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Bids Are Made For New Bridge

An apparent low bid of \$3.39 million for the construction of a high-level bridge to Oak Island perhaps by May, 1974, was received Tuesday morning by the State Highway Commission in Raleigh.

A joint bid by two Chester, S.C. firms, James T. Triplett, Inc., and L.R. Ryan Co., quoted a total cost of \$3,390,846 — easily the low figure. There were two other bidders, Bellamy Brothers

Contracting Co. of Georgia (\$4,199,621) and McLean Construction Co., of Baltimore (\$4,386,874).

The May 1 opening date is contingent upon approval of the bridge building contract by the State Highway Commission on December 7. Final completion date, as noted in the invitation for bids, is October 1, 1974, but the early opening would be possible because finishing

touches (handrails, lane markings, etc.) could be added without interfering with bridge traffic.

If the State Highway Commission accepts the apparent low bid, the contractor would be able to begin work by January 15. "We are trying to have the bridge ready for use by the peak tourist season of 1974," said a spokesman of the Commission. Should today's apparent low bid be rejected, however, the invitation for bids would have to be readvertised.

According to the State Highway Commission spokesman, the Commission has its own estimate of what the high-level structure would cost. The figures were not made public prior to the opening of bids this morning, and if the totals are much out of line some refiguring will be necessary by the contractors or by the state.

"That would put the date of completion back, of course," said the spokesman.

The Oak Island swing bridge was put out of commission on September 7, 1971, when a barge-tug combination struck the steel structure, collapsing the bridge into the Intracoastal Waterway. All vehicular traffic to the island was stopped for several days, but soon a ferry service was created to link the island with the mainland. Approximately 400 school children living on the island were brought to Southport on boats to be



ACTIVITY ON THE WATERFRONT doesn't stop with the first cold weather but continues throughout the year. Here, a fisherman at the old Southport yacht basin bails water from his

skiff alongside a variety of other boats that use Brunswick County coastal waters. (photo by Johnny Bellamy)

Wolfpack Coach To Speak Here

Peach Bowl bound N.C. State Wolfpack coach Lou Holtz will be guest speaker at the South Brunswick High School football banquet next Wednesday night.

Coach Holtz has brought State up from a dismal 3-8 record in 1971 to a 7-3-1 record in 1972. Coach Holtz has been college coach of the year in 1970 at William and Mary and assistant coach of unanimous national champions Ohio State in 1968. He played football at Kent State University from 1956-58. His publications include coaching the QB, Getting the Most Out of Your Drills, Defensive Backfield Techniques and the 4th Quarter is Ours.

Beth J. Holtz is his wife and they have four children.

The banquet will be held at the Seafood Platter Restaurant at 7 p.m. on November 29. All tickets will be sold for \$5, which will include the meal.

The Cougar Football Banquet will include the presentation of trophies. The trophies to be given away will be Outstanding Defensive Player, Outstanding Offensive Player, Sportsmanship, Academic, Outstanding Cheerleader, Most Improved Player, Most Valuable Player, Best Blocker, Best Tackler and the Coach's Award.

The proceeds will go to



COACH LOU HOLTZ

outfit a J.V. team next year. There are only 200 tickets for sale on a first come, first served basis.

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Thanksgiving Schedule

Schools, financial institutions and county, state and federal offices in Brunswick County will observe the Thanksgiving holiday this week.

County schools and all county offices will be closed both Thursday and Friday, while state and federal offices will be closed Thursday only. Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company, First Citizens Bank, Bank of North Carolina and Security Savings and Loan also will be closed Thursday.

The State Port Pilot is being printed early this week so that mail delivery can be made before Thursday. The post office will be closed Thursday although mail will be put into the boxes.

Of Bald Head Island

Secretary Of Army Opposes Development, Rejects Permit

Opposition to the building of a small dock, almost forgotten in the developing Bald Head Island story, has been registered by the U.S. Secretary of the Army.

Robert F. Froehke, who expressed his objection to the planned development last Wednesday along with this ruling against an application for construction of a 20-foot dock on Bald Head Creek that was complete last year. Carolina Cape Fear Corporation, developers of the

tract across the Cape Fear River from Southport, has announced that legal action would be taken against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in an effort to have the decision reversed.

The dock, which replaced another landing wharf in the same section of Bald Head Creek, has been used by workmen going to their

construction jobs on the island. The wooden dock was completed before the application was filed with the Corps.

Froehke's office has had the application under consideration since last spring.

