



The State Port

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



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Founders Day this weekend

Southport history comes to life

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

Descendants of eight of Smithville's original lot owners are expected to be among the nearly 200 guests at this weekend's Founders Day celebration in Southport.

Organized by the Southport Historical Society and the Southport Bicentennial Committee, Founders Day will feature special events over a two-day period. A reception welcoming the descendants will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 30, at the Southport Community Building.

The program begins at 2 p.m. Eleanor Potter Smith, Bicentennial committee chairman, will give the welcoming address. Mayor Norman Holden will present the descendants with keys to the city. Bill Reeves, author of two *Chronologies of Southport*, will give a history of the city. Susie Carson, historical society member, will comment on the family histories. Joanne Wesson, director of Southport 2000, will offer her greetings and city manager Rob Hites will

take a look at the future of Southport.

The founders' descendants will be treated to a covered dish dinner prepared by members of the historical society, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Building.

Sunday's program will begin at 1 p.m. with a cookout. Afternoon entertainment at the Community Building will include performances by the

Brunswick Training School Choral Society, the Sea Notes Choral Society, the Harmony Five and the Brunswick Concert Band.

Throughout the weekend, the U. S. Coast Guard cutter *Diligence* will be docked at the waterfront and open for tours. Like others visiting Southport, the *Diligence* is a descendent of the revenue cutter *Diligence* that was

among the first cutters authorized by Congress in 1790. Its captain, John Brown, joined Joshua Potts, considered the founder of Smithville/Southport, in his effort to develop a city at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. The modern-day *Diligence* will be open for tours both Saturday and Sunday.

While the dinners are closed to the public, residents and visitors are invited to meet the descendants and participate in the other activities scheduled.

Let us gather at the river

The Southport Bicentennial Committee and Southport 2000 are asking all Southport citizens to meet at Waterfront Park this Sunday, May 31, at 2 p.m. for filming of a video to be presented to the All-American City selection committee.

The committee will meet in Charlotte to select the ten best cities nationwide, and Southport is among the 30 semifinalists.

"We want to let them know that the people of Southport are our greatest asset," said John Thompson, one of the organizers. "It is a chance to remind people of the nature of the event, Founders Day, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and stardom for Southport in our quest for All-American recognition."

Refreshments will be provided and a drawing for prizes will be held in conjunction with the event.

Filming delay

"Amos and Andrew" location manager Shawn Burney said the filming schedule originally reported has been changed due to the weather.

All Southport merchants will be notified in-person as soon as a definite schedule becomes available, he said.

Filming originally was scheduled to take place this Thursday and Friday and next Monday.

Towns opposed to ABC merger

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

A legal specialist with the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission has drafted a model of one way to consolidate all the municipal ABC boards with the Brunswick County ABC board, but municipal ABC board members aren't buying it.

"Consolidation wouldn't be of advantage to us at all," said Long Beach ABC board chairman Ben Thomas. "The county basically wants to come into a market we've already established and take something away."

A sense of mistrust has developed between county ABC board chairman John Ramsey and the municipal ABC board members, said Long

"The county basically wants to come into a market we've already established and take something away."

Ben Thomas

Beach ABC board member Rosetta Short.

"I think Ramsey just wants to build his own empire.... He hasn't been above board with us from the beginning," Short said. "And the (state) commission has been trying to get the

ABC boards to merge for ten years. To them it would just be a feather in their cap."

However, Ramsey said his main concern is establishing a fair situation for all residents of Brunswick County. The 23 percent of the population that lives in municipalities is benefiting the most from ABC store profits, he said, while the other 77 percent of the population gets nothing.

"We're not wanting to take the municipalities' money," said Ramsey. "If 77 percent of the population is happy with it and content to be dictated by 23 percent of the population, then we'll go ahead and get on with it."

The conflict between the county and municipal ABC boards surfaced last year when the county announced plans to establish an ABC store at River Run Shopping Center near Southport. Soon after that announcement, ABC boards from Southport, Long Beach, Yaupon Beach and Boiling Spring Lakes complained that a county store at that location would take much of the business away from the municipal ABC stores.

The towns asked Rep. David Redwine (D-Brunswick) for help, and in response he pushed a one-year ban on construction of any county store within a seven-mile radius of an existing ABC store. This legislation is scheduled to expire on June 30.

Redwine said he will be accepting proposals and solutions to resolve the situation until June 1, but he said if no one comes up with a viable solution he will have no choice but to re-extend the legislation.

While municipal ABC board members have remained resolutely opposed to consolidation of any kind, the county ABC board recently issued a formal announcement in favor of consolidation.

A consolidated ABC system would mean less money would be spent on administrative and warehousing fees, Ramsey said, and therefore more money could be spent on law enforcement to regulate the over 300 beer, wine and liquor outlets in the county. Currently, a sheriff's department detective has sole responsibility for in-

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Rose: Remember veterans, honor those who serve today

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

"Many Memorial Days are spent in solemn tribute to our lost family members, friends and comrades who have given so much in order to preserve our society. I hope you will also look at this day as a celebration to the bravery of all the men and women who have served and are serving in our Armed Forces today," Rep. Charlie Rose told a group of about 50 citizens and veterans who gathered at the Old Smithville Burying Ground in Southport Monday morning.

