

# THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 29

16 PAGES TODAY

SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA

FEBRUARY 6, 1974

10 CENTS A COPY

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

## School Project Ready For Bids

The Southport Primary School project will be ready for bids within a few weeks.

Board of Education members Monday night reviewed plans and specifications for the \$1.4 million facility — including the artist's concept — drawing — and instructed Assistant Supt. John Hicks and Supt. Ralph King to carefully review the documents before advertisement.

The board, while optimistic, was not as enthusiastic as Architect Jack Croft, who said he did not think there would be "any problem in having the job ready for bids the end of this week."

Some of the final specifications were received by Croft's Asheboro-based firm earlier this week and had not been cross-checked, he reported.

In matters related to primary school construction, a water table ranging in depth from 5 to 8 feet was reported, and Board Chairman Wilber Rabon relayed a Department of Transportation memo that the access road to the school involves a 23-degree curve — too sharp, DOT says.

Supt. King told board members the angle probably could be changed by starting the curve earlier.

A special meeting has been set Feb. 25 to finalize Board of Education long-range plans for construction and renovation of school facilities throughout Brunswick County. Estimated cost of the work is \$10 million over a six-year period, to be financed in great part by a bond issue.

The board is awaiting information from the county commissioners about capital outlay funds that can be expected.

Local representatives voiced

hope of meeting with the Department of School Planning review panel March 22; plans would have to be submitted two weeks prior to that date.

Included for consideration Feb. 25 are (1) the question of a new junior high school in the South attendance area plus continued use of the present elementary school (vs. a new grade 4-8 facility), and (2) a centralized maintenance shop.

Concern also was expressed about the acquisition of additional acreage adjacent to the Bolivia school site.

Asst. Supt. P.R. Hankins reported the School Food Service program as "in the black, overall," though some schools that were operating at a deficit still are. The service right now is maintaining "an even keel," Hankins said.

The local system has just received its November state reimbursement, while December funds are expected this week, he noted. A change in the rate of reimbursement also is expected, the assistant superintendent continued, and the January report is being delayed for this reason.

The cost per half-pint of milk was a temporary problem, Hankins told the board. A neighboring county was receiving milk for less than Brunswick County but the discrepancy has been corrected, resulting in a four-tenths cent reduction locally.

The county is "still in the running" for an ESEA grant that would be used to improve math programs in the county.

Hankins reported to the board that ESEA funds impounded by the president have been released. Local share is about \$54,000, including \$12,769 being used for an additional

(Continued on page 10)

## Thursday Hearing Set On Coastal Management Issue

The Coastal Management Act will undergo a record seventh public hearing Thursday in Raleigh.

Sponsor of the bill, Willis P. Whichard (D-Durham), said that pressure from "coastal people" had forced the new public hearing.

He said he personally does not think a seventh hearing is necessary but, "I don't want it to be said that people didn't have a chance to be heard."

Whichard declined to identify the "coastal people" applying pressure for a new hearing.

The hearing will be held before both House and Senate environmental committees.

A series of public hearings on the bill were held along the coast this summer. As a result of local opinion, the bill has undergone major changes giving local governments more power in enacting and enforcing the bill.

The bill attempts to control haphazard development in 22 coastal counties by establishing a state Coastal Resources Commission appointed by the governor. The commission would establish "environmentally critical areas."

Before building a critical

areas, a state permit would be required for major projects.

The bill would also require a county land-use survey to be completed within a year

### State School Boards

## County To Host District 5 Meet

The annual meeting of the District 5 State School Boards Association will be held at North Brunswick High School on Tuesday.

According to Mrs. May Barbee, Brunswick school board member and president of the District 5 State School Boards Association, the theme for this year's meeting is "Building Better Tomorrows Through Public Education."

"We have planned what we think will be a very interesting and informative program. The North Carolina School Boards Association will conduct a workshop designed to provide learning

experiences in school board problem solving; and the feature speaker will be Dr. A. Craig Phillips, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who invariably provides stimulation and challenges for those involved in public education.

"We feel that we have all the necessary ingredients for a most successful meeting," Mrs. Barbee said.

Mrs. Barbee noted that approximately 200 persons including school board members, superintendents, local committee members, principals, PTA representatives, and other invited guests will attend the meeting.

(Continued on page 10)

## Auto Program Is Recognized

The Brunswick County 4-H Automotive Safety and Care Program conducted last spring has been recognized by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

Presentation of a plaque in recognition of the program was made on Monday in Southport to Edwin Clemmons, coordinator of the steering committee.

In accepting the award from David Burnette, 4-H Traffic Safety Specialist with North Carolina State University, Clemmons said, "This program was a community effort. Many people, school officials, driver education instructors, insurance agents, mechanics, tire dealers, car salesmen, and others, made the program possible by volunteering to give a small portion of their time for our youth."

The 4-H Automotive Program was developed by the Brunswick County 4-H staff under the direction of Milton Coleman, Agricultural Extension Agent. Plans are being made to conduct the program again this spring.

