



Sports

North Brunswick, with no title to chase, continues its pursuit of excellence -- 1C

# The State Port PILOT

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## CP&L lawsuit

### Former plant workers claim discrimination

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Carolina Power and Light Co. has denied multiple charges of discrimination in response to a \$3.24-million federal lawsuit brought by four former employees of its Brunswick Nuclear Plant at Southport.

The former CP&L employees say they were laid off in 1994 only to save the company the cost of paying them benefits they had accrued and continued to accrue by virtue of their lengthy employment tenure.

In their lawsuit, filed with the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina in November, 1996, the four charge CP&L with age discrimination, disability discrimination and pension discrimination.

CP&L has denied the four were "laid off" at all, asserting in its January response that each plaintiff's employment was terminated during a separate "restructuring" of the units and sub-units in which they were employed.

Plaintiffs Cecil Pittman, 50, of Long Beach, Leslie Fodric, 49, of Bolivia, Mark C. Shealy, 52, of Hartsville, SC, and Joseph L. White Jr., 49, of Winnabow have demanded a jury trial and have asked the court to reinstate them to the jobs from which they were terminated, to award back and present wages, to restore lost time toward pension benefits and to award liquidated damages for attorney fees and court costs. Each defendant additionally seeks \$300,000 in compensatory damages from CP&L.

Each of the plaintiffs asserts he See Lawsuit, page 9



The Southport yacht basin is one of the most-photographed and most-painted sites in North Carolina, and Raleigh artist Kyle Highsmith chose the location for his oil painting during a recent visit. Photo by Jim Harper

## Long Beach/Southport Regional plan could address waste disposal

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Seeking a regional solution to the challenges of treatment and effluent disposal, Long Beach will look to Southport as a potential partner in a regional wastewater management effort.

Meeting Thursday to begin budget planning, Long Beach Town Council authorized town manager Jerry Walters to begin discussions with Southport officials aimed at establishing a regional wastewater treatment and disposal facility in Southport.

Southport officials Monday greeted the Long Beach overture enthusiastically.

"We have asked the town manager to begin discussions with Southport that will determine the feasibility of pumping either untreated or pre-treated sewage to Southport for additional treatment and disposal," Long Beach mayor Joan Altman said.

Under terms of a plan envisioned

'State regulators are not interested in permitting many small systems. In terms of regulation and monitoring quality, one regional system is preferable to them.'

Joan Altman  
Long Beach mayor

by town council, Long Beach could construct a wastewater collection system in corporate limits and construct See Disposal, page 7

## City rescinds nuisance ban outside limits

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Rescinding a nuisance ordinance it ratified February 13, the Southport Board of Aldermen Thursday said it would not use its zoning power to force an owner of junked vehicles to remove them from property in Smithville Woods.

The February ordinance would have allowed the city manager to order the abatement of nuisances -- uncontrolled weeds, smelly garbage that attracts vermin, trash and junked vehicles -- in the one-mile area over which the city exercises extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction (ETJ).

See Nuisance, page 7

'There are things the county has not addressed in ten years. I don't think we should take that extra burden on ourselves.'

Nelson Adams  
Ward II aldermen

## Tax plan is endorsed

### County supports chambers' proposal

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

County officials have endorsed the idea of a one-percent occupancy tax which will be used to attract tourists to the county.

Brunswick County commissioners unanimously endorsed the concept but have asked for the right to study and approve the final wording on the legislative

bill that will authorize its collection. State representatives David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach) and Dewey Hill (D-Lake Waccamaw) will be asked to introduce the non-controversial bill during the current session of the N. C. General Assembly.

The deadline to submit local bills is March 27. If approved, the occupancy tax would go into effect in January, 1998, and affect rentals of rooms or cottages

See Tax plan, page 15

The lawsuit asserts CP&L's practice of laying off tenured employees to save benefit costs was well-known among all employees of Southport's Brunswick Nuclear Plant

## Southport Elementary

## Teachers learn a lesson but both make the grade

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

When Southport Elementary School teachers Carol Midgett and Sandy Kaufhold applied for certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, they said they had no idea what they were getting into.

Completing the project required nearly 700 hours and four and a half months of intense work and concentration. The teachers were required to write exhaustive, detailed descriptions of their classrooms and teaching styles and submit two videotapes of class in progress.

"It was the most consuming professional experience I've ever participated in," Midgett declared. "You have to constantly examine what you do, why you do it, and the impact it's having."

For Kaufhold, the undertaking was more challenging

than pursuing a master's degree.

"We were told the project would become our lives, and it really did," she said.

Despite the huge investment of time and energy required by the project, these teachers were not assured that their efforts would pay off. Many teachers apply for and fail to obtain national certification each year.

Both Kaufhold and Midgett, however, were approved for certification. Midgett is now a nationally certified early childhood generalist; Kaufhold is a nationally certified middle childhood generalist.

State funds allocated this year for teachers to pay the \$2,000 fee to apply for national certification provided Midgett and Kaufhold with the incentive they needed to undertake the project.

Since their certification, both teachers have received a

See Lesson, page 7



Southport Elementary School teachers Sandy Kaufhold (left) and Carol Midgett said obtaining certification by the National Board for Professional Standards has been the most challenging undertaking of their careers. Photo by Holly Edwards



### Forecast

The extended forecast calls for mostly sunny skies Thursday through Saturday with highs in the 70's.

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