

# THE STATE PORT PILOT

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during next Saturday's garage sale are Alneta. Crowe, left, and Judy White, president of this Southport, will year's Fourth of July Festival. The garage sale, celebration here.

EXAMINING SOME OF the wares to be offered which will be held at the Crowe residence at the corner of Moore Street and Atlantic Avenue in Southport, will benefit the Independence Day

## **Step To Consolidate Sought From Board**

The Long Beach Board of Commissioners will be asked Thursday night to help establish a Commission to brin about consolidation of Oak Island into a single communi-

Present for the Monday night Consolidation Committee meeting were Chairman Woody Vennel, Virginia Christenbury, Ellis Dudley, Hannon Templeton and Oak Island residents and

tend.

business discussed was the "Charter Commission" approach to merger, revealed two weeks ago by an unofficial visit to Raleigh by four

"has some good points, and teeth" that would expedite consolidation. He said that by working together with Yaupon Beach - and Caswell Beach — to appoint a joint commission "maybe people

## **Education Budget Is Considerably Higher**

Asking \$5.7 Million Local

By BILL ALLEN Brunswick County Board of Education members began preliminary discussion of the proposed \$6,677,459 budget for 1975 - 76 during a special meeting Monday night. The proposed budget calls

for current expenses of \$2,-595,759, capital outlays of \$3,-809,975 and a debt service of \$271,725 for the grand total. Since \$939,747 will come from available funds, a total of \$5,737,712 in county money

will be needed to balance the proposed budget. Brunswick County schools

operated on a \$4,660,104 budget during 1974 - 75 with \$2,853,956.24 coming from local tax funds.

Supt. Ralph King said most of the increase over last year comes in the field of capital outlay since the board plans board members. major construction work at elementary schools. Capital outlay is proposed to be increased from \$2,450,954 to

\$3,809,975 in the new budget. He said the proposed budget calls for all employees to receive at least a 7.5 percent pay increase. New programs and more money needs because of

Member William Sue questioned why the proposed budget called for about \$33,-000 more to keep books this growth and inflation account year than was needed last

for other increases in the vear King said the additional budget, King pointed out to money is needed because the Board members spent a budget is higher and more great deal of time going over people are required to adthe proposed current expense minister it. In addition, he needs line - by - line Monday said the number of people in the bookkeeping department last year did not go up in proportion to the other in-**County 'In Good Hands,'** creases.

night. Capital outlay and debt

service will be reviewed at

the next meeting.

King also pointed out that neither he nor Associate Supt. Robert Elkin have a personel secretary. He said that one secretary, who does an "excellent job," does the work Sue said he still did not un-

portion of the budget will go

to capital outlay. Capital out-

lay, he noted, is major spen-

ding with few checks written.

in detail," he stated.

'We need to look at this more

Chairman Wilbur Rabon sug-

gested that King look at the

section of the Ludget again

and report back to the board

missioner for two years," he derstand the reason for the stated increase since the biggest The Leland resident said he

saw no conflict of interest in serving as both board chairman and interim county manager. He said if a conflict develops, he will not vote on the issue.

Thomas said he planned to serve as interim manager until a qualified manager can be found. "There is no doubt in my mind I am qualified, but I am not soliciting the job," he said.

at the next meeting. King said the section calls for the appointment of a business manager and an Thomas said he is qualified assistant as recommended by to serve as interim manager the state. He also said one because of the business exclerical assistant will be addperience he has gained by

ed. The budget proposes that the perdiem and travel for

members be increased from

\$4,000 to \$7,000. Members will

continue to receive \$25 for

It is proposed that a second

and third attendance officer

by employed, with one ser-

The budget sets \$2,500 for

legal work based on a \$75 a

month retainer and "normal

rates." King said the amount

may have to be increased

since School Attorney Mason

Anderson will have to defend

members in a federal court

It is also proposed that \$7,-

600 be spent to replace two

(Continued On Page 2)

attending meetings.

ving as the director.

action.

they feel that the county is in good hands," Thomas

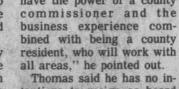
Thomas said he accepted . suggestion of residents of

### As Town Manager



By BILL ALLEN Brunswick County. "They Franky Thomas said Tuesday he has the experience to serve as both chairman of the Board of Commissioners and interim county manager. People who know my background have told me

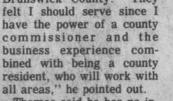
declared. the position of interim county manager last week at the