(Continued on page 10)

### Mobile Office

The mobile district office of Congressman Charlie Rose will be in Brunswick County this week, at or near community post offices between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

After spending Thursday at Leland, Rose assistant Rip Collins will be in Bolivia on Friday, Southport next Tuesday and at Shallotte next Wednesday.

## Commissioners' Vote Split 3-2

# Contract Voided On 14 Sheriff Vehicles; Delivery Not On Time

By BOBBY HILL

The county commissioners Monday voided a contract for 14 cars for the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

The contract with Willetts Ford called for the cars to be delivered by January 1, the commissioners said. The cars have not been delivered.

The vote to void the contract was split. Chairman W.A. Kopp, Jr., and Com-

missioner Vardell Hughes voted against the measure. Commissioners John Bray, J.T. Clemmons and Robert Simmons were in favor of termination.

Willetts Ford had won the contract October 1, 1973 with a bid of \$54,161.24.

Prior to the vote, county attorney Thomas Horne told the commissioners he "doubted" if they had the

authority to extend the delivery deadline. He said the "contractor has not complied with the contract."

"I sure have reservations about that," Kopp said. He maintained it would be "unfair" to make the dealer "eat" the cars after having signed the contract.

Bray, however, said he felt "obligated to cancel, since it was done on competitive

bidding." "We're compelled to enforce it (the deadline)," he said.

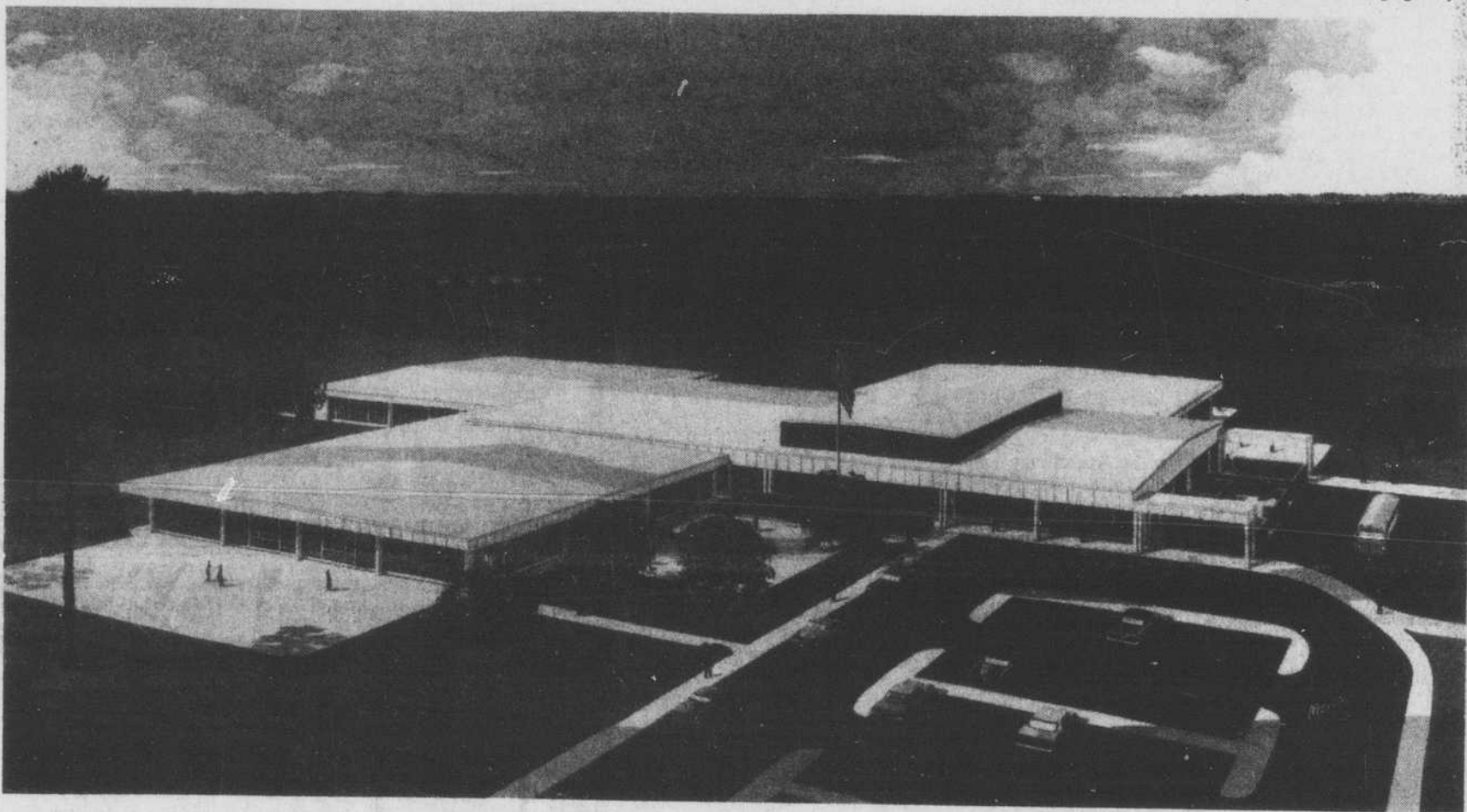
The commissioners also directed a letter to the New Hanover County commissioners encouraging them to participate in a Resources Conservation and Development Project.

