

The State Port

# PILOT

VOLUME 67/NUMBER 19 SOUTHPORT, N.C. 50 CENTS



Sports

South Brunswick came up three short in a 77-74 loss to Tar Heel on Saturday -- 1C

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Long center room for all sorts

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## Cooperation is key to successful 1998

### Southport examines utility infrastructure

By Richard Nubel  
 News Editor

A commitment to infrastructure improvements dominates the "wish list" of things to accomplish in 1998, city manager Rob Gandy said. But, for a year of accomplishment, 1997 in Southport will be a tough year to follow.

"I feel like we had a lot of solid accomplishments in 1997," Gandy said, noting a new electric rate structure to reward load management efforts, a new city visitors center and a new floor in the city gymnasium.

While that record of achievement will be difficult to surpass, Gandy has an eye to some fairly large and complex infrastructure. See Southport, page 8

"The (wastewater management) needs of the region are certainly going to have an impact on what the city proposes to do."

Rob Gandy, Southport city manager

"The town has taken steps to build self-sufficiency. This is born out of continuing faith in our workforce."

Jerry Walters, Long Beach manager

### Long Beach looks at long-term plans

By Richard Nubel  
 News Editor

A 50-50 mix of planning and execution is likely in store for residents of the Town of Long Beach in 1998, town manager Jerry Walters said this week.

Of course, Walters and staff have yet to discover all that a council with three new members has in store for it this year. But with the town's budget as a guide and with projects in the planning stages or nearing completion, a course of work for 1998 can clearly be seen. "I think we'll be able to summarize 1998 as a year of both planning and action," Walters said.

Noting the town will continue its path to development of yet See Long Beach, page 8

### Pregnancies Program addresses male role

By Holly Edwards  
 Feature Editor

Approximately 200 teenage girls in Brunswick County become pregnant each year and most of them shoulder the burdens and responsibilities of parenthood without a father figure, said Linda Shaddix, coordinator of the Teen Family Development Project based at Brunswick Learning Center.

"The guys have the notion that it's the girl's problem and if she's not on birth control that's her problem," Shaddix said.

To help change this mindset among teenage boys, the project was awarded a \$30,000 Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation grant to hire a "male involvement coordinator" to help teen fathers acquire parenting skills and accept the duties of fatherhood. The coordinator also will conduct workshops in county high schools about pregnancy prevention and the consequences of teen parenthood for teens who are not fathers.

"Historically, throughout the country, females are the center of every teen pregnancy prevention program developed," said Lori Bates, executive director of the Brunswick County Partnership for Children. "It's about time we start talking to young men about the role they play in this problem."

Local statistics show that the younger the teen mother, the older the father, and that most fathers of babies borne by teen mothers are not teens but are in their 20s or 30s, Shaddix said.

"We need to educate both boys and girls about the dynamics of a relationship between older men and younger girls," she said. "Often men aren't thinking about having a baby when they're involved with a" See Pregnant, page 12



Photo by Jim Harper  
 'Twas the day after Christmas, and all 'long the strand all the creatures were splashing, and thinking it grand.... But nothing like Friday's 63-degree, sunny weather is forecast for this week, so a more traditional New Year's celebration is expected on Oak Island.

### I-40 bypass route is key to economy

By Richard Nubel  
 News Editor

While the attention of most who travel to and around Brunswick County has been focused lately on prospects for a second Oak Island bridge, it is another state transportation improvement project that is likely to bring more visitors and many more dollars to this county than any ever before.

A route for the Interstate 40 bypass of the City of Wilmington into Brunswick County should be chosen soon, state Board of Transportation member Michael Mills said. Mills, of Wilmington, was appointed by Gov. James B. Hunt as an at-large member of the N. C. Board of Transportation. He has long family ties to Brunswick County and has championed the See Bypass, page 6



MILLS

### Dosher, CP&L open joint fitness center

By Holly Edwards  
 Feature Editor

A fitness center to serve Dosher Memorial Hospital and Carolina Power and Light Co. employees has been opened.

CP&L provided space for the facility adjacent to its media center, and Dosher Memorial allocated \$25,000 for fitness equipment.

Some have questioned the hospital's use of public money for a fitness center that is not open to the public, but hospital administrator Edgar Haywood said the center is part of the wellness program required by the hospital's new health insurance plan. Eventually, he said, the hospital plans to market the wellness program along with fitness center member- See Fitness, page 6

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## Flotilla charts course to national award

U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 10-05 has received national honors for its courtesy marine examination and marine dealers visitation programs.

The flotilla, which operates out of Coast Guard Station Oak Island, was honored by the Marine Dealers Association of America at the

auxiliary's national convention in Dallas, TX. Floyd Henry of Leland, flotilla commander, and Stan Ash of Long Beach, who has led the vessel examination effort the past three years, accepted the trophy which goes to the flotilla with the most outstanding program.

The flotilla has ten vessel examiners who

conducted 492 examinations in 1996 and more than 500 in 1997.

Ash received a letter of appreciation from Lt. Cmdr. C. A. Haines, commanding officer of Coast Guard Group Fort Macon, commending him for his leadership.

The flotilla offers free courtesy marine

examinations to boaters on weekends at the North Carolina Wildlife boat ramp in Southport and other locations during the boating session.

James Flowers of Boiling Spring Lakes is the flotilla's staff officer for marine dealer visitations.