

THE STATE PORT PILOT



Summer play
It's baseball season, but basketball action highlighted the week - 1C

Fort Caswell

The N. C. Baptist A... celebrate its 50th a...

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Volume 68, Number 42

Published e...

BELVILLE ELEMENTARY



Photo by Jim Harper

Students in Gloria Faye Lloyd's third- and fourth-grade class at Belville Elementary covered their teacher with gobs of whipped cream on Friday.

Lloyd offered herself as a target as incentive for her students to excel on the N. C. Writing Test.

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

'Topping' to the test

Armed with cans of whipped cream, Belville students showed no mercy toward their teacher Friday as they let cream pies fly, coating her with the sticky sweet substance.

After all, the chance to throw pies at a school teacher doesn't come along every day.

Gloria Faye Lloyd, a third and fourth grade teacher at Belville Elementary, offered herself as a target as incentive for kids to excel on the

N. C. Writing Test.

And it worked. Ten of her 12 fourth graders received a three for a three on the test. To pass, a student must get at least a 2.5.

Across the entire fourth grade at Belville, 43.7 percent passed the test this year, up from 35.8 percent last year.

Having promised to let her students "cream" her with a whipped cream pie if they scored well, Lloyd had to put up.

So on Friday, the group of kids gathered at the year-round school, making mini-pies by See Test results, page 13

Hampton Inn project could be grounded

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

A proposed hotel and marina project adjacent to Brunswick County Airport property could be grounded under a new height control ordinance that won approval from county commissioners Monday.

Developers want to build a hotel and marina, with dry storage for boats, adjacent to the airport on Long Beach Road. But part of the 43 acres would be rendered unusable for such a project under restrictions which also are subject to approval by Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District and municipalities where the height limit is mapped.

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on Monday adopted the ordinance for property that lies within the county's jurisdiction, mostly the area north of N. C. 211. The hotel and marina project would lie entirely within sanitary district boundaries.

Gary Lawrence, representing the developers, said the height limit will make a third of the 43-acre tract his clients plan to develop not suitable for the project, which also would include some restaurants and shops along the Intracoastal Waterway.

"We felt this would be a benefit to the county, community and the airport," said Lawrence. "If this ordinance is passed, that project would not be feasible. It would cut it down to a scope that it just would not be feasible."

Lawrence said the developers have relied on the current height limit to plan their project and that the site was selected because of the airport location. What's at stake, he said, is a \$25-to-\$30-million investment and approxi- See Project, page 6

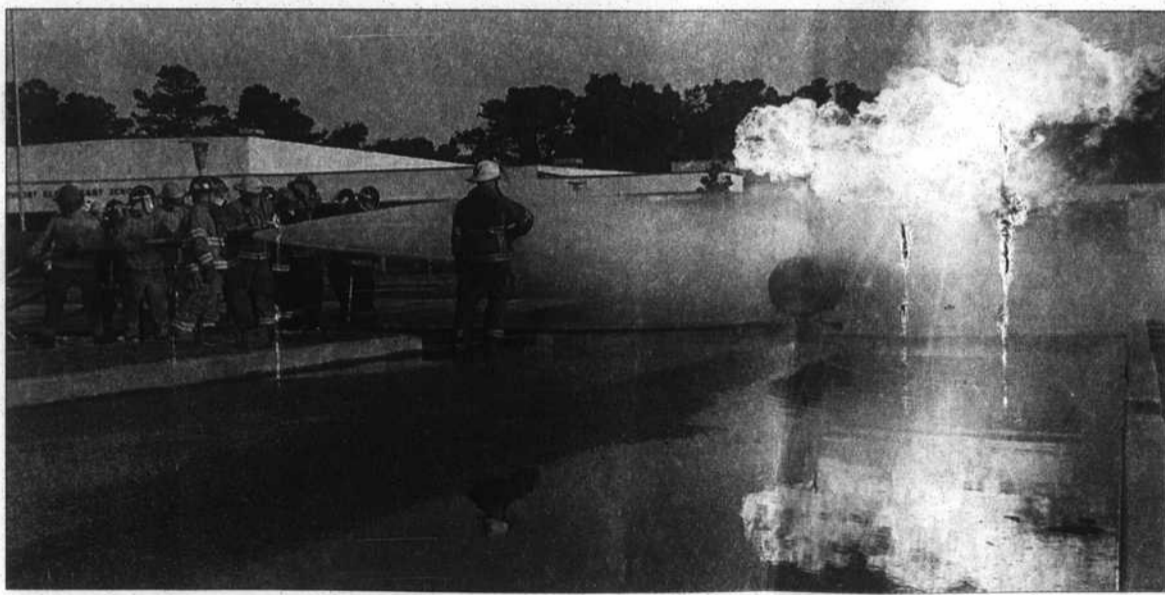


Photo by Jim Harper

Up in flames

Area firefighters tested their skill in extinguishing LP gas fires in a drill conducted at Southport Elementary School.

