

The State Port

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South defeats North, takes show on road

Classifieds, 1B

Southport, Oak Island's most complete listing of available real estate properties



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\$4-million funding for island tract

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Nearly \$4 million in federal funds has been allocated to purchase and preserve maritime forest on Bald Head Island, but while agreement is spoken of hopefully, precisely what will be purchased is not clear.

In an announcement from Washington on Monday, Sen. Terry Sanford lauded "the allocation of federal funds totaling \$3.975 million for

'Ocean to forest, they want a sampling of the island. They want a complete ecosystem.... but how much they can buy will be determined by how much money they have.'

David Smith
General manager

the purchase of 198 acres of maritime forest on Bald Head Island."

But David Smith, general manager of the Bald Head development, said it wasn't quite cut-and-dried.

In negotiations with developer Kent Mitchell, the N. C. Nature Conservancy has identified "certain areas they want more than others," Smith said. One of the most-desired areas runs from South Beach to Bald Head Creek.

"Ocean to forest, they want a sampling of the island," Smith said. "They want a complete ecosystem. There's a strip like that just this side of Captain Charlie's (three former Coast Guard houses, the site of the old Cape Fear Light), but how much they can buy will be determined by how much money they have."

However, Smith said, "Now that there is public knowledge that the money is allocated, I think negotiations will proceed post-haste and in the next 90 days we could have a contract."

Negotiations to purchase land on Bald Head are an outgrowth of a movement by the Coastal Resources Commission to generally protect the state's dwindling maritime forests.

Several areas in Dare and Carteret counties as well as three locations in the Bald Head complex were designated as areas of environmental concern several years ago, and some have since been protected by legisla-

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Photo by Jim Harper

Mayor Norman Holden accepted the city's 200th birthday flag Monday from Centennial chairman Eleanor Smith and Southport 2000 chairman Mike Agner, then presented it to the South Brunswick ROTC Color Guard for display on the City Hall

lawn. The city's first Bicentennial event will be a 11:30 a.m. luncheon Friday in the Community Building, sponsored by the Southport Historical Society.

Beach renourishment poll appears stranded

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

In early returns of a non-binding survey, Long Beach property owners are overwhelmingly saying "no" to a nearly \$6-million beach renourishment project.

In fact, after the first week of polling, about 89 percent of respondents have voted against the erosion control project and the assessment that would pay for it, town manager David Poston said Tuesday.

Property owners across town and

See Renourishment, page 6

Will it wash? Long Beach renourishment proposal

	FIRST-YEAR ASSESSMENTS	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE
Oceanfront	\$40	\$10
Second Row	\$20	\$5
Third Row	\$15	\$3
Fourth Row and all other properties in ECD	\$10	\$2
All other properties in town not in ECD	\$5	\$0

per front-foot

Will septic tank claim hold water?

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Q. How do you get a septic tank to sink in an area with a high water table?

A. You knock a hole in the bottom of the tank and let it fill with water.

Q. How often has this been done in Long Beach, and how many of these broken tanks may be leeching sewage into ground and surface waters?

A. Nobody knows.

Long Beach residents continue to ask: Where is the evidence that a public wastewater management system is really needed? Where is there evidence of massive septic tank failure?

Thursday night, commissioner Horace Collier, a building contractor for 15 years and one who has been involved in construction in Long Beach the past 25 years, asserted what residents can't see may be hurting them.

The practice of breaking out the bottoms of prefabricated septic tanks was widespread until the late-1970s when more rigid health regulations were enacted and enforced, Collier said.

Others echoed that observation.

Collier said it was the recommended practice to bury septic tanks

'I'm sure that in some of the older tanks there is a great possibility that raw sewage is seeping out. But, we just don't know. You can't see it.'

David Clemmons
Building inspector

deep, often below the water table. The prefabricated units would float, and holes in the bottom would allow water to flow into the chamber and sink it. Because these tanks were sunk so low, it is impossible to tell whether they are working or polluting. They are deep enough that pooling associated with septic failure does not occur.