**Says Chairman Thomas** 

#### tentions to resign as board chairman to take the county manager job. "The board can

ask me to step down as interim county manager at any time, but I will be a com-



In its final action, the Consolidation Committee for Long Beach unanimously approved a motion recommending to the town board that it (1) request the mayor. together with the mayor of Yaupon Beach, to write a letter to the League of Municipalities asking professional help in planning for consolidation; (2) work with Yaupon Beach and the unincorporated Caswell Beach area in naming a 6 member Consolidation Commission; and (3) work under provisions of Chapter 153 A. Article 20, of the North Carolina General Statutes concerning consolidation.

Article 20 states that "two or more cities that are contiguous or that lie within a continuous boundary may create a commission to study the consolidation of the cities or of one or more functions and services of the cities."

#### **Chairman** Charges

## **'Old Politics' Still Remain**

Political intimidation is being used on Brunswick County employees, County Republican Party Chairman Frankie Rabon charged this week

Chairman Rabon said he was concerned about the recent resignation and firing of "three key county employees held over from the previous Republican administration."

He said that in recent weeks. County Manager Neil Mallory and Clerk of the Board Carole Greene have announced their resignations. "It is my belief that they were pressured out of their jobs," Chairman Rabon declared

In addition, he said County Personnel-Purchasing Director Steve Hughes was fired by chairman and manager Franky Thomas after he refused to resign.

"I think it is useful to note that prior to the actions, there were numerous closed executive sessions called to discuss personnel," he noted. Chairman Rabon said he believed that the all-Democratic board of commissioners is setting a dangerous precedent in employment practices and demoralizing county employees

"If the people will remember after the 1970 election, which ended 38 years of one-party government in Brunswick County, (Continued On Page 2)

secretary Carole Greene. reported in last week's State Member E.W. Morgan was Port Pilot. out of town and unable to at-Templeton said Article 20, brought to his attention by The only matter of new

one of the Raleigh delegation,

the letter Thomas put on

Thomas denied that he

fired Hughes for political

reasons. "I would be willing

to swear on a stack of Bibles

was involved in the

decision," he told The Pilot.

"I don't care what party af-

filiation a county employee

Thomas said he fired

Hughes as interim county

manager and not as chair-

man of the board. "If I

thought he was doing a good

job, I would never have fired

Thomas said he did not

want to elaborate on the

three reasons given for the

(Continued On Page 2)

did not matter.'

him," he stated.

Hughes' desk.

desired

pressure."

and "poor attitude."

**Hughes Handed** Walking Papers

Brunswick County Per-"In accordance with Artisonnel - Purchasing Departcle 2, Section 13 and 21, of the ment Director Steve Hughes personnel ordinance, please was fired Friday allegedly be advised that you are herby because of "political dismissed from your service with Brunswick County for pressure. Hughes told The Pilot that the following reasons," said

Interim County Manager -Board Chairman Franky Thomas came into his office in the Hood Building around 12:30 p.m. Friday afternoon and put the dismissal letter on his desk.

sion) alone for awhile" as work towards consolidation progresses. 'It would be really putting us on a firm foundation,'

would leave (the commis-

said Templeton. Chairman Vennel noted that the Long Beach committee was a "one - sided" with no input from Yaupon or Caswell beaches. "There's no point trying to consolidate unless it's the whole island," he said.

The motion asking Long Beach commissioners to work with commissioners from Yaupon Beach and representatives of Caswell Beach was introduced by Dudley, who also asked for the dissolution of the Long Beach consolidation committee.

The recommendation The reasons listed in the letter included "not properly suggests that Long Beach name three members, supervising your personnel, Yaupon Beach two and not maintaining office hours' Caswell Beach one to the The letter said that Hughes proposed 6 - member Consolidation Commission, and will be "afforded termination that the members be named pay in accordance with said by early next month. ordinance" and would be

Following are provisions of given a public hearing if he Article 20: as they relate to Hughes said he was told in **Oak Island** 

A commission established early April to resign. He said pursuant to this Article may the resignation was not rebe charged with any of the quested because of his work following purposes: but because of "political

(1) To study the powers, duties, functions, responsibilities, and organizational structures of the cities that established the commission ten miles high that no politics and of other units of local government and public agencies within those cities;