Disabled American Veterans Cape Fear Chapter 78 and its women's aux-



Southport resident Mary Wigfall sang the National Anthem during Monday morning's Memorial Day ceremony at the Old Smithville Burying Ground. Congressman Charlie Rose was guest speaker at the event, which was hosted by Cape Fear Chapter 78 of Disabled American Veterans.

iliary hosted the Memorial Day ceremony. The American flag was raised, Southport resident Mary Wigfall sang the National Anthem, and the auxiliary of Cape Fear DAV laid a wreath in front of the river pilot monument in remembrance of all who lost their lives in war.

The celebration of Memorial Day can be traced back to the days following the Civil War, Rose explained. Women's auxiliaries placed flowers on the graves of Confederate and Union soldiers alike, forgetting they had been enemies. Informal memorial services were conducted throughout the country until May 5, 1868, when Gen. John A. Logan, first com-

mander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued an order providing for a national observance to be held on May 30.

"On this day of remembrance, every citizen of this nation needs to know that those in the military can serve as a model institution where people have transcended their prejudices to forge a better nation," Rose said. "Race, color, creed or gender have their place in the military but they do not keep men and women from working toward a common goal, the preservation of our society."

As the relationship between the United States and the republics of the

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Sanitary district holds bond talks on Monday

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Residents in the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District will have an opportunity to speak out Monday evening on a proposed bond issue which is to be a key funding factor for sewerage in the district.

In a 7:30 p.m. session in the Moose Lodge on Beach Road, attorney James C. Prevatte and engineering consultant Finley Boney will help explain key elements of the wastewater treatment plan, from where, to when, to how.

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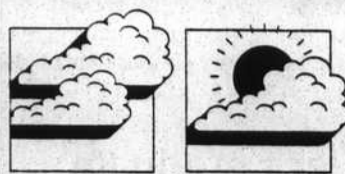
The bond referendum will be held June 28.

Anticipated revenues of \$1.2 million from the bond referendum will be combined with a \$2.4-million federal grant to fund the project. Bonds are to be retired with anticipated revenue from tap fees and user fees.

The initial service area, comprising most of the developed area in the

See Bond talks, page 3

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for mostly cloudy skies on Thursday with a high in the 70s. It gets clearer after that -- partly cloudy -- but highs through Sunday are expected only in the 70s still. Only in the 50s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MAY 28	LOW
4:24 a.m.		10:40 a.m.
4:56 p.m.		11:25 p.m.
HIGH	FRIDAY, MAY 29	LOW
5:15 a.m.		11:29 a.m.
5:47 p.m.		----- p.m.
HIGH	SATURDAY, MAY 30	LOW
6:06 a.m.		12:15 a.m.
6:34 p.m.		12:15 p.m.
HIGH	SUNDAY, MAY 31	LOW
6:55 a.m.		1:04 a.m.
7:24 p.m.		1:03 p.m.
HIGH	MONDAY, JUNE 1	LOW
7:47 a.m.		1:52 a.m.
8:12 p.m.		1:52 p.m.
HIGH	TUESDAY, JUNE 2	LOW
8:38 a.m.		2:39 a.m.
9:01 p.m.		2:41 p.m.
HIGH	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3	LOW
9:29 a.m.		3:28 a.m.
9:53 p.m.		3:30 p.m.

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

Top speller's 'fingers crossed'

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- For the past few weeks, Heather Heavener was almost too busy to study for the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee, but she says the bee is still "my biggest thing."

The Shallotte Middle School seventh grader is representing Brunswick County in the national contest this week in Washington, D. C. She is one of 227 students, ranging in age from nine to 15, from 47 states, Guam, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Department of Defense schools abroad.

Heather earned the honor of representing the county in April, when she outspelled 16 other students in the Brunswick County Spelling Bee, sponsored by The State Port Pilot and the Shallotte Junior Woman's Club.

Words in the first two rounds of the national bee, which are scheduled for Wednesday, are familiar to competitors, but beginning with round three the elimination begins.

So, if Heather knows the first two words she is given or can "just sound them

out" -- her trick to correct spelling -- then she should be able to make it through two rounds.

Last year, 165 of 227 spellers were remaining after three rounds and one day of competition.

However, the top spellers will begin to emerge from the masses when they are given random words from Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its addenda. Last year a total of 880 words were required to decide the championship.

In the nine years Brunswick County spellers have participated in the national bee, only one has made it to competition.

Heather and the other spellers spent the first two days of "Bee Week" getting to know each other and seeing the sites around Washington. On Monday afternoon they attended a barbecue dinner at Gunston Hall, home of George Mason, who is considered the father of the Bill of Rights.

Temperatures in the 50s and drizzling rain were a shock to Heather, who packed mostly shorts and short-sleeved tops. The cool weather is expected to

See Top spellers, page 6

Marybeth Bianchi, feature editor of *The State Port Pilot*, accompanied the Brunswick County winner to the national finals this week