"It was not uncommon," Collier said. "I have seen it done."

Commissioner Danny Leonard's
See Septic tank, page 6

Yaupon Beach vote scheduled Tuesday

Yaupon Beach voters will go to the polls Tuesday to select three commissioners to serve the town for the next two years.

The only polling place for the special municipal election will be Yaupon Beach Town Hall. Voting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the polling site will remain open until 7:30 p.m.

The Yaupon Beach special election of February 18 is a do-over of the Yaupon Beach election of November 5. That election was fatally flawed when it was discovered printed ballots erroneously instructed voters to cast their lots for only two candidates instead of casting the three votes to which they were entitled.

Thirty-six voters had marked their printed ballots before the error in instructions was detected. Upon canvass, county elections officials could not determine the intentions of 23 voters.

While commissioners Joseph Broyles and May Moore, the incumbent mayor, apparently would have won re-election regardless of the 23 ballots in doubt, commissioner James Poole and challenger Darrell Posey were only separated by five votes of those that could be considered to reflect voters' intent.

Upon the county elections board's recommendation, the state board of elections in December ordered a new election for Tuesday.

All six original candidates for election November 5 will appear on next Tuesday's ballot. The candidates are Moore, Broyles, Posey, Poole, former commissioner J. M. Warren and Rhett Blackman.

Determinable vote totals in November showed this breakdown: Moore, 133; Broyles, 128; Posey, 99; Poole, 94; Warren, 71; Blackman, 52.

Can they improve 'Report Card'?

Parents are ready for the test

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

According to the state's latest "Report Card", Brunswick County schools are floundering in the bottom of the barrel, but some local parents are anxious to change that.

More than 200 persons crowded in the chapel of Southport Baptist Church Monday night to hear Mike Occhipinti's ideas for changing the attitudes of educators and the ways they teach students.

And by the next morning, Dorothy Essey of Yaupon Beach already had organized teams to visit five schools

across the state where the "comprehensive concept management system" has been implemented.

"We want it in place, the full first-year program, by the beginning of the school year next year. That's our commitment," an enthusiastic Essey said Tuesday. After the teams of parents, teachers, principals and school board members visit the model schools next week, they will meet February 24 to share the information they've gathered and prepare to go before the full board of education on March 2.

Parents were not the only ones interested in hearing what Occhipinti,

of the N. C. Department of Public Instruction, had to say Monday night. The audience included school administrators, teachers and support personnel including three South Brunswick area principals -- Don McNeill, Les Tubb and Sue Sellers -- and principals from Bolivia Elementary, Lincoln Primary and West Brunswick High schools.

The philosophy Occhipinti was advocating is "not a big deal. It is just common sense," he told his attentive listeners. "It's a different attitude."

Today's schools are littered with "bits and pieces" of programs that

don't support each other, he said. If there's a problem, another program is usually added to address it, and that's on top of all the other programs that have been implemented over the years, he said.

Teachers usually work in "solitary confinement," inhibiting the creative process which can develop through collaboration, sharing ideas with fellow educators. They're bogged down with paperwork and often feel a lack of control, which they take out of students, he said.

School policies are set-up for punitive action, he pointed out. See Parents ready, page 22

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for cloudy skies Thursday with a high in the lower 50s, then partly cloudy Friday with a high in the 50s and low in the 30s. Saturday and Sunday expect warmer temperatures, with highs in the 60s and lows only in the 50s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13	LOW
2:49 a.m.		9:21 a.m.
3:15 p.m.		9:34 p.m.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14		
3:58 a.m.		10:27 a.m.
4:24 p.m.		10:40 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15		
5:01 a.m.		11:28 a.m.
5:30 p.m.		11:41 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16		
6:02 a.m.		12:21 p.m.
6:29 p.m.		1:12 p.m.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17		
6:56 a.m.		12:37 a.m.
7:24 p.m.		1:12 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18		
7:48 a.m.		1:30 a.m.
8:16 p.m.		2:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19		
8:37 a.m.		2:21 a.m.
9:07 p.m.		2:27 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.