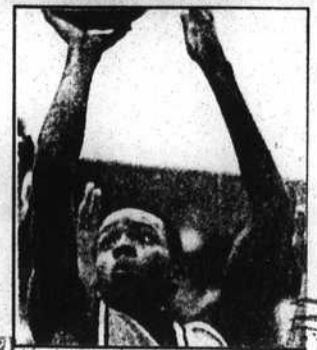


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Southport-Oak Island's most complete listing of available real estate properties



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Bald Head paves way for project

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The Bald Head village council Saturday approved a \$380,738 paving package that includes Federal Road, North Bald Head Wynd and the lighthouse approach road.

Both the chairman of the committee that put the package together and developer Kent Mitchell, on whose transfer of land titles the deal is contingent, agree that paving can be started in the spring and finished by Easter.

Thus after months of exasperation islanders will be getting a good paved roadway to Middle Island and east beach as well as the much-needed repaving of North Bald Head which the council had put on a front burner in August.

Mitchell, who will be getting paving of the Village Green (lighthouse approach) area that he much favors, said Saturday that "our basic target is completion by Easter" (April 1).

"I don't see why we can't do it," councilman Bill Watkins said Sunday. "The money is available. It depends on getting the deed to the land."

Watkins made that dependency perfectly clear in the Saturday meeting when he delivered his committee's report calling for "clear and unencumbered" deeds from Mitchell to lighthouse approach and Federal Road.

"What does 'unencumbered' mean?" Mitchell asked, and Watkins responded, "That you don't put a lot of bull in there."

Paving of North Bald Head Wynd had been approved by the council in August but was postponed in September because of a delay in cash flowing back to village coffers from

See Bald Head, page 3

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Photo by Jim Harper

Holiday evenings in Southport are brightened by home decorations and illuminated holly trees in the downtown shopping area, and highlighted by the pilot's tower on Bay Street.

County zoning gets no respect

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Many Brunswick County residents do not understand what the countywide zoning ordinance is intended to do, or what long-range effects it will have, planning director John Harvey told the board of commissioners Monday night.

Harvey said he receives 15 to 20 calls each day from people with questions about zoning. In some cases, he said, the level of misunderstanding is shocking.

"To give an example, this morning a woman called from Caswell Beach and said she'd been told by a prominent person that the county zoned the Baptist Assembly for high-rise hotels and shopping centers," he said. "I don't know how or where these mis-

'I don't know how or where these misleading rumors get started, but it almost seems someone is deliberately trying to create ill-will towards the zoning ordinance.'

John Harvey
Planning director

leading rumors get started, but it almost seems someone is deliberately trying to create ill-will towards the zoning ordinance."

To clear up the confusion, and answer the many questions being raised

by county citizens, commissioners agreed to hold a number of public workshops in which residents could talk directly with county planning officials. The planning board is expected to schedule the workshops at

its next meeting on January 20.

The zoning ordinance was approved on November 16 and will take effect on July 1, 1993.

"Since the effective date was deliberately set to coincide with the new fiscal year, we have time for fine-tuning of the ordinance," said Harvey.

Until the ordinance becomes effective, the planning board will hear petitions for zoning changes for a fee of \$100. Planning board members have called the fee a standard rate charged by most counties throughout the state.

Commissioners chairman Don Warren said he was concerned that many people did not understand that state law exempts bona fide farms from any zoning regulation.

"I think it would be good to have

See Zoning, page 3

Brunswick schools

Ten-year plan approved; how 'bout funding?

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Brunswick County commissioners this week narrowly approved a \$55-million, ten-year building plan for county schools that calls for completion of more than 50 construction projects -- including new classrooms and schools, a new central administrative office, improved lighting and ventilation systems and new gymnasiums and swimming pools at each high school.

Commissioners chairman Don Warren indicated that the plan is simply a look toward the future, and does not obligate the county to finance the building projects.

"(The plan) doesn't have a lot of substance if it's not backed up by funds," he said.

Warren voted with commissioner

'I'd like to make a commitment that the safety and health of our students will take priority over any central administration building.'

Ralph Johnston
School superintendent

Wayland Vereen against the building plan because he said new classrooms and improved ventilation systems should come before construction of a new office building.

"I think the children come first," he said. "We need to provide the best possible learning environment at every school before we think about building a new office building."

The plan calls for construction of a \$1.5-million central office building to begin next year. The county has set aside a four-acre site at the county government center for the office building and has given the school board \$300,000 to pay for drawing up the building plans.

To placate commissioners' concerns, school superintendent Ralph Johnston promised Monday night that ventilation improvements would be completed before construction of the central office begins. He also said state air quality specialists will begin

See School plan, page 3

'Pilot' closed

The State Port Pilot office will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of the Christmas holiday.

