

The State Port

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Southport, Oak Island's most complete
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County pens new chapter for library system

By Holly Edwards
and Marybeth Bianchi

Brunswick County library workers and volunteers are celebrating this week, and Brunswick County officials say they are creating a legacy.

Commissioners approved the 1992-93 budget Monday afternoon and awarded the newly formed Brunswick County library system nearly \$1.5 million, in addition to the \$250,000 originally proposed. They also decided to drop the tax rate from 68.5 cents to 68 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

"If we piecemeal the library system, it will take us ten years to have the system we need," said commissioner Gene Pinkerton, who made the \$1.5-million proposal. "This would give the people of Brunswick County what they have been asking for ... a state-of-the-art library system."

It's been difficult for library director Reecie Tate to contain her excitement about the increase in funding.

"Can you record a shriek of delight?" she said. "I've spent so many years pinching pennies, I won't know where to begin. It's better than Christmas. It's just unreal."

We could have reduced taxes by two pennies or build a library system. Why not seize the moment now?"

Gene Pinkerton

Tate said she had originally requested \$60,000 for the purchase of books, double what she had budgeted in the past. The \$200,000 suggested by commissioners for books and educational programs is a windfall.

"It will buy a lot of books," Tate said.

She said the increase in funding is due to "a tremendous team effort" which included the library board, Friends of the Library, Oak Island and Leland library boosters, the library staff, commissioners and the county manager.

"When you get all these people working for you, how can you lose?" she wondered.

Ann Hines, president of Oak Island Library Boosters, Inc., agreed. "I could just go on and on with accolades" for the many people who have been supporting the library.

"Thrilled, absolutely thrilled," by the news of the funding, Hines said she's looking forward to getting out of the fund-raising business as county funds are used to construct a library for Oak Island. Money has also been designated for construction of a library in Leland, for which Edith Tillman and others have raised about \$145,000.

"I am absolutely thrilled," said Tillie Sugg of Yaupon Beach, who has served eight years on the library board. "It's just something we dreamed of, having the county finance us in this way. I feel like our work has born some fruit because we certainly have had dreams like this."

Sugg said she believes a library is an essential part of a community that offers a good quality of life.

"We have a good library, but it is not adequate for the population," she said. See Library, page 6

Pittman leaves hospital post

Reception for administrator is held Friday

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

Dressed in a tuxedo and black leather Reeboks, Arthur Pittman spent his last day as administrator of Doshier Memorial Hospital serving lunch to his staff and accepting their best wishes in his new life.

Pittman handed his resignation to the hospital board of trustees May 19, giving them two-and-a-half weeks notice that he was leaving after nearly seven years on the job.

"I'm sad about the whole thing," trustee Ben Blake said Friday at a reception honoring Pittman. "I'm very appreciative of what he has done for this community and this hospital. He certainly was the right man at the right time. But nothing stays the same."

"You can see the growth of the hospital," trustee Bill Kirby said. "The finances of the hospital are vastly improved."

Kirby also credited Pittman for hiring competent department heads.

"He's been a proven leader and you can tell by the hospital. We've been fortunate to have had him as long as we've had. It's going to be hard to fill his shoes but we have to take a positive attitude," Kirby said.

In the search for a new administrator, Kirby said he'll be looking for some of the same traits Pittman has, such as strong leadership.



LuAnn Stiller, director of respiratory therapy at Doshier Memorial Hospital, and Joanna Zeron Pittman during a farewell party on Friday, of the hospital's business office, present a going-away present to hospital administrator Arthur Pittman's last day at work.

Photo by Marybeth Bianchi

"Arthur wasn't wishy-washy. He was real strong in his convictions and his beliefs," Kirby commented.

"I'm sorry to see him go," said Shirley Whitney, who has been a volunteer at the hospital for the past 12 years. "Since he's been here there are so many more doctors and equipment, some of which she pointed out has been paid for by the volunteers."

Pittman resigned as administrator to pursue another business interest unrelated to health care;

however, he declined saying exactly what he would be doing. Replacing him on an interim basis is Jim Shomaker, who has served for several years as director of finance at Doshier.

Pittman said his tenure at Doshier has been "the most professionally rewarding job I've ever had. It's just the best organization I've ever worked with. That's one of the things I enjoyed doing was making it work."

Watson said Pittman also promoted good public relations within the community.

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Yaupon balks at merger plan

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

A plan to continue talks about unified police services for Oak Island has gone aground over disagreement about what Yaupon Beach should pay for emergency medical services provided by Long Beach.

The Yaupon Beach town board Monday appropriated \$5,500 for those medical services for the coming year -- up from \$3,000 this year, but less than the \$6,556 amount requested in a letter from Long Beach mayor Joan Altman.

However, the sticking point is more than the obvious \$1,056 difference.

In discussion of the budget item, Yaupon Beach commissioners bridled at the Long Beach formula for arriving at the \$6,556 figure. And in subsequent consideration of an Altman proposal for a committee to discuss police department consolidation, the commissioners balked.

