

The State Port PILOT

VOLUME 65/ NUMBER 43

SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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Sports

Brunswick Post 68 open the American Legion season with a fine 3-1 record -- 1C

Neighbors

Everyday in "Beach Day," but there's something special at 1B

Out

Southport dog control officer full

Southport Library
M. Moore Street
Southport, N.C.
28461

ough funds
e 2

Record county growth

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Growth in Brunswick County has reached record levels in the first quarter of 1996 as the local building boom continues.

The number of county building permits issued from January through April of this year increased 46 percent over the same period last year, said Don Eggert, planner II with the Brunswick County Planning Department.

And the U. S. Census Bureau's new data comparing population growth in each of the nation's 3,143 counties on a percentage basis from 1990 to 1995 gives Brunswick County a high rating.

"The Census Bureau estimated our population to be 60,795 as of July 1, 1995," stated Eggert. "This ranking puts us in the top five percent of fastest-growing counties in the United States and the third fastest-growing county in North Carolina."

Some planners believe the population figures are even higher than the
See Growth, page 9



Photo by Jim Harper

Long Beach mayor Joan Altman describes what the U. S. flag means to her during a Flag Day ceremony Friday evening at Middleton Park. A brief history of flags that have flown over the United States was presented with the help of local Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops, and music was provided by the Brunswick Concert Brass Band.

No word on appeal by county

By Terry Pope
County Editor

County commissioners have made no decision on whether to appeal a judge's ruling that earlier this month struck down the county's defense of its public safety ordinance which would restrict Martin Marietta Corp. from mining for limestone near Bethel Church Road.

Former county attorney Mike Ramos was to meet with commissioners Monday in closed session to discuss developments in the case.

But that closed session, which was scheduled at the start of Monday's regular June meeting, was canceled at Ramos' request. Commission chairman Jerry Jones of District 2 said he doesn't know what the recommendation will be.

Commissioners were represented at a public hearing in Raleigh this morning (Wednesday). District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach
See Appeal, page 9

'Everyone's best interest'

City, SBSB are close to joint sewer project

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Eager to receive wastewater flow from River Run Shopping Center, Southport aldermen Thursday moved closer to cutting a 40-year, three-way deal with center developers and the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District.

Under terms of the deal, outlined by district consulting engineer David Pond of Charlotte's W. K. Dickson Inc., SBSB will send an initial flow of 30,000 gallons per day to the city from River Run. The River Run developer will construct a collection system and force main, dedicating all infrastructure east of the Carolina Power and Light Co. discharge canal to the city and all portions west of the canal to the district.

The city, the potential developer and SBSB officials say all benefit by the deal.
"The way I look at it, and the way I perceive you're looking at
See Sewer, page 8

'If we can financially make it work, it's in all our best interests. We know that and you know that. And Riddle and Bailey know that.'

David Pond
SBSB consultant

Long Beach

Three-cent tax hike approved

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

By a 4-2 vote Tuesday night, Long Beach Town Council approved a 1996-97 budget calling for a tax increase of three cents per \$100 valuation, a 41-cent-per-1,000-gallon increase in water rates and a 22-cent-per-month cut in residential refuse collection fees.

The Long Beach tax rate for the year to begin July 1 will be 39 cents per \$100 valuation. Water rate will be \$1.93 per 1,000 gallons consumed. Residential refuse collection fee will be \$3.48 per month while commercial residential rates will increase significantly. Two-yard container users will be billed \$55.91 per month; four-yard container users will pay \$61.44 per month and eight-yard container users will pay \$72.80 per month.

Councilors Helen Cashwell and Frances Allen voted in opposition to the nearly \$6.64-million budget proposal council had crafted from town manager Jerry Walters' original \$5.54-million, zero-tax-increase budget submission of May.

Spurring the tax increase was a policy decision of council made early on. The budget proposal offered by Walters in May contained a \$120,000 stormwater management program to be established as an enterprise fund venture and to be supported by a schedule of fees. Council opted instead to place that program in the town's general fund, but pared the cost to \$110,000, or an amount equal to nearly 2.5 cents on

See Long Beach, page 9

How it came about:

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Long Beach Town Council needed to cut \$135,804 from proposed budget expenditures Tuesday night or enact a tax increase of three cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

In three budget workshop sessions prior to Tuesday night's public hearing on a fiscal proposal for 1996-97, town council took a long and winding route in refining town manager Jerry Walters' no-tax-increase proposal of May 15.

