

The State Port

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



Septic use agreement is debated

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Local real estate agents say they will adopt a policy of their own if state officials fail to amend sewer rules for area beach homes.

At debate is whether homeowners and rental agents should be cited for exceeding occupancy limits of two persons per bedroom based on advertisements in rental brochures.

The two-per-bedroom limit is established by the "North Carolina Laws and Rules for Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems" for standard septic tanks.

However, the Brunswick County Health Department says a majority of homes along area beaches that do not have public sewer exceeds that capacity during the summer tourist season.

System overloading is blamed for groundwater contamination and pollution of estuarine waters and shellfish nursery areas.

Health officials planned to cite property owners. See Sewer, page 8

'... when you know that you have something permitted for one size and you have it advertised at greater than what that limit is, then you know we can't turn our heads and walk away and say, "No, we didn't see that."

Richard Rowe



Local movie-making was still booming last weekend as the crew of "Inkwell" shot a Fourth of July finale on Caswell Beach. The midnight pyrotechnics display, carefully monitored by both fire department and turtle patrol, was the most smashing conclusion filmed here to date.

Photo by Jim Harper

School funds to be decided by mediator

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

The dispute over funding of Brunswick County schools will soon be in the hands of a professional mediator.

The Brunswick County Board of Education voted 4-1 Monday night to ask the clerk of Superior Court, Diana Morgan, to arbitrate "the disputed amount appropriated by the Brunswick County commissioners" to the school system.

By Tuesday morning, Morgan had signed an order turning the budget dispute over to Superior Court, where chief judge William Gore, who was holding a session in Laurinburg, ordered the matter to professional mediator Andy Little of Chapel Hill.

That same mediator last week helped settle a similar dispute in Bladen County. In that case, the county agreed to give the school system additional funding by raising the property tax rate.

The Brunswick County hearing, which will be closed to the public, is

'Our solemn obligation is to pass on to our children a future that is brighter than was passed on to us.... They must look to us who have elected authority to do what's right.'

Bill Fairley
School board member

scheduled Tuesday, August 10.

At Monday's school board meeting, member Thurman Gause cast the sole vote against pursuing the matter, saying afterward that he thinks "it's a waste of time to pressure them." See Funds, page 6

Zoning change request affects proposed road

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A large tract the Pfizer Co. wants rezoned near Southport is in the path of a proposed four-lane extension of Long Beach Road.

But county planners say such future road plans are too far away to alter Pfizer's request.

The company wants to rezone 581 acres from residential (R-7500) to commercial just west of Doshier Cut-Off Road.

The Brunswick County Thoroughfare Plan adopted by the N. C. Department of Transportation in May, 1987, shows a boulevard connecting Long Beach Road to N. C. 133.

Pfizer's property has road frontage along three highways in this area -- N. C. 211, Doshier Cut-Off Road and N. C. 133. It has put the land up for sale.

Maps at the Brunswick County Planning Department show the proposed thoroughfare slices through the middle of this property and connects to N. C. 133 near Bethel Church Road.

DOT says the loop is needed to relieve traffic and congestion in the Southport-Oak Island community.

"I don't think it is a major concern until the state says this is where the road is going to be," said John Barbee, chairman of the Brunswick County Planning Board.

"I can remember years and years ago when people running for office would See Zoning, page 8

Auditorium may be ready at graduation

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

Work on the Odell Williamson Auditorium is expected to be finished just two days before Brunswick Community College is scheduled to hold graduation.

Architect Ken Phelps told the college board of trustees Wednesday he expects Hatcher Construction to complete the items found lacking in the pre-final punch list within the next two weeks. State Department of Com-

munity Colleges construction representatives will be on-site to inspect the building during the first week in August and point out any deficiencies, which Hatcher Construction will then be required to correct.

Phelps estimated that about 60 percent of the work left to be completed is cosmetic.

"There are no big jobs left to be done," he told trustees.

Brick for a section of the front steps, which is to be torn out because the tread doesn't match the other sec-

tions, has been ordered and is expected to arrive on time for the scheduled completion, Phelps said. Last month he reported the contractor had offered a \$544 credit if the steps could remain as they are, but chairman Dave Kelly said the board never received a formal proposal from the contractor.

The \$3.2-million auditorium had originally been scheduled for completion in October, 1992.

"Our goal is to be able to use the building for graduation on August 20," Phelps told trustees. The final

inspection should be completed by August 18, he said, adding that the contractor does understand the college wants the building completed inside and out before it will take occupancy.

"I think it can be done if the contractor puts the appropriate manpower on the job," Phelps said.

Kelly said the board's attorney had advised the college to wait until all work is done before it takes occupancy. If it's not ready for graduation See Auditorium, page 6



TOMLINSON

Tomlinson is CRC chairman

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Southport resident Eugene B. Tomlinson, appointed interim chairman of the Coastal Resources Commission in January, last week was named chairman of that group by Gov. Jim Hunt.

Tomlinson, a former Southport mayor, has served 15 years on the commission by virtue of his engineering training and career. His current term extends through June, 1996.

He said Monday that his announced January goal "to turn the perception of the commission around" is still top priority.

In January Tomlinson said, "We want to get away from the idea that we're an austere group making rules that tell people what they should not do. We should be a helpful as well as a rule-making organization."

On Monday he pointed out that a regular part of every CRC meeting now -- "first on the agenda" -- is public input.

"Members of the public can come and speak on any item they want to that is not already on the agenda," Tomlinson said. "That policy will continue."

He also pointed out that the subsequent agenda spot is for members of the 47-member Coastal Resources Advisory Committee to present matters of concern.

"Thus far they have used that period to make formal presentations on concerns they hear from the 20 coastal counties," he said. "They are our first line of liaison with the people."

"In New Bern last week we heard the director of development for Craven County talking about economic development in the coastal counties. See Chairman, page 8

OUTSIDE



Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JULY 29	LOW
5:08 a.m.		11:19 a.m.
5:57 p.m.		----- p.m.
	FRIDAY, JULY 30	
6:09 a.m.		12:09 a.m.
6:52 p.m.		12:13 p.m.
	SATURDAY, JULY 31	
7:02 a.m.		1:02 a.m.
7:40 p.m.		1:05 p.m.
	SUNDAY, AUGUST 1	
7:52 a.m.		1:48 a.m.
8:25 p.m.		1:53 p.m.
	MONDAY, AUGUST 2	
8:37 a.m.		2:30 a.m.
9:06 p.m.		2:35 p.m.
	TUESDAY, AUGUST 3	
9:18 a.m.		3:11 a.m.
9:44 p.m.		3:16 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4	
10:34 a.m.		4:25 a.m.
10:51 p.m.		4:36 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 Inlet, high -22, low -8.

Forecast

The extended forecast Thursday through Saturday calls for partly cloudy skies and scattered thunderstorms. Highs should range in the 90s, lows in the 70s.