

# The State Port

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Southport-Oak Island visitors guide

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Southport-Oak Island's most complete listing of available real estate properties



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Sunset washes the old Southport yacht basin and part of the snapper basin to become part of a waterfront walking route that will also feature the tidal lagoons along Bay Street as well as the western marsh.

Photo by Jim Harper

## Towns oppose county's ABC store proposal

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

Representatives of communities interested in retaining control over funds gained through ABC sales will meet with Rep. David Redwine today (Wednesday) to ask that a safeguard of these interests be made permanent.

Last year, Redwine was instrumental in obtaining a one-year ban on a county ABC store within seven miles of an existing facility, but a "sunset clause" makes that legislation expire in June.

Redwine said the issue provides the county a chance to "break new ground," but it also offers the chance of breaking financial hearts and political heads, because at stake are sizable sums of money.

Southport gained \$45,271 from local package-store sales in 1990-91; Long Beach received \$45,648 and Yaupon Beach gained \$28,313.

Establishment of county liquor stores in competition with in-town stores was made possible in a November, 1989, referendum when the county went "wet". Before then some municipalities had permitted sale of beer, wine and ardent spirits in various formats, but no sale was permit-

ted in county jurisdiction.

With majorities ranging from 52 to 58 percent, about 9,000 county voters approved each of four referendum questions, and early in December.

*'I find that when people are diametrically opposed on an issue, a lot of the time it's because of misinformation.'*

Rep. David Redwine

1989, beer and wine sales began in stores outside municipal limits.

Subsequently, the county opened a liquor store near Holden Beach, designed primarily as a supply center with some walk-in sales, but in February, 1991, the county board announced plans to open a retail store in River Run Shopping Center, at the intersection of N. C. 211 and Beach Road, and an outcry arose immediately.

See ABC proposal, page 5

Southport opposition, page 3

## Arrests made in crackdown

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

A months-long investigation into drug traffic in Southport led to a police swoop-down and arrests of 13 men at sunup last Thursday.

Police held warrants charging nine others and continued the roundup throughout the day for what Southport chief of police Robert Gray characterized as "street-level" offenses.

But chief Gray indicated that sights of his investigators might be set even higher.

"We don't stop just because we made some arrests," he said after a morning of supervising the initial pickups. "We've gotten a wealth of good, viable information to work on."

Twelve of the original 13 arrests were on cocaine charges, Gray said. The other was for sale of marijuana.

Southport police were assisted by sheriff's deputies and officers of the state alcohol law enforcement (ALE) division. Gray said the charges stemmed from evidence collected by

state undercover officers.

The arrests began at 6 a.m. Thursday, mainly in Southport locations. Assisting in supervision of the operation were sheriff John Carr Davis and

*'We don't stop just because we made some arrests. We've gotten a wealth of good, viable information to work on.'*

Bob Gray  
Police chief

Joe Briley, assistant supervisor of the Wilmington ALE district.

This was asked for last Halloween. See Crackdown, page 8

## No padding in school budget, members told

By Marybeth Bianchi  
Feature Editor

There's no "padding" in the \$8.2-million budget request the Brunswick County Board of Education approved Monday night, according to the school system's finance director.

"There's no padding at all in the budget," Rudi Fallon told the board. "In fact, we tried to eliminate where that's happening."

She explained that she tried to contain expenses because of the start-up costs associated with the new Supply Elementary School.

"I think it's a fair and reasonable budget," chairman Donna Baxter said after the meeting. "I know we'll have to compromise. I think there will be some places (county commissioners) are going to cut." However, she did say the budget will require that both the school system and county commissioners take a stand in order to prepare students to meet technological challenges ahead.

The budget is divided into two parts: Current expense and capital outlay. The current expense fund was increased by 8.88 percent to \$7.5 million, while the capital outlay budget rose nearly 17 percent. Overall, the 1992-93 budget is \$712,541 higher than the 1991-92 document.

However, that figure does not include a five-year, \$250,000 special appropriation for the lease/purchase

of classroom computers.

As she reviewed the budget with the board, Fallon discussed the increases and pointed out several areas where reductions were made.

A six-percent salary increase was budgeted for all employees, and teachers will get the last step of a scheduled supplement increase that was frozen the previous year. Non-certified personnel will get a supplement that is two percent of their salary, and coaches will get an increase in salary for longevity.