Overall, the budget has increased from \$5,543,692 proposed by Walters and staff to \$6,636,378 at the end of Monday's session. General fund appropriations grew from Walters' proposed \$3,557,691 to council's \$4,063,523 proposition.

The biggest blow to a bal
See How it, page 7

Turtle mutilations remain a mystery

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

It's not unusual for dead loggerhead sea turtles to wash ashore during nesting season. Every year, some sea turtles fall prey to boat propellers, disease or gunshot wounds, says Long Beach Turtle Watch coordinator Tina Pritchard.

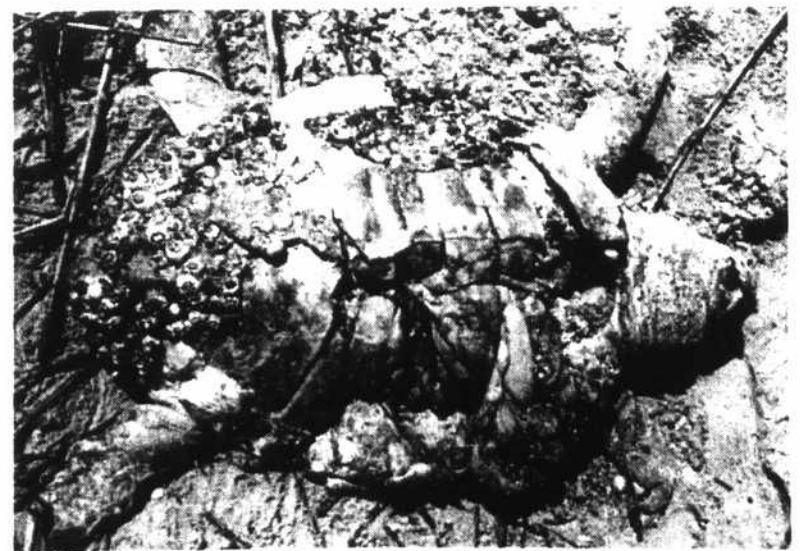
But, this year, an alarming number of dead loggerhead sea turtles have washed ashore on Oak Island and Bald Head Island with devastating injuries no one has ever seen before. Some are sliced cleanly in half; others

are cut and smashed.

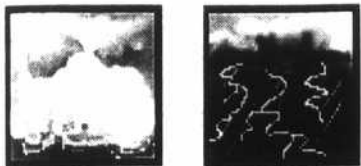
"There are clean slices on their shells and it looks like an egg would look if you put it on asphalt and stepped on it," Pritchard said. "Nothing we've ever seen could do that to them."

Nine mutilated sea turtles have washed ashore on Bald Head Island, said island conservancy director Becky Pardee. And, Pritchard reported, 19 dead sea turtles have washed ashore on Oak Island thus far, six of which were mutilated.

On Saturday, two smashed sea
See Mystery, page 8



Turtle Watch and N. C. Marine Fisheries officials, scientists and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers are conducting an investigation into what is crushing and slicing sea turtles in half. This freshly killed female turtle washed ashore at the west end of Long Beach on Saturday.



Forecast

Hurricane season is here and with it the possibility of tropical-storm type weather. Heavy rains, strong winds and frequent lightning are likely with highs in the 80's.

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'Emergency management'

Officials keep an eye on developing storm

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A tropical wave spinning in the Atlantic Ocean Monday wasn't expected to develop into a major storm or hurricane, but Brunswick County emergency officials were focused on its behavior.

A new computerized DTN weather system will allow emergency management director Cecil Logan to independently track storms this season without the usual

reliance on weather service reports or local forecasters.

The satellite service by Data Transmission Network Corp. was installed by the county about three months ago and provides hourly updates on the latest weather conditions, radar information and motion graphics fed from weather satellites. It can pinpoint Brunswick County weather conditions and precisely detect where showers are falling or where severe weather is developing.

But it will also play a key role in helping the county
See Storm, page 8