In addition to rejecting the application for a dock permit, the Army Secretary's office issued a news release stating

opposition to development of the island on the basis that the project would be "contrary to the public interest." The news release stated that:

—Development will disturb a natural habitat of "unique value," including shellfish and finfish nursery areas, resting and feeding habitats for migratory birds which are

protected under international agreements, and critical habitats for such endangered species as American alligator, brown pelican, Atlantic loggerhead turtle, osprey and peregrine falcons.

—A serious safety risk exists in locating a large population on the island since it is located so that "it is subject to tropical storm action on an average of every five to six years" and "in view of its topography and the marginal routes of escape in even of an emergency."

—Future expenditures of public funds might be required if development proceeds, "as a result of eventual demands for hurricane protection

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Society Names 1973 Officers

The Brunswick County Historical Society met last Monday at the Woodburn Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, Leland, with Mrs. Marie Rourk presiding.

William G. Faulk, Jr., site manager at Brunswick Town State Historic Site, gave a brief summary of the work at Brunswick Town. He also told of the progress being made on the Frying Pan Lightship at Southport.

Mrs. Lucille Blake presented the old house of the quarter, the A.M. Williams house at Phoenix.

The following officers were elected for 1973: president, Mrs. Lucille Blake; vice-president, Harold Aldridge; secretary-treasurer, Miss Helen Taylor; directors, Mrs. Marie Rourk and R.V. Asbury.

A program was presented by Miss Janet Seapkar, architectural consultant with the Department of Archives and History, Raleigh. She told of plans by the department to make a survey of old houses throughout the state. She said members of the society could help by telling of any old homes they knew

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Sales Tax Collection Tops \$60,000 Again

Collection of the one-cent sales and use tax in Brunswick County decreased slightly in October but stayed above the \$60,000 level — more than three times the October collection last year.

The report was received this morning from the N.C. Department of Revenue, which collects the tax along with the state's regular three-percent levy and returns the quarter share to the counties.

The \$65,229 collected here in October will be added to receipts in November and December, to be disbursed after the second quarter of fiscal 1972-73. A distribution of funds for the first quarter (July, August, September) is expected soon.

The October receipts were down from the \$68,771 collected during September. A year ago, collections totalled only \$20,630 in Brunswick County.

Funds received from the penny sales tax are distributed on a property tax basis to the county and the following municipalities in the county: Southport, Shalotte, Yaupon Beach, Long Beach, Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach, Sunset Beach, Bolivia and Boiling Spring Lakes. The Department of Revenue withholds a small percentage as a collection fee.

Collections of the tax in Brunswick County has increased steadily since being imposed by the county commissioners last year without a referendum. By

December, the collections had topped \$27,000, followed by increases to \$35,750 in January, \$42,224 in April, and \$55,737 in June. The major increase is the direct result of purchases by Brown & Root construction to be used at the Carolina Power and Light Company nuclear power plant near Southport.

The tax is applicable to any purchase otherwise subject to the North Carolina three-percent tax, whether the purchase was made in the county or material was

bought somewhere else for use here. The tax is effective in 79 of the state's 100 counties, including all in Southeastern North Carolina.

The purpose of the sales tax, commissioners said when the measure was approved, was to ease the tax burden of the property owner. Commissioners have cited the revenue from the tax as a primary reason for their being able to reduce the property tax levy from \$1.90 per hundred to \$1.42 over the last year.

Clark Appeals For A Recount

Durwood Clark, Register of Deeds for Brunswick County, has appealed to the State Board of Elections for a recount of general election ballots which showed him trailing his Republican opponent, Arthur Knox, by 10 votes.

The official count showed Knox with 4,247 votes to 4,237 for Clark.

Following the results of the election canvass Clark appealed to the Brunswick County Board of Elections for a recount, citing the possibility of human error in tallying a vote of this volume and complexity. A.H. Gainey, Democrat, voted to allow a

recount and Lester C. Babsan, Republican, voted not to. This left the decision hung up on a 1-1 tie since Chairman Hubert Bellamy was out of the country on a business trip.

The appeal to the State Board of Elections was made by Ernest E. Parker, attorney for Clark, who said "We are not appealing a decision made by the Brunswick County Board of Elections. We were unable to receive a clear-cut decision from our local body and therefore have asked the state board for a ruling in the matter."

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17 MORE MONTHS is how long travelers to Oak Island will have to use the floating, one-lane bridge if the apparent low bid for construction of a high-level span is accepted. Bids were opened this morning and now must be considered by the

State Highway Commission which meets again on December 7. If the bid is okayed, the contractor could begin work by January 15 and have the new bridge open by May, 1974.