



### Sports

South Brunswick athletes won state championships in the shotput and discus -- 1C

### Neighbors

Festivals both fun and a tribute to the community -- 1B

How long will it be tied to anybody?

Support for the community? It's page 2

## Term limits

Matter will be put to November vote

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

No one argued against placing the issue of two-year versus four-year terms on the November ballot at a public forum Friday.

A bill will be introduced in the N. C. General Assembly this week that places the question back before voters, who chose in 1992 by a two-to-one margin to nix four-year terms. All five seats on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and school board are up for election every two years.

The bill staggers terms and automatically gives the three highest vote-getters for both the school board and commission four-year seats this fall. The lower two would face re-election in 1998.

"Two years ago when the idea was discussed, I was sold on it," said Bob Miller of Long Beach. "But I guess when you get older you get smarter. I definitely feel four years is the way to go. It wasn't the way to go for a long time."

Both the county Republican and Democratic parties passed resolutions asking that the issue be put to referendum. The local legislative delegation met at the government center near Bolivia to discuss the special bill with the public.

It will be introduced to the State House by 14th District representatives David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach) and Dewey Hill (D-Lake Waccamaw) and 98th District representative Thomas Wright (D-Wilmington) Senator R. C. Soles Jr. (D-Tabor City) will introduce the bill to the Senate. It must be introduced to the House by Wednesday, May 29.

"The only condition I have placed on it is that I would not support it

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Youngsters were jumping for joy Saturday at the Festival of the Lakes celebration which also commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Boiling Spring Lakes Volunteer Fire Department. A 60-unit parade down Boiling Spring Road got the festivities off to a noisy and colorful start, and then it was fun a bunch for young and old alike.

Photo by Jim Harper

## Long Beach budget seeks same tax rate

### But county's water increase, computer costs aren't factored into proposal

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

"Continued improvement in the community's quality of life" is the theme of a \$5.44-million budget proposal submitted for 1996-97 this week by Long Beach town manager Jerry Walters.

The proposal calls for no increase in the town's tax rate of 36 cents per \$100 valuation.

"The services that are provided by the Town of Long Beach contribute

greatly to the sense of community that exists in concert with the environment, the needs of the environment which has drawn so many of us to this place," Walters wrote in his budget message. "The budget addresses the needs of the varied aspects of our community: year-round residents, non-resident property owners and visitors. Our continued vigilance in meeting their needs will be the measure of success in contributing to the community's outstanding quality of life."

But, this document and its accompanying support material is just a starting point for town council's deliberations of a budget which must be adopted no later than June 30. A public hearing on council's refined proposal is to be held June 18.

Although the tax rate of the last two years is apparently retained in the pro-

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### Martin Marietta

## Mine operation facing deadline

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Martin Marietta Corp. faces another deadline this week, but opponents of the proposed mining operation north of Southport are not relaxing.

Wednesday, May 29, is the deadline for Martin Marietta to submit final data in support of its application to mine for limestone on 1,000 acres

near the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point ammunition depot.

All information must be in the office of Charles Gardner, director of the N. C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, before the company's one-year extension expires.

However, Martin Marietta may seek another extension with the N. C. Mining Commission when it meets next month. Letters of opposition are already arriving before any appeal is scheduled.

"I have written him (Gardner) two letters already, and I've written to the Mining Commission asking it to deny the permit," said state Rep. David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach). "I feel like a year was long enough for them to get their act together and answer the questions Mr. Gardner's office had asked."

Last May, Martin Marietta received an extension after state officials asked for more data before making a decision on the permit. The issue is also tied up with a recent court battle.

Superior Court judge Ronald

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## Educational 'summit' Schools need parents' help

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Parent involvement is key to improving the quality of education in Brunswick County, state school board chairman Jay Robinson told a crowd of about 160 people attending an educational summit Tuesday morning at

Brunswick Community College.

Although every parent in the county was mailed an invitation to the summit, most of those attending were school officials. Parent representation was relatively low.

"There are hundreds of parents in this county who think that if they drop

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## County budget hearing Planning has support

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Tuesday's county budget hearing turned into a pep rally to support funding of three new positions in the Brunswick County Planning Department.

It was the dominant topic of the 90-minute session county commissioners must hold before adoption of the 1996-97 budget.

As presented by county manager Jim Varner, the budget keeps prop-

erty taxes at 68.5 cents per \$100 of value and adds no new personnel to county government, a directive commissioners gave before the proposal was drafted.

However, planning director Wade Horne mailed letters last week to a number of citizens outlining cuts in his department, including \$73,005 requested for three code enforcement officers and \$5,900 for travel and training, supplies, printing and advertising. The letters asked that citizens attend the hearing "and

express your support for planning and controlled growth in Brunswick County."

The funds are needed to complete the Brunswick County Long-Range Planning Committee's goals and objectives drafted earlier this year that outline needs over the next 20 years. But the battle entered the media before Tuesday's hearing and left some residents confused about proper protocol for department managers and their response to

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State school board chairman Jay Robinson, featured speaker at the educational summit held Tuesday, said parent involvement is key to improving the quality of education in Brunswick County.

## Schools 'acted in good faith'

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Brunswick County school board members say they acted in good faith when they requested a six-percent increase in local funding for the 1996-97 fiscal year, and were not trying to obtain more funding than a settlement agreement with county commissioners provided.

"We're not trying to say the settlement didn't work," said school board vice-chairman Glenda Browning. "We only asked for what we thought the growth rate would be."

In the settlement, county commissioners agreed to allot the school system an amount equal to 20 cents of the tax rate. While the county finance office estimated last year

that would amount to about \$13.3 million with anticipated growth in the county, the estimate dropped to \$12.9 million this year.

School board members said their \$13.4-million local funding request simply reflected prior county finance office estimates.

Interim superintendent John Jones said the county finance office may have underestimated the school system allotment.

"I'm not sure we're getting valid figures of growth," he told the board.

The school system will receive 23 cents of the tax rate no matter how much the county collects, said school finance officer Mary Hazel Small. Therefore, she said, any

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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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