's 5-2 win Tuesday night was first in playoffs since 1988 -- 1C

## Summit looks at schools

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

A day-long educational summit Tuesday, May 28, at Brunswick Community College will provide county residents the opportunity to learn about all aspects of the Brunswick County school system, from educational programs and budget development to food service and transportation, school officials say.

"We've had summits on beach erosion and hog farms, but I don't know of anything more important than education," declared interim superintendent John Jones. "The educational summit will help everyone become better informed and make suggestions. We're going to be all ears that day."

State school board chairman Jay Robinson will describe the state's new school improvement plan -- the New ABCs -- which is under review in the N. C. General Assembly, at 8:45 a.m. in the Odell Williamson Auditorium.

Summit participants also will have the opportunity to chat with the new superintendent of schools, Marion Wise, who will assume the position July 1.

Group sessions on a variety of topics will be held at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Participants should plan to attend any two sessions on the following topics: curriculum; elementary  
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## Leland will face decision

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

A new twist has turned up in the sewer debate in northern Brunswick County.

Developers of a 200-acre tract inside Leland town limits have asked the town for permission to tap onto neighboring Belville's sewer treatment plant.

Councilmen say they don't want to hold up progress on the proposed shopping center and apartment complex which represents approximately a fifth the size of Leland. It will be built by the Leland Land Development Corp. behind North Brunswick Shopping Center, between Village Road and U. S. 74-76.

But allowing Belville's sewer lines  
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## Forecast

A break from the hot temperatures may be in store for the weekend. High temperatures should be in the mid to upper 80's.

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## Rate proposal may swamp towns

### County water charge up 33 percent under plan

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Long Beach, Southport and Caswell Beach officials are still reeling, assessing the impact of a proposed 33-percent increase in wholesale water rates Brunswick County has proposed -- a rate increase that could push residential and commercial water costs in these towns well over \$2 per thousand gallons.

Long Beach and Caswell Beach purchase all water delivered to their customers from Brunswick County's water system. Southport delivers to its water customers a mix of county water and groundwater from city-owned wells.

Area managers and officials first learned of the county's substantial proposed water rate increase at a Thursday meeting with county manager Jim Varner. County commissioners earlier in the week approved a \$12.8-million water system budget that will increase wholesale rates from the present \$1.45 per thousand gallons delivered to \$1.98 per thousand.

Municipalities buying water from Brunswick County are generally forced to pass rate increases along to their customers.

"Obviously a rate increase of that magnitude would have to

Without doing the calculations, I can't say what the rate for our customers would be except, obviously, substantially increased."

Jerry Walters  
Long Beach manager

be adjusted and built into our rate," Long Beach town manager Jerry Walters said. "Without doing the calculations, I can't say what the rate for our customers would be except, obviously, substantially increased."

Southport City manager Rob Gandy said Southport faces a double whammy with the prospect of increased wholesale water rates and a need to install expensive treatment equip-

ment in the city compatible with Brunswick County's.

Included in the county water system budget is a \$2.6-million appropriation for upgrade of the N. C. 211 plant. The county plans to finance that 211 plant "rehabilitation" over three years. This additional debt service is the driving force in the rate increase.

Rehabilitation will require the installation of a new ammonia disinfecting system at both county water plants. The ammonia disinfecting system is to be more effective than the presently used chlorine disinfecting system for preventing the occurrence of trihalomethane, a carcinogenic gas that occurs when chlorine and organic matter react.

"We're going to have a problem," Southport's Gandy said.

Varner and assistant county manager Robert Hyatt told municipal officials Thursday that when the system is converted June 16 to the ammonia disinfectant system, the temporary mix of ammonia and chlorine in the system will likely create a foul odor and bad taste in system water. As Southport mixes its own well water disinfected with chlorine with county water, to be disinfected with ammonia, the odor and taste may be present each time the city accepts delivery of water from  
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## TAKING OFF



This Falcon 50 jet represents the increasing number of high-dollar clientele entering the Southport-Oak Island area via Brunswick County Airport, says airport manager Howie Franklin. Three jets

landed at the airport Friday; Franklin said on a typical good-weather weekend 20 to 35 aircraft arrive from across the country. Airport traffic has increased 33 percent in the past year.

Photo by Jim Harper

## CP&L spokesman: No great rush to deregulate

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

There appears no great push for deregulation of the electric distribution industry, a Carolina Power and Light Co. spokesman said this week, and that company would urge North Carolina utility regulators to move cautiously if it chooses to deregulate electric wholesale and retail providers.

"Where we're coming from at CP&L is, our rates have actually been coming down," said Wade Pridgen, CP&L's director of issues management. In that capacity Pridgen is charged with tracking emerging issues, like deregulation, in the industry. "Our rates have been coming down since 1990. We're going to continue on that path. We really don't feel there is a pressing need to experiment with retail deregulation."

Retail deregulation would allow broader customer choice in selecting an electric provider offering lowest rates, such as telephone customers

'Electric costs here are below the national average. We think North Carolina should take a cautious approach to deregulation.'

Wade Pridgen

now can pick and choose among long distance services. Wholesale deregulation would allow electric generators and distributors broader latitude to buy and sell power on an open exchange, much as commodities are brokered.

The issue of deregulation of the power industry was brought to  
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## BHI fires manager, seeks replacement

Former official is top candidate

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

Former Bald Head Island village manager Wallace Martin is expected to be renamed to that post on an interim basis this Saturday by the village council, which last Saturday asked for the resignation of Alexis Jones, who had replaced Martin last August.

Jones is to resign effective June 1, mayor Tom Bradshaw said Tuesday, and the council is seeking immediate help in preparing the 1996-97 budget that is due to be implemented by June 30.

"The first choice is Wallace Martin," Bradshaw said. "Wallace is clearly the direction the council is trying to go in. My intent is to negotiate a contract with Wallace on Saturday."

The council, which already had a budget workshop scheduled for 9 a.m. at the village hall, will go into closed session at 10:30 a.m. there to talk with Martin about an interim  
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The roles of outgoing village manager Wallace Martin and incoming manager Alexis Jones are likely to be reversed (from this August, 1995, photo) on Saturday as the Bald Head Island Village Council meets to seek an interim replacement for Jones, who has resigned effective June 1. Martin, who served as the village's first manager, has been in retirement in Virginia.

## Term limits changed

Long Beach votes for staggered terms

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Long Beach town councilors will be elected to serve four-year terms of office beginning with the election of 1997.

With little discussion Tuesday night, councilors Kevin Bell, Jeff Ensminger, Horace Collier and Doris Hertel voted a return to four-year staggered terms of office over the dissenting votes of councilors Frances Allen and Helen Cashwell. The action comes in the form of a charter amendment and a *fait accompli*. No referendum of voters is required and no action of the N. C. General Assembly is needed. The term of the mayor is not affected by the action. A mayor will continue to be elected every two years.

In other business brought before the regular monthly meeting of town council, Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation's plans to construct an electric distribution substation between 50th and 51st  
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