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The State Port

# PILOT

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50 CENTS



### Sports

Opening Day at South Brunswick brought a record number of prospects -- 1C

### Neighbors

Preseason practice for other sports prepare for '96

### Our

An oversight to building pe James Plantat

## Smart Start

### County gets state funding to plan effort

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Months of debate over the Smart Start program ended Saturday when state legislators approved a \$10.5-million allocation to expand the program to 11 additional counties.

For Brunswick County, the allocation will mean \$112,500 in planning money this year but there is no guarantee of additional funding in future years to carry out the plan.

Smart Start is Gov. Jim Hunt's initiative to improve the quality of life for children under age five, thereby improving their chances of future success in school. Hunt originally requested \$21 million to expand the program this year, but Smart Start faced opposition from some lawmakers.

"Some thought Smart Start was little government interfering in the role of big government," said Rep. David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach). "But I think the opponents finally saw the handwriting on the wall and realized a budget wouldn't be passed without Smart Start funding. It was just a matter of how much."

An independent audit of the program requested last year by Smart Start opponents concluded that the program was achieving its goals, Redwine noted.

"The audit showed the program was helping kids be ready for school," he said.

"I've heard some teachers say they can pick out which children are doomed for failure right from the start. If a child doesn't get a good start in life, they are more likely to end up in the welfare or criminal justice system, and then the state will have to spend even more money on them."

The audit also showed some Smart Start administrators were guilty of sloppy financial record-keeping, and Redwine urged the Brunswick County Partnership for Children to document its spending carefully.

Local Partnership for Children director Lori Bates said the Smart Start program will have three primary goals in Brunswick County: to improve the quality of daycare; to improve the health of children under five; and to provide parents with the support they need to be the best parents they can be.

"A lot of informal support structure. See Smart, page 10"



Photo by Jim Harper

Marking the turn into autumn, these South Brunswick tennis hopefuls turned out for the first day of practice last Thursday and found that conditioning was the first challenge they had to face. Other athletes started football, soccer and volleyball practice this week (see Neighbors section) and cheerleaders and band members are also tuning and tuning up for the fall.

letes started football, soccer and volleyball practice this week (see Neighbors section) and cheerleaders and band members are also tuning and tuning up for the fall.

## District attorney assistants funded

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

The 13th Judicial District will gain two new prosecutors from the state budget approved last week by the N. C. General Assembly.

"We're really happy," said district attorney Rex Gore, whose district includes Brunswick, Columbus and Bladen counties. "It puts us in

See Attorney, page 10

'There are folks who have worked here in this office a long time who felt that if we could get up to eight we could do the job that we need to do.'

## Nudists colony rules proposed

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Two persons spoke in favor of restrictions against adult businesses and nudist campgrounds Monday before Brunswick County commissioners approved first reading of the rules and set a public hearing for August 19, at 5:30 p.m.

"I don't feel we need these things coming into the county," said the Rev. Doug Worley, pastor of Gospel Center Baptist Church near Varnamtown. "If there is any way at all that we

See Nudists, page 11

## Sewer delay

### Town waits for decision from SBSD

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

At least for another 30 days, Yaupon Beach may not advance a plan to solve treated wastewater disposal problems which have plagued the town for 25 months.

Meeting Monday, Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District board members tabled Yaupon Beach mayor Dot Kelly's request for permission to spray treated wastewater for irrigation of another 11 acres of district land the town plans to acquire from Standard Products Inc.

Kelly said district officials told her they do not wish to act on the request until SBSD has secured contracts with the planners of a golf course adjacent to Arbor Creek subdivision. SBSD plans to spray treated wastewater effluent on the golf course property when its own 500,000-gallon-per-day wastewater treatment plant comes on line in 1998. But, if the deal for the golf course falls through, district commissioners will be forced to seek all available land in the district for use in the district's own wastewater disposal effort.

SBSD commissioners said they will revisit the Yaupon Beach request next month.

"Well, this could mean another temporary setback, but we'll just have to wait and see what happens," Yaupon Beach mayor pro-tem Bill Smith said. "Considering what we've gone through in the last two years, nothing amazes me anymore."

Yaupon Beach's wastewater disposal problems, first thought minor, became major on July 13, 1994, when inspectors with the state's Division of Environmental Management detected a breach in a dike at the wastewater treatment system's rapid-infiltration basin. It was also noted the basin -- used to hold treated wastewater for percolation -- was not allowing treatment plant effluent to seep into the ground at a sufficiently rapid rate.

It was determined months later that the rapid-infiltration basin, which was designed to accommodate 400,000 gallons flow per day, would only accommodate 250,000 gallons per day, about 60 percent of the capacity for which it was designed by consulting engineers.

In reaction, DEM ordered a moratorium. See Sewer, page 10

## Community building on 'memories'

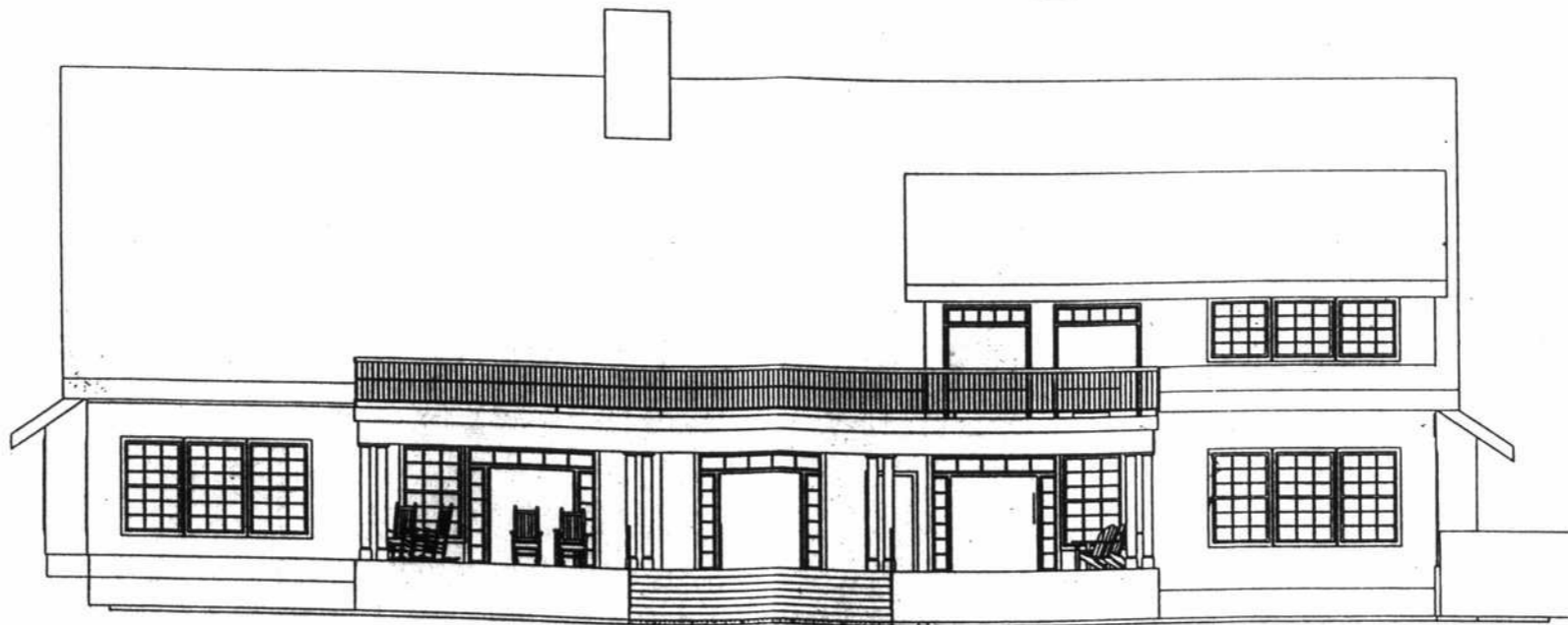
### More input invited from city residents

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

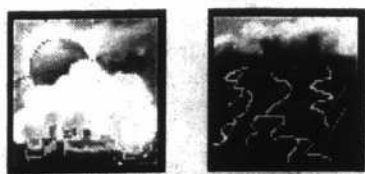
It seems ages since the morning of January 30, 1995, when flames shot into the skies above Southport, reducing to a pile of ash and debris one of the city's most cherished landmarks, the Southport Community Building.

Since that time, all that has remained of the building which graced Southport's waterfront since 1941 has been skeletal remains of its once-proud foundation, now set upon by weeds and broken pieces of structure.

But, a city-sanctioned committee See Building, page 14



Although it is a work-in-progress, and additional community comment will be sought, this drawing depicts a suggested design for the new Southport Community Building as it will be viewed from the Cape Fear River.



### Forecast

A chance of showers and severe thunderstorms can be expected for the rest of the week. Temperatures will reach the upper 80's.

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