Maynard Owens, Soil Conservationist, told the

commissioners the New Hanover commissioners have not yet joined the program because of "internal problems." He said participation must be obtained from all governmental agencies in the area to have a good chance of federal approval.

Owens said the project would not require local funds

(Continued on page 10)



A NEW SOUTHPORT PRIMARY School expected to be in use by fall, 1975 will be ready for bidding within a few weeks, according to reports by the Brunswick County Board of Education at its regular Monday night meeting. The \$1.4

million facility for grades K-3 will be located inside Southport city limits in an area known as the Cottage Tract. An access road will be extended to the 19.4 acre school site.

## Auto Program Is Recognized

The Brunswick County 4-H Automotive Safety and Care Program conducted last spring has been recognized by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

Presentation of a plaque in recognition of the program was made on Monday in Southport to Edwin Clemmons, coordinator of the steering committee.

In accepting the award from David Burnette, 4-H Traffic Safety Specialist with North Carolina State University, Clemmons said, "This program was a community effort. Many people, school officials, driver education instructors, insurance agents, mechanics, tire dealers, car salesmen, and others, made the program possible by volunteering to give a small portion of their time for our youth."

The 4-H Automotive Program was developed by the Brunswick County 4-H staff under the direction of Milton Coleman, Agricultural Extension Agent. Plans are being made to conduct the program again this spring.

(Continued on page 10)

### Mobile Office

The mobile district office of Congressman Charlie Rose will be in Brunswick County this week, at or near community post offices between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

After spending Thursday at Leland, Rose assistant Rip Collins will be in Bolivia on Friday, Southport next Tuesday and at Shallotte next Wednesday.

## Town Refuses To Pay Lawyer

# Murphy Plans To Resign As Yaupon Beach Mayor

By BOBBY HILL

Mayor Clarence E. Murphy said Monday he will resign March 4 at the town's next meeting.

The audience was shocked by Murphy's unofficial statement. When asked why he is resigning, Murphy said he will present his reasons in a letter in March.

Murphy said only that he is "tired" of the mayoral job. Having served for 15 years on the Yaupon Beach council, Murphy has a year and a half remaining of his term as mayor.

If the mayor does step down in March, the remaining four commissioners must appoint a replacement. The council then must hold an election to designate another mayor.

Immediately prior to the resignation statement, a short executive session was held, reportedly on personnel matters.

The council also voted unanimously to reject a \$100 bill for services presented by town attorney Thomas Horne.

"There's not five cents worth in that whole paper," Board of Elections Chairman Ernest Rees said of Horne's legal advice on election laws. The legal advice is dated September 28, 1973, and Rees

said he could not account for the whereabouts of the papers for the past six months.

Commissioner W.E. McDougle said the council should pay the bill if the services had been requested and the town owed it.

Commissioner William Smalley replied that no individual commissioner can "run up an expense like that without a vote or motion of the council."

Rees maintained the papers submitted by Horne are "straight from the law book," and he said a single paragraph of legal opinion is "in error."

He said legal information

on elections can be obtained free from county and state election boards.

He contested Horne's opinion that the voter registration book must be kept "at all times in the office of the Clerk of Yaupon Beach."

In a letter directed to Horne, the council declined to pay the bill and requested that Horne not perform further services for the town unless formally directed.

Contacted Tuesday, Horne said he fully intends to collect for the bill. He said he charges \$25 an hour.

"If they expect to get legal service out of me, they can expect to pay for it," Horne

said. He said he will take the town to court if the bill is not paid.

A public hearing set for February 21 on proposed zoning ordinances was questioned by planning chairman Gerald Whitehurst. Whitehurst said the Planning and Zoning Board has not yet approved the ordinance or presented it to the commissioners.

Copies of the ordinance were mailed by attorneys to the council instead of the planning group, Whitehurst said. He said his board "refuses" to present the ordinances until they have been reviewed.

Smalley said the presentation is a "technicality." He maintained the public hearing will give ample chance to correct any objections to the ordinance.

Planning member John Barbee also disagreed with the procedure followed with the ordinances. "I think it's being steamrolled... over the Planning and Zoning Board's head," he said.

Whitehurst agreed that the planning board will meet to review the ordinance prior to the public hearing. He said the group will report to the council in a special meeting

(Continued on page 10)

## On The Inside...

— West Brunswick dumps Whiteville 88-72, North pulls away from South in the fourth quarter, and girls' basketball. Stories and photos on page 6 and 7.

— The Sea Captain Motor Lodge near the Southport Boat Harbor is the newest accommodation in the county, and perhaps the one built most on a prayer. Story on page 2.