

Chamber Sets First Meeting

The first membership organizational meeting of the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce will be held Monday night at Oak Island Club, starting at 8 o'clock.

Invitations have been sent to as many businesses and individuals as possible, based on responses to a questionnaire distributed by members of the group's Board of Directors. "But even if you have not received the written invitation you still are invited, and encouraged, to attend," said President John Barbee. "Ours has been a volunteer effort thus far and inevitably we will have missed someone."

Guest speaker for the Monday night meeting will be Mrs. Ann Small, executive secretary of the Greater Whiteville Chamber of Commerce, who will talk on the need for a chamber of commerce and what an effective chamber can mean to the community.

Items on the agenda include distribution of a proposed constitution and bylaws, formation of a Membership and Finance Committee, and an outline of what the chamber hopes to accomplish during its first year of operation.

Purpose of the Southport-Oak Island chamber, as stated in the questionnaire, is "to actively promote the general welfare and future well-being of the people and businesses of the entire area." Specific goals are to be established by the organization, it was pointed out.

3 High Schools Are Accredited

The three Brunswick County high schools were presented for accreditation at the annual meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools held December 7-10 in Atlanta, Ga.

North, South and West Brunswick were among the 57 elementary schools and 38 secondary schools presented as new members of the association.

"Accreditation by the Southern Association represents a measure of excellence over and above the minimum standards required by the state," according to Supt. Ralph King. "It means that the individual school staffs are constantly trying to improve and extend

their services to children."

A voluntary effort on the part of the school staff, accreditation by the Southern Association requires a self-study using standards and criteria designed by the accrediting agency. Once the self-study is completed, a committee of educators visits the school and files a report which is reviewed by state accreditation committees and the regional agency.

"Southern Association accreditation is not a gold star for what a school has done," said King, "it represents a continuous effort by the school staff to focus on the interests and needs of students by maintaining quality staff, materials and facilities.

Raise Offered Yaupon Clerk

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Town Clerk Claire Rees is reconsidering her decision to resign, Yaupon Beach Mayor Marvin Watson announced following a 70-minute closed board meeting Monday morning.

Mrs. Rees, who serves as clerk and holds numerous positions with the town, was expected to announce her decision at a special meeting scheduled Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Rees announced Wednesday that she would resign, effective when a replacement could be trained. She suggested—and the board approved—her employment as part-time financial officer and tax collector.

The board voted unanimously Monday to offer Mrs. Rees a 50-cent-per-hour raise to \$3.75 an hour and the authority to hire a full-time assistant if she will continue her work with the town.

Mrs. Rees requested and received 48 hours to consider the offer made by the board before announcing her decision. The board decided to hold the special meeting

Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock to hear her decision.

Mayor Watson announced that Mrs. Rees had submitted her letter of resignation last month. The resignation was to have become effective December 19 prior to the board's action Monday.

The board had voted unanimously to hold a closed executive session to discuss personnel under the Open Meetings law. Mayor Watson said the board had discussed "negotiations for continued employment" during the 70-minute closed session, but no action had been taken.

Commissioner Bill Smalley said that his wife, Mrs. Madge Smalley, had volunteered to assist Mrs. Rees with her duties at Town Hall at no charge to the town. He also suggested using both volunteer and paid part-time employees to help Mrs. Rees.

Commissioner Ted Wood made the motion that Mrs. Rees be given the 50-cent-per-hour raise and an assistant. The offer will become effective at once if Mrs. Rees decides to continue her work for the town.

Wood said the money could come from unused funds in the Water department. Mrs.

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A BARBECUE BENEFIT for the Southport Fire Department will be held Thursday, sponsored by the Southport Jaycees. The sign explains it: \$2.00 a plate, barbecue, slaw, sweet potatoes, hushpuppies, eat there or take home. "There" is the lot adjacent to the ABC Store on Howe Street, and helping promote the feed are Jaycees John Richards and Bill Coring, and Robert Howard and Harold Aldridge representing the fire department. The Jaycees hope to raise \$1,000 to fulfill a commitment to the fire department.

By New Long Beach Mayor

Residents Are Urged To 'Forget The Past'

Long Beach should "try to forget the past and look only to the future," Mayor Harold Crain said after taking his oath of office at the town board meeting Thursday night.

"Let us all get behind this administration, put our shoulders to the wheel and move this town happily forward," Mayor Crain declared. "Let us all adopt

positive, constructive attitudes instead of negative, destructive ones.

"And above all, let us employ a great deal of Christian forbearance and understanding toward others," he continued. "If we will all do this, things will get a great deal better and more enjoyable here."

Mayor Crain made his remarks after he and

Commissioners Carroll Adams and Bill Jones were given their oaths of office individually by District Judge Louis Sauls of Whiteville.

Town Attorney James Prevatte, Jr., who presided at the installation, said Town Manager John Berry invited Judge Sauls to install the new board members.

The new commissioners

took over after the old board approved the minutes of the last two meetings and conducted a public hearing on a change in the flood zone ordinance.

Mayor Crain presented retiring Mayor Ed Joyce a plaque containing a gavel for his services to the town during his years on the board. "Anytime I can help you, holler," Joyce said.

Retiring Commissioner Virginia Christenbury was presented her identification name plate. The other retiring commissioner, Don McNeill, was absent.

Mayor Crain said the commissioners "will do our very best to govern this Town of Long Beach honestly, fairly and, just as soon as some procedural and administrative matters are updated and corrected, with reasonable efficiency."

The mayor said the board members will be serving the people because "they are volunteers who are willing to step forward, become involved, stick their necks out and render this public service."

Mayor Crain said the board plans to "iron-out" problems involving tax records and accounting procedures.

He said that he knew that "a relatively few" tax bills have been mailed out that contain errors. Persons receiving the bills should contact Berry, he said.

The new mayor pointed out that the administration is working to provide board members with monthly financial statements showing the income and expenditures

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CP&L Assures Plant Is Needed

Charges last week by an attorney opposing Carolina Power and Light Company's request for increased rates, and his declaration that the Brunswick nuclear plant should not have been built, were refuted by Shearon Harris, CP&L president, during hearings conducted by the State Utilities Commission.

Attorney David Permar of the North Carolina Oil Jobbers Association charged, "If you had accurately estimated the demand for 1975, the Brunswick plant wouldn't have been needed this year. The plant wasn't needed when it came into operation."

Harris defended the decision to put the plant into operation, saying,

"The planning for the Brunswick nuclear plant took shape in 1965 and all of our studies have continued to confirm the judgment that the plant should be completed as early as possible. I appeared before the General Assembly committees in the spring of 1975 and pointed out at that time that if we were unable to raise the capital to complete the two Brunswick units as scheduled, substitute electricity from other sources would cost our consumers \$100 million per year during any period of delay."

Permar said that CP&L in 1973 projected that 5,783,000 kilowatt hours would be needed in 1975. But

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Right-Of-Way To Be Bought

The North Carolina Board of Transportation took another step to expand Highway 17 in northern Brunswick County during a meeting in Raleigh on Friday.

The board approved the acquisition of right-of-way land to make the highway four lanes from the Bell Swamp section just north of Winnabow to the new intersection just south of Leland.

Unemployment Is 4th Highest

Brunswick County has the fourth highest unemployment rate in North Carolina, reports David Holden of the Employment Security Commission office in Southport.

The "estimates" compiled by the Bureau of Employment Security Research, placed the unemployment rate in Brunswick County at 12.9 percent in October, the latest month the information is available.

The preliminary labor force estimates, which were released last week, show that Brunswick County has a total of 1,510 residents without jobs. The state agency estimates that 10,220 residents in the total work force of 11,730 hold jobs.

The research bureau

estimates showed that Brunswick County had the fourth highest unemployment rate in the state during October.

Robeson County had the highest unemployment rate at 15.2 percent while Pender County was second at 14.5 percent and Clay County third at 14.0. Jones County had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.2 percent.

Brunswick County's unemployment rate, which has dropped some is much higher than both the national and state averages.

The national unemployment rate dipped to 8.3 percent in November from the October rate of 8.6 percent. However, experts said the rate declined because

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Question For Board: Is Drug Dog Working?

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Has the Long Beach drug dog had any effect on the "prevalent" narcotics traffic in the Oak Island beach town?

Since no one could answer the question, Long Beach commissioners postponed action on a request made by Town Manager John Berry to sell the dog during the first regular meeting of the new board Thursday night.

Berry requested that the board approve a resolution to allow him to sell the dog "for a price no less than \$1,500."

Mayor Harold Crain said that the Long Beach Police Department had no one to "work" the dog since Officer George Reed resigned in late November.

"The dog is expensive to keep," Commissioner Russell Morrison told

the board. "The number of cases solved with the dog does not justify it."

Morrison pointed out that the trainer has to receive special schooling in Michigan to be able to use the dog. The town has to pay for the schooling in Michigan to be able to use the dog. The town has to pay for the schooling and the salary of the officer undergoing the special training.

Commissioner Carroll Adams asked if the dog was being used to the "full extent since marijuana is prevalent at Long Beach."

Commissioner Nancy Leggett said the board was told that the drug dog would help reduce narcotic traffic. "I don't understand the situation," she stated.

It was pointed out that the board spent \$1,800 to purchase the drug dog

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PARADE MARSHAL at Saturday's Shallotte Christmas Parade was Diane King, Miss Bicentennial for Brunswick County. She is a native of the Bolivia area.