



Auditorium contractor in default

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

The construction of the Odell Williamson Auditorium has hit yet another snag.

At their meeting Thursday night, the Brunswick Community College Board of Trustees voted to declare the general contractor, Hatcher Construction Co. of Fayetteville, in default of its contract and directed the bonding company, ITT Hartford, to complete the \$3.2-million project.

Despite Joe Hatcher's contention that "we're the people who can give you the building the quickest and we are prepared to do that," the board, upon the recommendation of Boney Architects, decided someone else should take over the job that was originally scheduled for completion

'In spite of all our efforts, the contractor has once again failed to complete the project when he promised.'

Charles Boney

on October 24, 1992.

Hatcher had been given an extension to December 10, and in February was given 15 days to complete a list of specific items toward completion. While the trustees seemed pleased with the progress that was being made at that time, Hatcher failed to substantially complete the work for a final inspection on April 13, according to a letter submitted to the board by Boney Architects.

"In spite of all our efforts, the contractor has once again failed to complete the project when he promised," Charles Boney wrote in an April 13 letter to trustees.

Because of "the failure to diligently See Auditorium, page 6

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A great blue heron prepares to leave his perch in search of breakfast in an early Southport morning last week.

Photo by Jim Harper

Tie-in with Yaupon

Long Beach ponders sewer for developers

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

After hearing several complaints from town residents, including a recitation of the Declaration of Independence, the Long Beach Town Council decided Tuesday night to move forward with its negotiations with the Town of Yaupon Beach to extend sewer service to potential Long Beach developers.

Town manager Tim Johnson and council members Bill Easley and David Durr have met twice with Yaupon Beach engineering consultant Finley Boney, and have come up with a number of recommenda-

tions that would essentially hand all sewer-related costs to the developers. Council members agreed to discuss the proposal with the developers before making a final decision.

If the recommendations are approved, developers would be responsible for the design and development of sewer lines, they would be required to submit a bond equal to 115 percent of the total construction costs to cover any defects, and they would be required to pay a \$2,000 set-up charge, 125 percent of Yaupon Beach's current treatment costs, \$200 for each day of construction to cover the costs of a field in-

spector, and all federal, state and local permit fees.

"If the developers don't accept our recommendations, then we're back at ground zero," said council member Jeff Ensminger.

St. James By-the-Sea developers Jim Wright and John Atkinson attended the meeting, but would not say whether or not the recommended fees were reasonable.

"We don't want to say anything until we get it all worked out," Atkinson said. "We're just glad they're cooperating with us."

If the town council does not allow developers to hook onto the sewer

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Democrats in control but hard work urged

Roney Cheers new chairman for Brunswick

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Newly-elected Brunswick County Democratic Party chairman Roney W. Cheers Jr. told his fellow Democrats Saturday afternoon that above everything he wants to see his party unite locally in support of their common cause -- to keep Democrats in office.

"Right now, Democrats are to a great extent in control. But we can't get complacent," Cheers warned. "The very minute you think you've got it knocked, that's when you're heading downhill."

But, he added, when it comes to the residents of Brunswick County, his interest is in helping everyone, Democrats and Republicans alike.

"I'll be working for the betterment of all people in the county," he said. "But I'll need help. I can't do it alone."

Cheers has been a member of the Shallotte Board of Aldermen for ten years, and served as a justice of the peace for six years, a magistrate for 20 years and as mayor of Shallotte for 12 years. He beat out Vernon Ward and Billy Carter for the chairman's seat, which was previously held by Bill Stanley.

On the first vote among delegates See Democrats, page 6



The Brunswick County Democratic Party held its annual convention Saturday and elected Roney W. Cheers Jr. to replace Bill Stanley as the new party chairman. Cheers called for party members to set aside petty differences and unite in a common effort to keep Democrats in office.

County smoking lamp still lit

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A second vote is needed before commissioners can adopt an ordinance that prohibits smoking in county-owned buildings, including the government center at Bolivia.

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 Monday, with Donald Shaw voting no, to approve an amended version recommended by the board of health.

The health board also wanted to prohibit smoking in county-owned vehicles, but that section was deleted.

No action was taken on another ordinance aimed at restaurants and retail stores in unincorporated areas of the county. One adopted by commissioners would only be effective outside town limits, but the health board has authority to adopt rules to include the entire county.

"It would be leaving out the most important areas of the county, if people are really concerned about smoke," said commissioner Jerry Jones. "Most of the restaurants are within town limits."

The new version of the ordinance voted on Monday also lists penalties for violators, including disciplinary action

See Smoking, page 6

South Harbor seeking permits

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Developers are hoping to turn the old fish factory plant along the Intracoastal Waterway near Oak Island into fertile ground for a 240-acre marina and condominium complex.

South Harbor/Standard Products Inc. has applied for permits to proceed with its master plan, which includes 232 lots with single-family homes, 71 clustered condominium units, a 100-room motel and waterway restaurant, a marina with 119 wet slips and dry storage for 150 boats.

South Harbor spokesman Mark Ferrell of Yaupon Beach said there is no immediate time frame for development of the site that lies east of the Oak Island bridge. State officials will receive public comments on the application until May 4 and usually reach a

South Harbor has an agreement with the Town of Yaupon Beach to provide the development with sewer lines

decision within 60 to 75 days.

"We're not providing any additional information until we get further along," said Ferrell. "I think right now anything we bring forward would be speculative."

As required by law, the firm has applied for permits with the N. C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources to allow building in an Area of Environmental Concern covered by the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA). According to the plans, the marina would stretch 415 feet wide and 370 feet inland with two ingress and egress channels each 60 feet wide.

The channels would slope at depths of eight to ten feet to "promote water circulation and flushing," said Ed Brooks, field representative for the N. C. Division of Coastal Management office in Wilmington.

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OUTSIDE



Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, APRIL 22	LOW
9:02 a.m.		3:02 a.m.
9:16 p.m.		3:04 p.m.
FRIDAY, APRIL 23		
9:36 a.m.		3:40 a.m.
9:53 p.m.		3:42 p.m.
SATURDAY, APRIL 24		
10:12 a.m.		4:29 a.m.
10:30 p.m.		4:21 p.m.
SUNDAY, APRIL 25		
10:47 a.m.		4:59 a.m.
11:12 p.m.		4:59 p.m.
MONDAY, APRIL 26		
11:35 a.m.		5:42 a.m.
11:59 p.m.		5:46 p.m.
TUESDAY, APRIL 27		
---- a.m.		6:32 a.m.
12:27 p.m.		6:40 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28		
12:53 a.m.		7:24 a.m.
1:28 p.m.		7:40 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 Thursday and Friday but cooler temperatures, with highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. Warmer on Saturday, with a high in the 70s.