

# THE STATE PORT PILOT

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**Carving a**  
This is not simple  
Beach man with a

**New coach**  
As Spring sports  
South hires new

## Brunswick Topless activities curtailed

By Terry Pope  
Staff Writer

Brunswick County's chief law enforcement officer says a new ordinance county officials passed Monday that restricts activity inside topless clubs and other sexually oriented businesses won't be taken lightly.

"I promise the regulations will be strictly enforced," said Brunswick County sheriff Ronald Hewitt. "I believe there comes a time for a person to stand for what they believe in, and that's what I believe in."

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners adopted the rules by unanimous vote following a second public hearing Monday. Residents of the Town of Carolina Shores asked commissioners for help after the lack of zoning regulation in their extrajurisdictional jurisdiction allowed Howard and Alice Estes of North Myrtle Beach, SC, to obtain a building permit to construct a topless business adjacent to the residential golf course community.

"We don't want this type of business to gain a strong foothold on southeastern North Carolina," said Rodger Thompson of Carolina Shores at the hearing. "We've been very successful so far in keeping this type of business out."

The ordinance will limit the hours of operation for topless clubs and other sexually oriented businesses from noon to 11 p.m. Dancers must stay at least six feet away from patrons at all times, and tips must be placed in a common jar. County attorney Huey Marshall said the goal of the ordinance is similar to one adopted in Onslow County where law officers have battled a rising wave of crime in and around such businesses there.

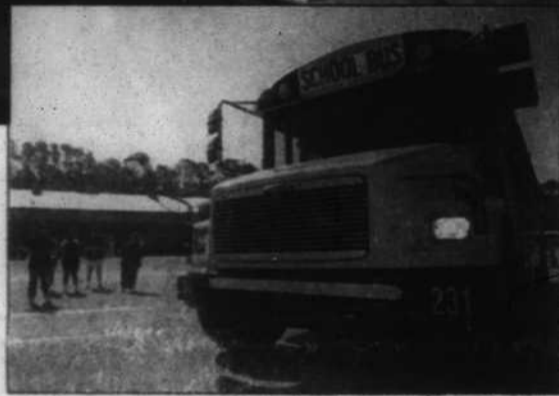
Michael Edwards of Bolivia was the only person who questioned the new ordinance at Monday's hearing. He said he was not against a fair ordinance but the one adopted Monday seemed to him like an "arbitrary punishment for the business owners and the dancers." He said the punishment stems from different moral beliefs.

"My question is, is this ordinance, the way it is written, going to address these concerns?" asked Edwards. "How is the six-foot distance or tip jar going to take care of the crime that's going to occur?"

But his was a lone voice amid a group of concerned residents who strongly supports the county's attempt at regulating activity inside such businesses. State and federal laws won't allow such businesses to be banned completely, but zoning regulations can

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## HIGH FIVES



Bus driving teams from county schools whooped it up at the annual School Bus Rodeo at Bolivia on Tuesday. Top drivers in the obstacle-course competition were Sherry Davis of Leland Middle School, first; Maureen Moore of Bolivia Elementary, second; Terest Rhodes of Supply Elementary, third.

## Sanitary district

# BEMC sewer takeover plan helped by law

By Richard Nubel  
Staff Writer

While commissioners of the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District were voting to negotiate sale of the district wastewater management system exclusively with Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation last week, BEMC officials were in Raleigh lobbying for a bill that will allow electric coops to form subsidiary corporations for just such ventures.

Despite stiff opposition from commercial trade associations, the N. C. House Public Utilities Committee last week favorably reported HB 476, a measure which gives EMCs wide latitude to engage in businesses other than electricity distribution. The full House ratified HB 476 on Thursday of last week and passed it along to the Senate, where it was referred to that body's commerce committee.

The House version of the act "concerning the grant of power to electric membership corporations" allows EMCs to "form, organize, or operate, or

"I see absolutely no problem at all in obtaining the wastewater system. We wouldn't have pursued it if we felt we would have problems."

David Batten  
BEMC general manager

acquire, hold, and dispose of, any interest up to and including full controlling interest in any lawful activities, whether or not those activities are within the

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## ADM appealing to state

### County defends value placed on real property

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

A dispute over real property valuation at the Archer-Daniels-Midland Corp. plant near Southport went before the N. C. Property Tax Commission Tuesday for what is expected to be a three-day hearing.

ADM officials do not agree with Brunswick County Tax Department's assessment of taxes due on structures at the citrus plant and have filed an appeal for tax years 1995-98. The company also notified county tax administrator Boyd Williamson that it wants to discuss its assigned values from the revaluation earlier this year that has boosted property values an average of 57 percent countywide.

The county estimated ADM's real property assessed value in 1995 at more than \$19 million while the company claims the figure is closer to \$12 million.

"We will be prepared to defend that," said county attorney Huey Marshall.

The company filed a complaint for the tax years in question, prompting the county to hire an outside tax consultant to

See Value, page 13



Photo by Jim Harper

A-D-M plant located on the river north of Southport.

## HIGH WATER



Corner of Howe and Moore streets was under water most of weekend.

### Rains came, and stayed, though damage minimal

And the rains came. And came. For four days and four nights.

The surprising nor'easter storm which hammered the Brunswick County coast last weekend disrupted high school sports schedules, forced roads to close because of flooding and hampered rescue efforts to locate a missing shrimp boat believed to have drowned when his boat overturned in the Cape Fear River early Thursday morning.

"We had a lot of erosion, not necessarily beach erosion but erosion from all

See Rain, page 11



Carla Shipman, Beth Zettlemoyer and Kathy Frye put together white ribbons for this year's second Stop School Violence White Ribbon Campaign. With help from Girl Scout troops and churches, more than 12,700 ribbons will be given to children in Brunswick County on Friday.

## White ribbons signify their wish to end youth violence

By Diana D'Abruzzo  
Staff Writer

Watching the TV news replay footage from the Columbine High School massacre two weeks ago, a tearful ten-year-old Nikki Zettlemoyer could only turn to her mother and ask, "Why?"

"You don't have an answer and that's the hardest thing," said Beth Zettlemoyer of Holden Beach. "You just say, 'I don't know.'"

Though more than 1,700 miles away, Nikki was deeply affected by the Colorado school shootings just as she was last year when in Jonesboro, AK, two boys opened fire on fellow classmates during a fake fire drill at a middle school.

Seeing her daughter so upset after the



Jonesboro shootings last year, Zettlemoyer wanted to do something to help. When she saw Montel Williams wearing a white ribbon on TV — noting that it was in memory of the slain students — she decided to try a similar approach in her town.

Zettlemoyer and friend Kathy Frye, whose daughter Kylee also was personally affected by the school tragedy, decided to make white ribbons for their daughters' classmates at Supply Elementary School.

The project eventually took off with support and encouragement from Girl Scout troops across Brunswick County, and ribbons were made for all students in the school system.

This year, the Stop School Violence White Ribbon Campaign was planned months in

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## SBSD board reschedules to Thursday

No business was conducted at Monday's regular monthly meeting of the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District for lack of a quorum.

Only chairman Gene Formy-Duval and commissioner Ginger Harper were on hand to administer routine business and to interview a candidate for the position of consultant/interim manager.

Absent were commissioners James W. Smith, Lucille Laster and Charles Welling who voted April 23 to deal with Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation for possible sale of district assets and gave BEMC 60 days to formulate a proposal for takeover.

Formy-Duval has rescheduled the Monday meeting for 10 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday).