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A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

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BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD of Realtors' officers were intalled Dec. 13. Seated are Emily Willetts, secretary, and Troy Davis, president; standing are vice-president John Barbee (left) and treasurer Bill McDougle. Directors of the

organization are J.W. Turner, Pauline Morgan, Al Martin, Sr., Morris Ferrell, Charles Blake, Norris Long, Philip King, III, state director; James Wolfe, state director; and Louise Scruggs, alternate state director.

New Subdivision Rules Okayed By Beach Board

A 47-page Subdivision Regulations document "designed to promote the orderly development of the town" was approved Thursday night by the Long Beach Board of Commissioners.

The 4-1 vote followed a public hearing on the ordinance. Commissioners Nancy Leggett, Virginia Christenbury, Ellis Dudley and H.E. Joyce voted in favor of the regulations, while the negative vote was cast by Russell Morrison. The board, he said, was "voting on several items that's in speculation."

He referred to several regulations based on the availability of water and sewer service. The document clearly notes that rules in question are effective only when the services are provided.

Councilman Dudley, mayor pro-tem, presided at the public hearing that was attended by approximately a dozen Long Beach residents. Mayor E.W. Morgan was reported by Morrison to be at

home sick.

Mayor Pro-tem Dudley referred to the rules of public hearing procedure, adopted recently by a split-vote, Morgan and Morrison opposed. "I hope we will not have debates, or people jumping up and down," said Dudley. Only slight disruptions were noted.

Before the hearing commenced, spectator Lucy Ford objected to the use of the mayor's tape recorder at the council table. "I don't like the fact Mr. Morgan doesn't come but sends his tape recorder," Mrs. Ford remarked. Dudley said he would prefer that the tape recorder, which was operated

by Morrison, not be at the council table.

In the actual public hearing, the majority of comments were included in a letter from Board of Adjustments Chairman Woodrow Venell, reportedly out-of-town last Thursday. His suggestions, a few of which were acceptable to the commissioners, were read by Morrison.

Venell, noting what he called "only minor imperfections," gained acceptance for changing the power of granting variances from the planning board to the board of adjustments. There was no objection.

Several suggestions were looked on as "just splitting hairs" or "open to interpretation." He termed "proposterous" the items that established lot sizes greater for lots served by sewer (but not water) than lot sizes for lots served by sewer (but not water) than lot sizes for lots served by both water

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Early Printing

Merry Christmas!

This edition of The State Port Pilot was printed Monday evening and distributed to local stores and mailed Tuesday afternoon.

Next week's Pilot edition will be published on Tuesday so that employees may have New Year's Day off. The newspaper will be mailed Tuesday night, and will be available on Wednesday at stores open for business on the holiday.

Because of the abbreviated schedule next week, advertising copy must be in the office of The State Port Pilot by Saturday noon. News copy will be accepted until noon Monday.

Higher Rates In January

Electric Rate Hike Is No Joke; It's Coming

By BILL ALLEN

Brunswick County customers will have to dig deeper — much, much deeper — into their pockets to pay their electric bills starting the first of the year.

Electricity rates are expected to soar in the county because the Federal Power Commission has granted Carolina Power and Light Company, wholesale supplier here, a basic rate increase plus use of the controversial "fuel escalator charge."

The increases mean that Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, which serves most of Brunswick County including Oak Island, and Carolina Power and Light Company, serving Southport, Bolling Spring Lakes and the area at the US 74-76-17 junction at Leland, will pass along the higher costs to their customers.

The new wholesale rates and fuel escalator charge" were recently approved by the Federal Power Commission. CP&L wanted to put the "fuel escalator charge" into effect in September, but Electricities, an association of wholesale customers, succeeded in delaying it until January 2.

The "fuel escalator charge" allows the CP&L to raise or lower cost depending of the price of fuel. It will be billed monthly and may increase from month to month. Since it was approved in other parts of the state, it has

never gone down and has stayed the same only one month.

Southport City Manager Alvin Kornegay said CP&L will charge the city 38 percent more plus the "fuel adjustment charge" starting January 2. The entire price increase will be passed along to the customers since "the city is unable to absorb any of the cost," he pointed out.

"A Southport customer who paid \$48 in November could be charged \$75 to \$80 for the same amount of electricity in January," Kornegay pointed out.

Robert Hubbard said the board of directors of Brunswick Electric Membership will meet Friday to determine the rate increase for customers. He said a "rate specialist" will discuss the subject with the board.

Although the board will set the rate hike, Hubbard believes it will raise bills between 67 and 80 percent. "It will be in that range," he predicted.

The higher cost, which will become effective January 2, will be reflected in the bills customers receive the first of February.

The basic rate hike and the "fuel escalator charge" will send bills upward. The "fuel escalator charge" allows the company to pass the higher cost CP&L pays for coal and oil directly to customers.

The State Utilities Commission has allowed the

company to collect the "fuel escalator charge" from retail customers in North Carolina since last February. It has been rising rapidly with the higher prices of coal and oil. Brunswick County customers will have the "fuel escalator charge" tacked onto their bills each month after January 2.

Statewide, the "fuel escalator charge" has added an extra \$9.51 to the typical 940-kilowatt customer, \$15.18 to the typical 1,500 - kilowatt customer and \$20.24 to the typical 2,000 - kilowatt customer, CP&L officials estimate.

The "fuel escalator charge" has been hiking customer bills because the company is paying record coal and oil prices. Coal, which sold for \$8 a ton on the open market last year, is costing the company \$45 now, CP&L reports.

CP&L officials claim they need the "fuel escalator

charge" because of the cost of fuel, especially coal, rises too fast for the Utilities Commission or the Federal Power Commission to formally adjust rates.

The "fuel escalator charge" has increased customer bills every month since it was adopted for retail users in February of 1974 except August.

