

The State Port PILOT

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Sports

North Brunswick goes in search of a state 1A baseball title this Saturday -- 1C

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Our T

Public radio has ear of many Brunswick County listeners -- Page 2

County water

Towns concerned over time-frame of rate increase

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Perhaps Long Beach town manager Jerry Walters Tuesday outlined the only means by which county water system customers -- retail and wholesale -- can avoid a proposed 36-percent rate increase in the year to begin July 1. He told county manager Jim Varner county commissioners should reexamine their "financing philosophy."

Other Brunswick County local government leaders meeting with the county manager, assistant county manager Robert Hyatt and county finance officer Lithia Horne told them the county should shore-up its tap-on policies in an effort to bring water to more users, thus spreading the cost of capital projects in the future.

Walters said the burden of repaying capital costs spurring the rate increase could be eased if commission-
See Water, page 8

Legal action is promised by NAACP

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

A low number of minority teachers and principals in Brunswick County schools is the result of racial discrimination among school board members and administrators and is one of the primary causes of low morale and low test scores among minority students, says NAACP Southport chapter president Nat Parker.

Parker and other county NAACP representatives met with parents and school employees last week to hear complaints about the number of minority teachers, principals and counselors in county schools.

The complaints will be included in a civil action the NAACP says it will file with the Office for Civil Rights in Atlanta.

"The school board made a recommendation to have the Office for Civil Rights come down here and do an investigation last year and nothing happened," Parker said. "So we have to start somewhere."

The school system requested a civil rights audit last year but Office for Civil Rights attorney Cheryl Colfield said her office needs "concrete evidence" of a problem before it be-
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Visiting fireman Dave Johnson of Knoxville found brisk easterly winds over the weekend just right for launching his fleet of kites. He and a friend even managed to get a lighted kite airborne one evening to the dismay -- and ultimate delight -- of Long Beach neighbors.

Photo by Jim Harper

Mine, schools key issues

GOP House hopefuls in forum of their own

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A small gathering Friday heard two Republican candidates for State House address the same issues that Democratic incumbents debated a week earlier.

Robert Quinn of Southport and Shirley Babson of Bolivia are challenging for the two 14th District seats held by Democrats David Redwine of Ocean Isle Beach and Dewey Hill of Lake Waccamaw. A legislative forum May 24 did not include either Quinn or

Babson, so they hosted their own session Friday at the county government center near Bolivia.

The 14th District includes most of Brunswick County, with the exception of northern communities in the minority 98th District represented by Thomas Wright of Wilmington.

"There's a lot going on in the state legislature," said Quinn. "A lot of bills deal with significant issues, and every one of them is being introduced by the Republicans. The Republicans are driving the train. They're driving the train
See Forum, page 7

Sewer system

Loan default a possibility for Yaupon

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Without significant new revenue from its sewer operation, Yaupon Beach is on a two-year course to default on loan payments to a state fund which built the town's wastewater management system.

Information released this week as part of the town's budget deliberation process indicates Yaupon Beach will appropriate \$248,593 from its unappropriated sewer fund balance to make up for a predicted revenue shortfall in fiscal year 1996-97. That sum nearly matches the \$259,488 scheduled payments in 1997 on a state revolving loan made in 1991. The money to be appropriated from fund balance this year is unexpended pro-

Due to a moratorium on new sewer taps imposed by the state in July, 1994, new construction in Yaupon Beach has essentially halted

ceeds of the construction loan itself, town finance officer Jean Yates said. Scheduled payments of over \$253,000 due in 1998 can be paid by cashing in a certificate of deposit the
See Default, page 8

County opposes Martin Marietta permit extension

By Terry Pope
County Editor

County commissioners approved a resolution Monday which asks the N. C. Mining Commission to deny Martin Marietta Aggregates Inc. an extension on its permit application to mine for limestone near Southport.

It was one of five resolutions the board adopted in hopes of persuading state officials to take action during this short session of the N. C. General Assembly.

Other resolutions seek support for state mosquito control funds, expansion of Smart Start early childhood intervention programs into Brunswick County, House Bill 540 that would provide bonds for completion of the Interstate 40 bypass of Wilmington and a stance against unfunded mandates from the state, especially rising Medicaid costs that are passed on to counties.

Copies of the Martin Marietta resolution will be sent to Charles Gardner, the director of the N. C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, and to James Smack, chairman of the mining commission. District 3 commissioner Leslie

Collier of Long Beach will present it in person at the mining commission's public hearing on Martin Marietta's request, June 19, in Raleigh.

She asked that the Town of Caswell Beach also receive a copy, since it was that municipality which asked the county to take action.

The resolution states that "overwhelming evidence establishes that such mining would be detrimental to the health and welfare of the citizens of Brunswick County due to the adverse impact mining would have on the fragile coastal environment of Brunswick County, including the Castle Hayne aquifer and also the possibility of collateral damage to the Carolina Power and Light Co. nuclear plant and Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal."

Martin Marietta had until May 29 to respond to numerous state agencies that recommended denial of the permit to operate a mine on 1,000 acres north of Bethel Church Road. It had previously received an extension of time, but on May 28 filed for another extension with the mining commission.

The Brunswick County Board of
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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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New electric rate structure offers saving

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

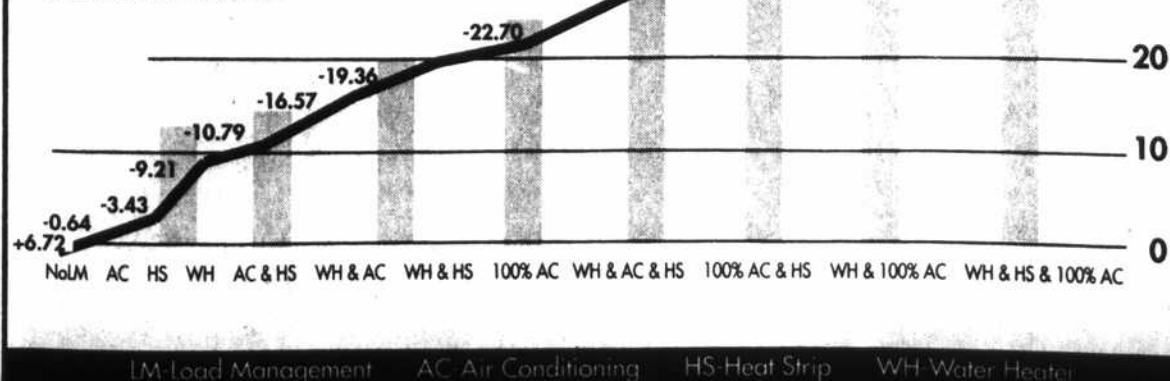
Lower electric rates for those residential and commercial customers who opt for any of 11 possible combinations of load management practices are offered as soon as August, a City of Southport budget proposal to be presented at public hearing June 13 promises.

A new electric rate structure outlined in the city budget proposal for fiscal year 1996-97 sets out lower electric rates ranging from .54 percent annually to 48.78 percent for those who choose load management of all eligible appliances.

Electric rates for those who practice no form of load management will ac-
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City of Southport ELECTRIC RATE SAVINGS

Residential comparison based on 1000 KW and reduction in base rate



LM-Load Management AC-Air Conditioning HS-Heat Strip WH-Water Heater