(2) To prepare a report on its studies and findings; (3) To prepare a plan for

has. All I want to see is that consolidating one or more they do the job. I heard that functions and services of the Steve is a Republican, but I never checked it because it governments that established the commission;

(4) To prepare drafts of any agreements or legislation necessary to effect the consolidation of one or more functions and services:

(5) To prepare a plan for consolidating into a single government some or all of the governments that established the commission: (Continued On Page 2)

**Kivett Ends Beach Stay** 

The Long Beach Board of Commissioners held a 7 -"emergency minute meeting" Saturday morning to act on the resignation of Town Manager Frank Kivett. Kivett was granted 3months' severance pay - \$5,-250 based on his annual salary of \$21,000. He said he would remain on the beach until June 1 and would help prepare the 1975 - 76 budget if

requested. The board also authorized Finance Officer Mrs. Jean Nelson to sign town checks, and named Commissioners Russ Morrison and H.E. Joyce co - signers. Joyce replaces Mayor E.W. Morgan, who said Saturday he "won't be here long enough" to act as co-signer. Morgan has announced his intention to resign from the town's top position Thursday

night. **Commissioner Ellis Dudley** was not present for the special meeting but sent a letter declaring his complete accord" with the board's decision to accept Kivett's resignation. He also expressed "surprise at the hasty departure" of the town manager.

ing an interim manager probably Otto Maehl - but Town Attorney James Prevatte advised that no action should be taken. A waiver from Dudley would

to sign checks. After the meeting, Kivett explained the "hasty depar-

My offer was that I would employment opportunities. would step down earlier. The

board accepted the latter provision and I therefore submitted my resignation effective Friday.

Kivett said he had assured the board of his cooperation in order to provide an orderly transition. He said he would remain for the completion of the audit, would help Mrs. Nelson with the 1975 - 76 budget if requested, and 'since federal agents are

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#### Asking \$100,000 Each

operating a mobile home sales business for the past nine years.

"I started the business with \$100 and the Internal Revenue Service has never questioned my ability to run a business," he stated. "I am going to try to run the county like a business. According to the Institute of Government, county government is nothing but a big business.'

Although he is being paid \$18,590 to serve as interim manager, Thomas said he had to take a salary reduction to take the position. "I had to take the cut in the salary I am accustom to in business, he stated. "I had to take the salary cut despite the fact the (Continued On Page 2)

**Deputies Sue Strong**, **Claim Discrimination** 

Three former Brunswick of their class," an injunction preventing Sheriff Strong or County deputies, claiming their recent dismissals were his employees from mainracially motivated, have filed taining a policy designed to a class action suit in U.S. deny or limit the rights of District Court in Wilmington. others, because of race, to tunities.

equal employment oppor-They are also requesting a declaratory judgment that racial employment practices and policies of Sheriff Strong violate the equal protection

clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In addition, the three former deputies ask for an injunction preventing Sheriff Strong or his employees from violating their rights of free speech and association once Brunswick County Sheriff's they are re - employed, by forbidding them to associate with persons who supported which deprive or tend to the sheriff's political oppodeprive them of their nent, former Sheriff Harold Willetts.

Sheriff Strong, who dis-Ballard. Gore and Frink missed the three deputies, ask for on behalf of themselves, "and members has employed Southport Attorney A.H. Gainey, Jr., to represent him in the action. No county funds will be used to defend the action, the sheriff has said.

Gore and Frink said in the suit they were fired April 7 with no reason given. Ballard said he was dismissed because he did not give orders like a sergeant.

The three deputies said in the complaint that they were not given an opportunity to be heard or offer evidence on their behalf. They said Sheriff Strong repeatedly discriminated against them because of their race. The firings, they said, are a continuation of the discrimination.

According to the complaint, Sheriff Strong ordered Gore to deliver all civil papers in the county and refused to allow anyone to help him. The complaint said the sheriff knew this would

(Continued On Page 2)

George Ballard, Earlie L. Gore and John Raphael Frink made a number of requests in the class action suit, including asking for \$100,000 in punitive damages, re - instatment to their jobs and back Wilmington Attorney James Wall, representing the three deputies, said the class

have been required for any they represent is composed board action other than accepting Kivett's resignaof Negroes who are employed tion and authorizing persons or might be employed by the

Department and who are discriminated against by Sheriff ture" cited by Dudley. Herman Strong in ways

waive the provisions of my contract and resign effective May 30, 1975, or upon payment of severance pay I

The board considered nam-