

The State Port

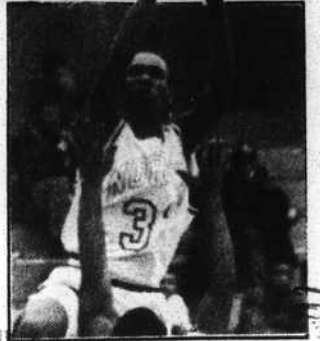
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No. 2 Fairmont visits Cougars on Friday

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Southport, N.C.'s most complete
listing of available real estate properties



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Long Beach takes sewer bond action

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

By unanimous vote Tuesday night, Long Beach commissioners ratified a bond order authorizing the issuance of up to \$15.5 million in general obligation bonds to construct a sanitary sewer system.

But, the public will have additional say in the matter before bonds are ever sold or a sewer system is built, town officials said.

"Basically, this is just the next step (before) conducting a public hearing," town manager David Poston said.

The bond order itself sets January 29 at 7 p.m. as the time and date of a formal public hearing on the sewer bond issue. The hearing will be held at the Long Beach Recreation Center.

Commissioners have conducted three workshops at which property owners have been invited to comment on the proposed \$15.2-million public wastewater management system. A fourth public workshop is to be held tonight (Wednesday).

The general obligation bonds are to be used to underwrite much of the cost of the proposed sewer system. Consulting engineer Finley Boney has told commissioners that Long Beach may qualify for up to \$9 million in low-interest -- under four percent -- loans in two installments over the next two years. Assessments and tap fees are to provide the remainder of the \$6-million estimated cost of the proposed system. The N. C. Local Government Commission, has directed the town, however, to authorize a bond issue in nearly the amount of the cost of the proposed project to guarantee its completion.

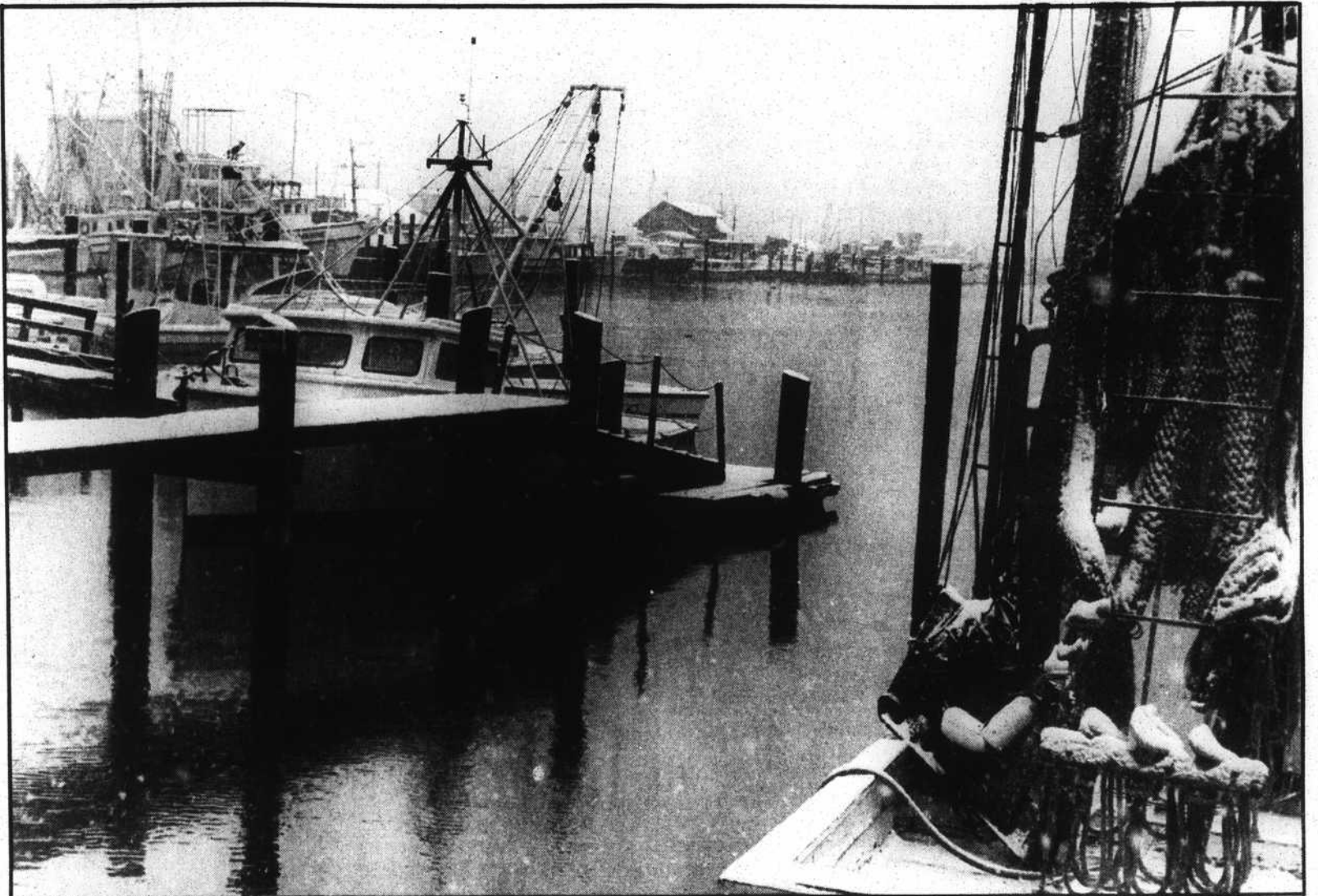
Boney said most of the funds needed to begin the project could be obtained by selling shorter-term financial instruments known as bond anticipation notices and as little as \$2 million in bonds may have to be sold.