The office will reopen for business Monday at 8:30 a.m. Next week's newspaper will be published on Wednesday as usual and all advertising deadlines will be the same: Real estate, Monday noon; classifieds, Monday 3 p.m.; display advertising, Tuesday noon.

The staff of the Pilot wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season.

Free-roaming dogs at end of their rope

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

All free-ranging dogs in Brunswick County will be subject to arrest by animal control officers effective April 1, 1993.

Brunswick County commissioners approved a leash law Monday night that will allow animal control officers to confiscate all dogs found off their owners' property without a leash. Negligent dog owners would then have to pay \$15 to bail Rover out of the dog pound, as well as a fine of up to \$250.

The ordinance exempts hunting dogs if the owner has a valid hunting license, but only during hunting season and during hunting hours.

Commissioner Wayland Vereen voted against the leash law because he said he has received "numerous calls" from county residents who are against the ordinance.

"I'm just not satisfied with it," Vereen said. "And once you get a law on the

See Dogs, page 3

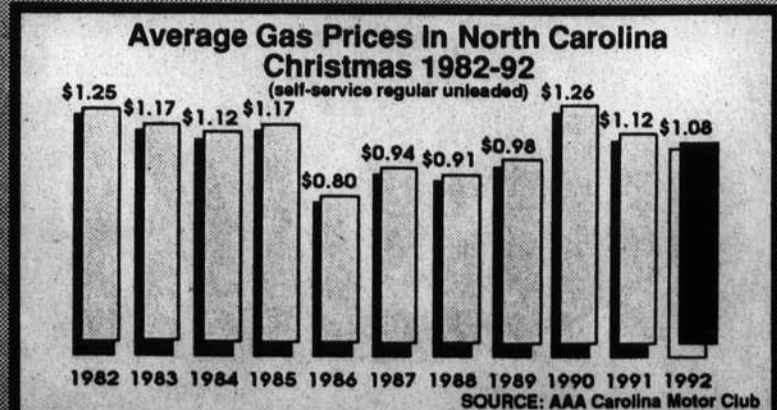
Gas prices may fuel travel plans

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

Holiday travelers are getting a present this Christmas season in the form of lower gas prices.

Southport-Oak Island area residents may want to gas up before they leave town as prices in southeastern North Carolina are among the lowest in the state. Locally, Go-Gas boasts of the lowest prices, charging \$0.969 for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline. Premium unleaded is \$1.089.

"Prices fall in December due to the fact oil companies are more interested in selling fuel oil," Go-Gas president Kit Aus-



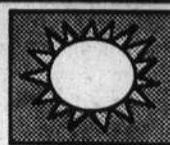
tin explained. Because gasoline is a by-product of oil refinement, there is usually a surplus of gas during the winter months. The op-

posite is true during the summer months, causing gas prices to rise. "We always seem to have a glut," Austin said, but he said prices may

be as low as they'll get this holiday season. "I think we've probably seen the bottom," he said.

Southport-Oak Island regular unleaded gas prices range from \$0.99 cents a gallon at Coastal Car Wash and Hand-Dee Hugo's on Beach Road, to \$1.07 at E-Z Way and the Pantry in Southport. A middle-of-the-road price of \$1.03 a gallon can be found at the Express Stop in Yaupon Beach and the Beach Pantry in Long Beach. Premium unleaded gas can be purchased for between \$1.13 a gallon at the Express Stop and \$1.299 at the Pantry.

OUTSIDE



Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24	LOW
8:06 a.m.		1:32 a.m.
8:14 p.m.		2:12 p.m.
HIGH	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25	LOW
8:47 a.m.		2:14 a.m.
8:53 p.m.		2:52 p.m.
HIGH	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26	LOW
9:24 a.m.		2:56 a.m.
9:33 p.m.		3:32 p.m.
HIGH	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27	LOW
10:01 a.m.		3:36 a.m.
10:13 p.m.		4:10 p.m.
HIGH	MONDAY, DECEMBER 28	LOW
10:36 a.m.		4:14 a.m.
10:52 p.m.		4:50 p.m.
HIGH	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29	LOW
11:14 a.m.		4:55 a.m.
11:32 p.m.		5:29 p.m.
HIGH	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30	LOW
11:53 a.m.		5:40 a.m.
12:00 p.m.		6:12 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.

Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies on Thursday with a high of 55 and a low of 35. Christmas Day, expect colder weather with a high of only 45 and a low of 30 degrees. Partly cloudy skies are forecast Saturday and Sunday, with highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s.