'Lean' Southport budget requires 49-cent tax rate

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Sitting as the city's budget committee for fiscal year 1999-2000, aldermen Paul Fisher, Meezie Childs and Wayne Hewett have recommended a \$7.09-million budget for the City of

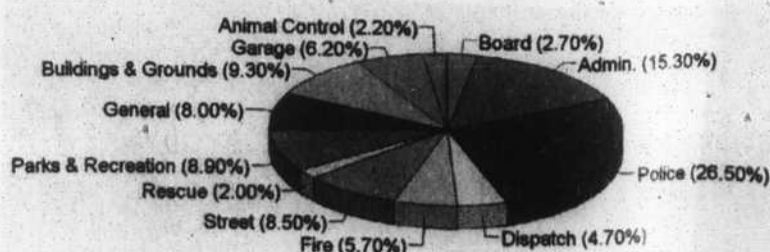
Southport in the year to begin July 1.

The committee has proposed a property tax rate of 49 cents per \$100 valuation, four cents less than the property tax rate in this year of county revaluation. Electric rates are proposed to increase for about 55 percent of residential customers and decrease margin-

ally for about 45 percent. No water or sewer rate changes have been proposed, and monthly solid waste collection fees will be cut \$2.38.

This lean budget is without frills. The only significant budget increase outlined in the document is a doubling of costs for the city communications center to return to 24-hour local dispatch of police, fire and rescue.

In his budget message, city manager Rob Gandy issued a warning to aldermen that the city's badly depleted unappropriated general fund and electric fund balances are likely to fall under scrutiny of the N. C. Local Government Commission, the arm of the state treasurer's office charged with See Southport, page 13



Rescue squad says Oak Island, Caswell Beach should pay equal share

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Emergency medical service fees the Town of Oak Island may charge starting in July could raise the proposed tax rate in Caswell Beach by as much as four and a half cents.

At a budget workshop last Wednesday, Long Beach councilors and Yaupon Beach commissioners said the rescue fee town manager Jerry Walters had proposed to charge Caswell Beach in fiscal year 1999-2000 was too low. Councilors and commissioners said residents of the Town of Oak Island next budget year would pay the equivalent of 4.5 cents on that town's tax rate to support its rescue squad; Caswell Beach residents should pay that much, too.

Councilors and commissioners also agreed that paid rescue personnel will be on-duty around the clock next year. This fiscal year, professional rescue personnel worked only daytime hours and volunteers responded to nighttime calls. Volunteers will remain members of the town rescue squad and will support paid personnel.

The Town of Oak Island will be re-

'Look at the tax valuations.... Break it into who is paying for these services.... The people at this end of the island are.'

Jeff Ensminger
Oak Island councilor

ated July 1 by consolidation of the towns of Long Beach and Yaupon Beach. For several years, Yaupon Beach and Caswell Beach have paid a percentage of Long Beach Rescue Squad costs equal to the percentage of the Oak Island population living in those two towns. In his budget proposal for the fiscal year which also begins July 1, Walters had once again used percentage-of-population as the basis for formulating a Caswell Beach rescue fee for 1999-2000 in support of a total \$309,311 rescue budget proposal.

Under Walters' proposal, Caswell Beach would have paid the Town of Oak Island \$7,463 for rescue service next year. Under the parallel tax rate payment proposal commissioners and councilors fashioned Wednesday, Caswell Beach will be asked to pay between \$50,000 and \$60,000. Each See Oak Island, page 6

Budget hearings

■ Council for the Town of Oak Island continued its review of department budgets last Wednesday, Page 3.

■ The next budget workshop will be held today (Wednesday) at 6 p.m. at the Long Beach Recreation Center.

State press awards

Pilot's ad staff in win column

The State Port Pilot advertising staff Friday matched the news department's earlier achievement, earning the most North Carolina Press Association awards of any newspaper in the 3,500-to-10,000-circulation division.

Signifying the honor was the Metro Plus Business Award, given on the basis of first-, second- and third-place awards received. This year, the Pilot advertising department was presented 11 first-place awards among the 35 categories, three second-place awards and six third-place awards for a total of 20.

In January, Pilot writers and photographers received 16 NCPA awards, more than twice the number of the runner-up newspaper.

"The advertising staff has done a remarkable job," noted Pilot editor Ed Harper. See Awards, page 15



Pilot ad representatives (left to right) Sabrina Rabon, Diane McKeithan and Kim Adams display some of the 20 awards the newspaper received from the North Carolina Press Association Friday in Raleigh.