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Southport's c

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Fishermen n  
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foul nets or li



Sports

Waccamaw 2A Conference  
play begins, with Cougs in  
action Tuesday night -- 1C

License  
opposed

Pier, charter  
fishermen may  
be charged fee

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Fishermen opposed to a recom-  
ended saltwater licensing plan  
caught a big wave of support from  
county commissioners on Monday.

Under the proposal by the state  
Fisheries Moratorium Steering Com-  
mittee, persons who fish on charter  
boats and on public piers would need  
to purchase a state fishing license. The  
committee fine-tuned its recommen-  
dations last week and plans to ask  
state legislators for a three-tier licens-  
ing system that would not allow pier  
and charter boat owners to purchase  
a blanket license to cover all their  
customers.

"It would benefit other counties  
maybe, but Brunswick County bor-  
ders on South Carolina," said JoAnn  
Bellamy Simmons, chairman of the  
Brunswick County Board of Com-  
missioners. "And in South Carolina,  
they do not have this type of license  
requirement. The question is whether  
it would push our business away."

Commissioners voted 4-1 for a  
resolution asking state legislators not  
to adopt the licensing requirement.  
The committee is recommending  
sweeping changes in the regulation  
and management of North Carolina's  
fishing industry to keep better tabs on  
the volume of fish being caught along  
the coast.

While recreational anglers who use  
piers and charter boats won't like the  
proposal, others argue those fisher-  
men are given an unfair advantage  
and that a blanket saltwater license  
for such businesses would make it  
difficult to keep data on the fish that  
are actually being caught. It appears  
legislators are prepared to adopt some  
type of saltwater licensing require-  
ment for individuals during the 1997

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Dean Adams shoveled ice aboard the Cap'n Boo at her yacht basin moorings before she departed Monday evening for another grouper fishing session. Adams said he devised the simplest possible mechanism to ice his boats: "It won't clog up, and the only motor to break down is me."

Photo by Jim Harper

Southport benefits  
Electric load  
management  
a bright idea

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Southport electric customers have  
ordered approximately 1,300 load  
management switches for their water  
heaters and heating and cooling sys-  
tems since the city announced last  
June a new rate structure which would  
reward with lower bills those who  
opted to help Southport control elec-  
tric load.

To date, over 60 percent of all  
Southport residential electric custom-  
ers have applied for some form of  
load management, thereby reducing

See Bright, page 7

Load management  
switches allow the  
city to utilize a radio  
signal to temporarily  
interrupt electric  
flow to the most  
power-hungry home  
appliances

Tract annexation  
on board agenda

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Will the would-be developer of a  
131-acre tract adjacent to Southport  
meet aldermen's demand to petition  
for annexation as a condition of re-  
ceiving the one city service it has re-  
quested?

City fathers, presumably, will find  
out Thursday night when the board  
of aldermen meets in regular monthly  
session beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Oleander Development Company,  
a firm that listed a Florida address  
when petitioning the city planning  
board in November, proposes to de-

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Once a resolution of  
annexation is  
adopted, the owner  
begins paying city  
taxes and the city  
must provide all  
services to the  
annexed area within  
a year

Rabid raccoon  
is found in city

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Rabies has officially arrived in Southport and poses a serious  
threat to domestic animals and the public, city animal control  
officer Charles Drew said Tuesday.

"This could turn into a very serious health hazard," Drew  
warned. "Everyone needs to have their pets vaccinated immedi-  
ately and please don't let them run loose."

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Church 'adopts' refugees

Bosnian family finds a home

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Before war broke out five years ago  
in the former Yugoslavia, the Beslagic  
family enjoyed an upper-middle-class  
lifestyle in Banja Luka, a cosmopolitan  
city characterized by tree-lined  
avenues, verdant parks, cafes, muse-  
ums and ornate churches and  
mosques.

Today, the Beslagics are a family  
of refugees living at Fiddler's Creek  
Apartments in Southport.

Although they say they deeply miss  
their friends, family and home, they  
are grateful to be alive, and to live in  
safety.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church  
"adopted" the Bosnian family and  
helped members get to the United  
States, find an apartment and employ-  
ment, and obtain furniture and cloth-  
ing.

Husein Beslagic is working for  
Maritime Landscapers. Sabiha  
Beslagic is working at Ship's Chan-  
dler Restaurant, their 16-year-old  
daughter Amra is enrolled at South  
Brunswick High School and their 20-  
year-old daughter Amela is a student  
at Brunswick Community College.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Beslagic  
speak little English, Amra and Amela  
are fluent because they have taken  
nearly ten years of English at school.

The young women appear healthy  
and laugh easily, but the effects of the

war become apparent as they recall  
their ordeal.

Amra suffers anxiety attacks in  
which her heart rate soars to over 200  
beats per minute. Mr. Beslagic lost

over 40 pounds during three years of  
forced labor, and several family mem-  
bers suffered unspeakable horrors at  
the hands of the Serbians.

One of Mrs. Beslagic's sisters lost

two sons in the war and her husband  
was sent to a concentration camp  
where he was tortured and nearly  
died. Thanks to pressure from the

See Family, page 6



Photo by Holly Edwards

The Beslagics, (from left) Amra, Husein and Amela, were forced from their home in Bosnia by Serbian soldiers and are living in Southport as refugees from the war. St. Philip's Episcopal Church "adopted" the family through a refugee service in New York City. Amela displays the Bosnian flag while Mr. Beslagic holds flags of the United States and North Carolina.

Schools consider  
bond money use

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

A plan to spend \$7.9 million in state  
bond money to construct a new el-  
ementary school and additional class-  
rooms at overcrowded schools will be  
presented for approval by the  
Brunswick County Board of Educa-  
tion at its next monthly meeting Mon-  
day, January 13, 6:30 p.m., at Bolivia  
Elementary School.

Assistant superintendent for school  
operations Clarence Willie will  
present the proposal.

"I'm going to ask for their approval

of the projects, and then we can go  
forward with a timeline and other de-  
tails," Willie said.

A consultant told the school board  
last month that the system's most ur-  
gent facility needs include a new el-  
ementary school, a new middle  
school, ten additional classrooms at  
Bolivia Elementary and 11 more  
classrooms at South Brunswick  
Middle. The price tag to complete all  
of these projects, however, was esti-  
mated to total \$20 million.

Willie said he will recommend con-  
struction of a new elementary school

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