"At this time we want to put that on hold," said commissioner Dot Kelly.

"Why talk about police when we have difficulty talking about money for the rescue squad?" said mayor See Yaupon merger, page 5

'Why talk about police when we have difficulty talking about money for the rescue squad?'

May Moore

Tax rate stays at 33 cents, page 2

School board silent on personnel moves

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

Concern about the shifting of principals and administrative staff brought television crews and dozens of parents to the Brunswick County Board of Education meeting Monday night.

Word had crossed county lines last week of the New Hanover County Board of Education's decision to move 11 principals to different schools, a move that angered parents, teachers and students.

Under direct questioning from a Leland area parent after the meeting, board chairman Donna Baxter was reluctant to say anything about personnel changes. However, she did indicate there would be no action taken until the board completes its search for a new superintendent of schools.

"We feel the superintendent should be on board before we make any drastic changes," Baxter said, adding that the board can't make any decisions without a recommendation by the superintendent.

P. R. Hankins chuckled at that comment and said the decision rests with the board.

"I can't say what will happen. There's no way of knowing," Hankins said. See School board, page 5

N.C. Fourth of July

Top bands headline festival

By Ed Harper
Pilot Editor

A celebration worthy of Southport's 200th anniversary year has been planned by the N. C. Fourth of July Festival Committee.

The annual festival, North Carolina's official observance of Independence Day, will be held in Southport July 1-4, with Thursday, July 2, designated "Beach Day" with activities and entertainment on the Long Beach strand. The festival will feature an arts and crafts show with over 100 exhibitors, and will climax on the Fourth of July with the parade at mid-day and fireworks over the Cape Fear River at nightfall.

Featured entertainment during the festival will include the Band of Oz, North Tower and the Embers.

"It will be a good festival," said 1992 president Michael Reaves, "something that Southport can be proud of in this its 200th anniversary year."

The Bicentennial Fourth of July event begins on Wednesday evening, July 1, with a combination opening ceremony and community church service at Southport Baptist Church. Thursday is Beach Day, an opportunity for Southport to catch its breath before two eventful days and a chance for Oak Island visitors to share in some of the festivities without crossing the bridge. Activities at the 46th Street cabanas will include sandcastle

building and other games for children, volleyball and a surfing contest. (High tide will be about 10 a.m. that day, so events except for surfing will begin later in the morning.) The Band of Oz will be in concert late that afternoon in the field between the cabanas and the Town Hall complex.

On Friday in Southport the arts and crafts show will continue in Franklin Square to the accompaniment of variety entertainment at the gazebo, including the Shallotte Middle School Jazz Ensemble, cloggers and magicians. Children's events will be held on the Fort Johnston lawn overlooking the river, while a short distance away military exhibits will set up adjacent to Waterfront Park. Waterfront entertainment will begin at 1 p.m. and continued until 10 o'clock, topped off with a street dance featuring North Tower.

Saturday, July 4, will begin with the Freedom Run 10K race in the early morning, followed by the tradi-

See Fourth, page 5

Ferry hours extended

Motorists who use the ferry between Southport and Fort Fisher will get to leave earlier in the morning and arrive later at night because of new operating hours that began today.

"The new schedule is designed to give tourists and commuters more flexibility in planning their trips in the area," an announcement from the state Department of Transportation said.

The morning departures from Southport and Fort Fisher will begin two hours earlier, while the evening departures will be extended by a half-hour.

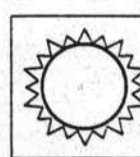
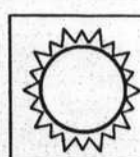
The new schedule will be evaluated for two months.

The new departure times from Southport and from Fort Fisher:

From Southport -- 6:00, 7:40, 8:30, 9:20, 10:10, 11:00 a.m.; 12:40, 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:50, and 6:30 p.m.

From Fort Fisher -- 6:50, 8:30, 9:20, 10:10, 11:00, 11:50 a.m.; 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:50, 5:40 and 7:20 p.m.

OUTSIDE



Forecast

Finally, good weather is forecast. The National Weather Service calls for fair skies through the weekend, with high temperatures in the mid-80s and lows in the 60s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JUNE 11	LOW
5:29 a.m.		11:38 a.m.
6:15 p.m.		----- p.m.
	FRIDAY, JUNE 12	
6:25 a.m.		12:27 a.m.
7:07 p.m.		1:30 p.m.
	SATURDAY, JUNE 13	
7:16 a.m.		1:16 a.m.
7:53 p.m.		1:16 p.m.
	SUNDAY, JUNE 14	
8:02 a.m.		2:04 a.m.
8:38 p.m.		2:02 p.m.
	MONDAY, JUNE 15	
8:48 a.m.		2:48 a.m.
9:20 p.m.		2:45 p.m.
	TUESDAY, JUNE 16	
9:29 a.m.		3:29 a.m.
9:58 p.m.		3:27 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17	
10:09 a.m.		4:10 a.m.
10:37 p.m.		4:06 p.m.

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