The Utilities Commission has scheduled hearings beginning January 30 to consider charges by the N.C. Attorney General's office that CP&L used "poor judgment" in buying coal earlier this year and that, as a result, customers are paying more than they should for electricity.

CP&L officials said they held back from buying coal last spring in hopes that the price would go down. They said the company saved money by delaying their

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A Prayer Answered

25 Pinecrest Rd.
Southport, N.C. 28461
December 20, 1974

To All:

God bless Southport and all the wonderful people in it!!

Recently, my husband Randy was forced to "abandon ship" while fishing with Capt. Tommy McGlamery on the "Blue Claw."

Through the Faith and untiring efforts of so many people, Randy and Tommy both were rescued and returned to us in good condition.

Capt. Dick Skipper and crew spent a long, cold night manning the radio controls and our heart-felt thanks go out of them.

The Coast Guard Cutter "Alert" that picked them up 30 miles out also receives our gratitude.

All the planes, helicopters and private fishing boats that joined in the search will never be forgotten.

The staff at Doshier Memorial Hospital was extremely efficient, competent and fast-working, but still had time to display a warmth that is practically unknown in the medical profession anymore. We will remember them always.

As a side note, let me add that we hope the hospital will be supported and retained here. Randy's condition was such that he could not have withstood a trip of greater distance for medical aid.

In closing, we wish to thank all the wonderful people who stood by and offered food, lodging and baby-sitting services.

Randy and I are fairly new to the area but certainly we were made to feel we belong here and are definitely a part of this beautiful community.

A Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 1975 to all!

Sincerely,
Chris Stewart

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Pair Charged In School Fray

Charges have been filed against three persons following an "encounter" at Bolivia school last week, according to records at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

Bolivia Principal Wade Duncan has charged C.D. Bullard, 50, and Earmalita Gainey, 30, both of the Bolivia restaurant, with assault and battery and disorderly conduct.

According to reports, Bullard punched Principal Duncan with his fist last Monday. Duncan then punched Bullard with his fist. Ms. Gainey then grabbed a paddle and started hitting Principal Duncan, it was reported.

Bullard and Ms. Gainey also are charged in warrants signed by Principal Duncan with causing a public

disturbance at Bolivia school by using abusive language to the principal, teacher Ed Maulsby and others. The language accused Duncan of sitting around school all day and doing nothing.

Bullard also is charged with assault and battery on student James L. Bullard, Jr., using his fist and inflicting serious bodily injury about the abdomen. The complaint was signed by young Bullard's mother, Mrs. Martha Bullard of Bolling Spring Lakes.

The cases are scheduled to be tried in District Court in Southport on Jan. 14.

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department was called to the school last Tuesday. Principal Duncan asked a deputy to make an

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Tomlinson's Statement On Hospital Question

EDITOR'S NOTE: Southport Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., presented the Smithville township side of the hospital question at a special meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners recently:

On April 5, 1935 the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina chartered Brunswick County Hospital (name changed by amendment of the General Assembly to Dr. J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital on February 27, 1939) as a joint entity of the City of Southport

and Brunswick County, to be operated by a Board of Trustees named by the city and county. This act ratified efforts begun in 1928 to provide an acute care medical facility in Brunswick County.

The original building, constructed in 1928, was updated in 1952 using some \$11,000 raised locally plus various grants of about \$99,000. The hospital plant has seen bad times in past years, due mainly to an overall lack of funds resulting from a low county - wide tax base. Certainly, the present deficient condition is not

attributable to willful negligence on the part of anyone. There have been bad years in overall operating conditions, also. Through changes in management procedures the Board of Trustees of Doshier is to be commended for a financially - stable position achieved over the past year.

So, we look at what we have now at J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital:

1. A highly competent medical staff offering the following services for which there is an established need:
 - a. General medical care.
 - b. Surgery — (Dr. Atienza

begin surgical practice in July 1973: since that time he has performed surgery in operating room to wit: July - December 1973: 117; January - December 1974: 278; emergency room operations are not included in these figures).

c. Obstetrics and Gynecology — (15 babies delivered in November; 56 babies delivered since service began in February, 1974)

- d. Radiology.
- e. Pathology.
- f. Orthopedics (on call).
- g. Emergency room treatment — (Monday to Friday: local doctors on

call).

h. Emergency room treatment — (Friday to Monday: doctor in attendance at all times).

2. A highly - competent nursing staff consisting of registered nurses, technicians, licensed practical nurses, nurses aides and attendants.

3. An efficient administrative staff.

4. An established position as an economically - sound acute care medical center, well - known and utilized.

5. A physical plant, a good portion of which needs extensive renovation or

replacement in order to meet current federal and - or state standards.

6. The present site is provided with city water, sewer, fire and police protection, and garbage and trash collection.

7. In addition, there is an auxiliary and many friends located nearby who devote countless hours to activities dedicated to providing "extras" for the hospital.

Perhaps the most important aspect of what we have now is what the presence of THIS acute care medical facility at its present location has meant, now means, and

will mean to Brunswick County:

1. For many long years, Doshier represented the only acute medical care readily - available and economically - obtainable to people of a financially - depressed area.

2. Countless hundreds of people have decided to retire within Smithville Township, at least, because of Doshier; while others in large numbers have been influenced in building summer homes in the area knowing that emergency and acute medical facilities are available.

3. It can safely be assumed

that the Department of the Army gave full cognizance to the immediate availability of acute care medical facilities in deciding to select Sunny Point as an installation site. The continued near presence of acute care medical services is of concern to Department of the Army as noted in letter from the Commander, Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point.

4. Doshier also serves the medical needs of personnel stationed at Oak Island Coast Guard Station.

5. The presence of Doshier

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