In addition, salaries for several new positions were figured into the budget, including some for Supply Elementary. Among these were 5.5 custodial positions, two clerical positions and a computer lab technician. Half the salary for a guidance counselor at Supply Elementary was included in the budget. The budget also includes three clerical workers for the high school guidance offices and two Reading Recovery teachers.

The board amended the budget presented to them Monday night to include a \$23,000 increase for full-time contracted security personnel at each high school. Fallon had budgeted \$32,000, but board member Polly Russ suggested an increase. "We've talked about this," she said. "If this is a positive move, why go for a little bit now?"

The vocational education budget was decreased by

See School Budget, page 8



BAXTER

### Baxter's DWI charge dropped

School board chairman Donna Baxter, charged with driving while impaired in Boiling Spring Lakes on March 16, was absolved of that offense by the district attorney Tuesday.

"After a full investigation and analysis of the blood sample taken from Donna Baxter, it is the decision of the district attorney's office that the driving while impaired charge against Donna Baxter will

See Baxter, page 8

Schools budget presented to commissioners today

## Yaupon sewer plan bogs down

By Jim Harper  
Staff Writer

Completion of the Yaupon Beach wastewater system, once foreseen for early this summer, appears perhaps a year away after reports from the supervising engineer Monday night.

Robert Graham of Boney and Associates told town commissioners the project is still mired in a permitting hassle -- a "turf battle" -- between state agencies, and said advertising for bids for the \$2.8-million project may be over a month away.

Given earlier estimates of up to a year for construction time, that could put completion of the project into summer 1993.

The sewerage project involves some 50,000 feet of sewer main, eight lift stations, 600 connector lines, and piping across the Elizabeth River marsh and under the Intracoastal

Waterway to a treatment site on Fish Factory Road.

It is at the Fish Factory Road site that the holdup occurs, Graham told commissioners Monday.

A question of whether treated wastewater may infiltrate adjacent property has led to a plan to trap that water and deposit it in a marsh along the nearby CP&L canal, Graham explained.

That plan has led to disagreement between the state divisions of environmental management and environmental health, which in turn holds up CAMA permitting by the division of coastal management.

"It's almost a turf battle between environmental health and environmental management," Graham told the group, "and hopefully reasonable men can work it out."

He said the directors of the two divisions will try to do that sometime this week to open way for final CAMA

*'It's almost a turf battle between environmental health and environmental management, and hopefully reasonable men can work it out.'*

Robert Graham

consideration, bid-letting and eventual start of construction.

Graham also told the commissioners that borrowed funds will not be available to place mains in "undeveloped" areas, and he pointed out some

proposed segments of the system that pass vacant lots as examples.

Discussion in the meeting indicated that the board might consider making the links using other financial arrangements.

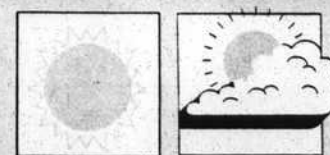
Mayor May Moore said the intention of the board, which voted to go ahead with the sewerage system in January, 1991, was "to build it out so we could be fair and assess all lots."

The board heard a report from Carroll Wooge, chairman of the town ABC board, on the status of a municipal-county standoff on construction of county liquor stores near existing facilities.

Wooge said a county store near Holden Beach "took 40 percent of the business out of the Shallotte store."

He said a proposed county ABC outlet in River Run Shopping Center would "kill the Boiling Spring Lakes. See Yaupon sewer, page 8

## OUTSIDE



### Forecast

The extended forecast for southeastern North Carolina during the Easter weekend calls for warm temperatures, with highs in the 75-80 range. Lows each night will be in the 50s, with variable cloudiness throughout the period.

### Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, APRIL 16	LOW
7:01 a.m.		12:55 a.m.
7:34 p.m.		1:06 p.m.
FRIDAY, APRIL 17		
7:49 a.m.		1:437 a.m.
8:22 p.m.		1:51 p.m.
SATURDAY, APRIL 18		
8:34 a.m.		2:31 a.m.
9:06 p.m.		2:34 p.m.
SUNDAY, APRIL 19		
9:20 a.m.		3:15 a.m.
9:50 p.m.		3:19 p.m.
MONDAY, APRIL 20		
10:05 a.m.		4:01 a.m.
10:34 p.m.		4:01 p.m.
TUESDAY, APRIL 21		
10:47 a.m.		4:44 a.m.
11:19 p.m.		4:45 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22		
11:34 a.m.		5:31 a.m.
--- p.m.		5:32 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made:  
Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Curlew Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.