



The State Port

PILOT

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



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Photo by Jim Harper

Developer Homer Wright (left) and Steve Barfield watch the advancing forest fire in the woodland development similar to St. James. On Tuesday he had west of St. James Plantation on Sunday. Wright, co-owner of the property, said it was projected for development similar to St. James. On Tuesday he had not been able to assess damage to his holdings.

Dosher begins plan for future

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

Unlike many rural hospitals in North Carolina, Doshier Memorial Hospital is financially sound. That's one reason why the N. C. Office of Rural Health wants to help the facility develop its long-range strategic business plan. "What we see is unique in many ways," Serge Dihoff told the planning committee at lunch Tuesday. There's a good working relationship between the hospital's board, administration and clinicians. "In some hospitals it's three different ball games, no one's working together and everything's falling apart," he observed.

By studying what's right about Doshier and designing a plan for the future, Dihoff and his associates expect to gain valuable information. "We thought in the process we could learn something to help other communities," he said. Doshier will also benefit from the process by saving thousands of dollars which private firms often charge for the expert consultation. The hospital expects to spend \$12,000, but three times that amount had been budgeted, administrator Edgar Haywood III had said earlier. The planning committee assisting the Office of Rural Health includes representatives of the hospital's administration, board of trustees and

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Blaze remains a threat

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

A forest fire thought twice to be under control jumped Highway 211 Tuesday afternoon and burned an additional 400 to 500 acres before a thunderstorm quelled the flame-driving southwest winds. The wind shift to the north and rain that fell gave N. C. Forest Service personnel a chance to plow new fire lanes through the night in preparation for more strong southwest

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'We're going to bring it up'

Budget action might be tardy

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Did the school board wait too late to ask for more money? According to state law, it may have. But county officials won't rely on that issue alone as a defense when the dispute heads to mediation Tuesday. "We're going to bring it up," said county attorney Michael Ramos. The July 23 joint meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and the Brunswick County Board of Education should have taken place weeks earlier. According to state statutes, if the county appropriation is found insuffi-

County would have preferred school bond, page 9

cient the appeal should come as early as possible to minimize any upheaval of the county's budget. The first step is to request a joint meeting of the two boards, which must occur within seven days after commissioners decide on an amount of school funding. Commissioners adopted the county budget June 21 and awarded the same amount as recommended in the draft proposed May 15, a five-percent in-

crease. The school board voted to ask for more money on July 12, three weeks after the budget was adopted. "The mediator won't decide on this issue," said Ramos. "He'll just try to get the two parties together and reach an agreement." If no agreement is reached, the school board can appeal the case to Brunswick County Superior Court at the next session, August 16. By law, all other cases on the court docket that week must be placed on hold until the funding dispute is settled. The case may be tried before a judge or jury. Judge Orlando Hudson is scheduled to hear the August 16 See School, page 9

Shareholders pay \$25 million

CP&L claim reduced by public staff review

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The N. C. Utilities Commission public staff last week forced Carolina Power and Light Co. to abandon a request to have customers pay \$25.5 million of the expense of the Brunswick nuclear plant shutdown that began in April, 1992. Unit 2 of the plant resumed power production in May, and CP&L plans to put Unit 1 back in production in November. Since last summer the company has purchased electricity outside its system to make up for the lost Brunswick production, and had requested permission to have its 865,000 customers pick up \$31.2 million in excess fuel charges. CP&L had said last summer it would do just that. Instead, last Thursday the company said it would not raise rates to recover \$25.5 million of the \$31.2-million tab, and entered into an agreement with the state agency that will permit recovery of \$5.7 million in fuel expenses only if certain performance standards are met at Brunswick. Simultaneously the commission's public staff released a summary of an 850-page report which faulted CP&L for mismanagement leading to the

'Ultimately, inadequate management communications resulted in a situation where the approval of temporary repairs suggested to employees that plant availability was more important than plant reliability.'

Public staff report

shutdown. The fault-finding and requirement that the \$25.5 million be paid by company shareholders is the second such official determination and penalty which CP&L has sustained because

of the shutdown. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission in February noted that the condition that initiated the shutdown -- construction deficiencies in diesel generator building walls -- had been known to CP&L for five years before corrections were started, and fined the power company a whopping (by NRC standards) \$225,000 for the mismanagement. A company spokesman said last Thursday that the \$25.5-million decision by CP&L would cost stockholders ten cents in earnings per share in the third quarter. Much of the information used in the public staff summary originated with the NRC, which closely watches nuclear power operations and maintains a staff at the Brunswick site. The summary said, "The extended outage at Brunswick can be attributed primarily to management for allowing the plant to reach such a degraded condition. The situation has direct costs, such as the replacement power CP&L had to purchase while Brunswick was down, and tremendous indirect costs..." "An accurate quantification of all the costs associated with problems at Brunswick is virtually impossible. See CP&L, page 6

Promised lawsuit is filed

Blacks want majority district

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A group of black citizens has asked a federal judge to halt all Brunswick County elections until residency district lines can be redrawn. They want the lines shifted so blacks will make up a majority of voters in at least one district. Brunswick County Board of Education member Thurman Gause and former county commissioner Willie Sloan are among the men who filed suit in U. S. District Court in Wilmington on Friday. Gause was elected to the school board in November. Other complainants are John R. Frink, Henry J. Bryant, Edward Thomas, Roscoe Butler and Willie Fullwood.

The complaint claims current residency districts dilute minority voting strength and deny the black community "an opportunity equal to that of white citizens to elect representatives of their choice." The present system violates the Voting Rights Act of 1965, it claims. County residents elect five members to the school board and commission every two years. Although candidates represent a certain district and must live within those boundaries, they are chosen in an at-large election by the entire population in both a May primary and November general election. The group's attorney, James J. Wall of Legal Services of the Lower Cape Fear, is asking judge William Dupree for a permanent injunction to prevent the county from holding further county elec

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OUTSIDE



Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, AUGUST 5	LOW
10:34 a.m.		5:02 a.m.
11:26 p.m.		5:15 p.m.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 6		
11:10 a.m.		5:02 a.m.
11:26 p.m.		5:15 p.m.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 7		
11:47 a.m.		5:39 a.m.
11:58 p.m.		5:55 p.m.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 8		
----- a.m.		6:17 a.m.
12:27 p.m.		6:40 p.m.
MONDAY, AUGUST 9		
12:35 a.m.		6:59 a.m.
1:12 p.m.		7:28 p.m.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10		
1:19 a.m.		7:45 a.m.
2:05 p.m.		8:27 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11		
2:13 a.m.		8:40 a.m.
3:03 p.m.		9:31 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 calls for partly cloudy skies Thursday and Friday with highs between 90 and 95 and lows in the 70s. Mostly sunny skies are expected Saturday with high temperatures near 90 degrees.