Commissioners have tentatively set March 31 as a date for a bond referendum at which voters will be asked to authorize the entire \$15.5-million bond issue.

Until that referendum, no additional debt is incurred by the town.

"This bond order shall take effect when approved by the voters of the

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Sunday morning found the Southport yacht basin swarming with some chilling wintry scenes. Traffic in the community was never seriously hampered.

Beach board answers claims

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

In the third of what has become a series of weekly workshops on the construction and operation of a proposed \$15.2-million public sewer system, Long Beach commissioners

were more aggressive in their questioning of preliminary engineering reports.

Fewer comments from members of the public were offered Wednesday night than were posed in the two previous workshops conducted by the town board.

Commissioner Horace Collier led off by countering two assertions made last week. First, he challenged former commissioner David Drummond's contention that the federal Environmental Protection Agency issued reports discouraging use of public sewer systems on barrier is-

lands.

"I know of no such study," Collier said.

Mayor Joan Altman said Drummond had been challenged to produce the EPA report he cited last week, but had not done so. Drummond did not attend Wednesday night's session.

And Collier refuted a claim made last week by resident Frances Allen.

"Mrs. Allen said we did not owe future generations our sewer bill,"

Collier said. "Well, I feel we do have a responsibility to look beyond our lifetimes."

Commissioner David Durr rose next to refute assertions that high sewer costs would be offset by a tax increase.

"That is not comparing apples to apples," Durr said. "It is an additional service. You are getting an additional service that is reflected in an additional service charge."

Durr also said he interpreted taped information from a health department meeting on sewer and septic

See Sewer issue, page 7

Tight economy, low interest: Is it time to start a business?

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

You're out of work, the unemployment checks are about to run out and job prospects are slim.

Could now be the right time to become your own boss, to start that business you've always dreamed of?

Well, maybe, maybe not. It depends on what type business you want to start and what your financial situation is, according to the director of Brunswick Community College's Small Business Center.

With over 12 percent of the county's workforce among the ranks of the unemployed, more and more people are calling the Small Business Center wondering if they have what it takes to make it on their own.

One of the biggest hurdles the

Don't expect to be an overnight success in the world of small business, Velva Jenkins warns. In fact, three out of five businesses will fail within the first three years.

aspiring small business owner faces is getting a bank loan, center director Velva Jenkins said. Financial institutions are being extremely cautious considering the current economic conditions and are thinking twice about loaning money on what some might consider a risky venture, she explained.

However, she added, "You may be unemployed, but your net worth

may be wonderful. Bankers will look at that. They'll also look at what you'll put into (the business). They want to see you're making an investment in it." It also helps if the banker knows you, she said.

The amount of money one needs to start a business depends on the type of business. For example, someone opening a retail store

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Four years in the making

County's 911 system is no reason for alarm

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

It's 2:30 a.m. and you hear an intruder in your house. Fearing the worst, you reach for the phone and dial 911. An emergency operator answers, you tell him there is a stranger in your house, and the operator begins to ask you a series of

questions.

What is your address? Where are you in the house? Where is the intruder? Can you escape the house safely? If so, do you have someone to go? Is there a phone there?

Impatiently, you tell the operator you may be in imminent danger, and

need to notify the police immediately. But, the police were called as soon as you told the operator your problem, and they are already on the way. You tell the operator you will try to get to a neighbor's house, and he asks you to call back as soon as

See 911 system, page 6

Board hears noise complaints

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

After hearing repeated complaints over the past several weeks from irate members of the public who can't sleep because of loud neighbors, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners decided Tuesday night to consider an ordinance that would regulate excessive noise.

"It's a shame that we as neighbors can't get along. I don't think we want to put restrictions on anyone. But, there are some people with real problems, and they need something to assist them," said commissioner Jerry Jones. "All of us have probably had calls about it."

'... I don't think we want to put restrictions on anyone. But, there are some people with real problems, and they need something to assist them.'

Jerry Jones
County commissioner

Some have called the sheriff's department about raucous neighbors, but law enforcement officials cannot do anything because there is nothing

in the law that prohibits excessive noise, Jones said.

The proposed noise ordinance would make it illegal for any person,

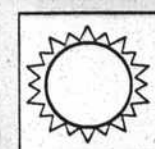
firm or corporation to make any "unnecessary or excessive" noise that disturbs, injures or endangers the peace, quiet or safety of any other person. Specifically, the ordinance would prohibit noise caused by things such as horns, radios, televisions, loudspeakers, animals, chainsaws and any shouting or crying that disturbs any other person. The ordinance would not apply to sporting events, public functions, parades or churches.

The commissioners agreed to review the ordinance, and will set a public hearing on the document at their next meeting.

"I need a couple weeks to digest

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OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for rain on Thursday with highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. Friday, expect clearing skies with highs in the 50s and lows in the 40s, then on Saturday fair skies with highs in the 50s with the temperature dropping into the 30s that night.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JANUARY 23	LOW
10:39 a.m.		4:21 a.m.
11:14 p.m.		4:49 p.m.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 24		
11:29 a.m.		5:14 a.m.
11:44 p.m.		5:37 p.m.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25		
12:08 a.m.		6:09 a.m.
12:21 p.m.		6:28 p.m.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26		
1:03 a.m.		7:07 a.m.
1:14 p.m.		7:21 p.m.
MONDAY, JANUARY 27		
1:59 a.m.		8:06 a.m.
2:11 p.m.		8:21 p.m.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28		
2:59 a.m.		9:08 a.m.
3:08 p.m.		9:17 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29		
3:58 a.m.		10:06 a.m.
4:04 p.m.		10:13 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made:
Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.