

# The State Port

# PILLOW

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



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## Long Beach may purchase tract of land

By Holly Edwards  
Municipal Editor

Following an executive session Tuesday night, the Long Beach Town Council called for a special meeting to authorize the mayor, town clerk and town manager to enter into contract for the purchase of land for the town's "long-range infrastructure needs".

The meeting will be held Tuesday, August 24, at 7 p.m. in the recreation center.

The contract is said to involve the purchase of about 100 acres of land owned by International Paper Company located on the north side of the Intracoastal Waterway. The town is said to be purchasing the land for potential future use as a sewage treatment plant site.

Town officials would not comment on the proposed land acquisition Tuesday because they said they feared it would damage the contract negotiations, which are still in progress. The price of the land has not yet been set, as well as a number of other details, said council member David Durr.

Mayor Joan Altman indicated that the price and all of the contractual details will be ready for settlement by Tuesday, and that more information would be available at that time. The town reportedly intends to spend approximately \$180,000 for the land, but the final cost will depend upon results of the land survey.

In other business discussed by the Long Beach Town Council Tuesday:

•Carlton (Gene) Frazier, Joseph Edwards and Horace Duncan were appointed to the planning board, and Donald Meyers and Donald McNeill were appointed to the board of adjustments.

•A public information meeting on the proposed land use plan update was scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. See Long Beach, page 6

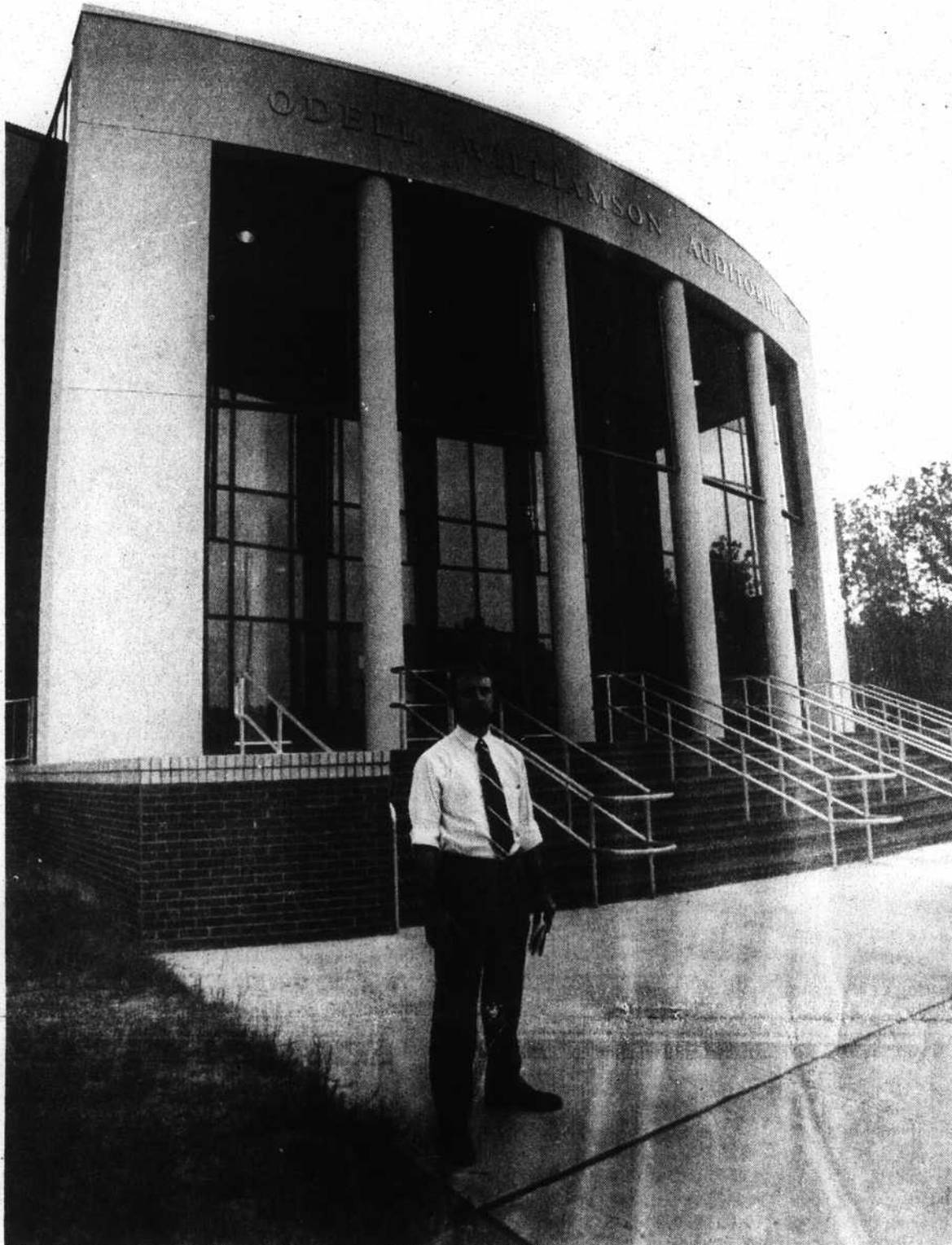


Photo by Jim Harper

Manager Mike Sapp stands before the Odell Williamson Auditorium at Brunswick Community College which will be used for Friday's graduation ceremonies. Construction is not yet complete, but the college trustees agreed last week to take possession of the building for two days to hold graduation exercises. It will then be turned back over to Hatcher Construction for completion, which originally had been scheduled for October, 1992.

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## Board tightens 'purse strings' on school fund

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Action taken by county officials Monday places tighter control over the funds spent to make repairs at schools.

Such expenditures were loosely accounted for in the past, but the political fallout from last week's budget mediation prompted county commissioners to watch the wallet more closely.

Don Warren, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, said county employees who perform work at the schools don't always document the expense.

Often the small projects are done to help out a neighbor.

County officials now want work orders submitted for every job, to show actual costs and a running total of money spent for education.

"Now, they will have to pay for it," said Warren, whose motion passed unanimously.

It was one of two motions approved as a measure to tighten the reins on school spending and to determine just how much tax money is spent on county schools.

Commissioners believe some expenses the county incurs to keep schools operating and to get high school athletic fields ready for games are lost in the budgets.

A resolution approved Monday also prevents the school board from increasing or decreasing any county-funded line item by more than ten percent without prior approval of commissioners. State law gives counties authority to place clamps on school budget transfers or amendments from ten to 25 percent.

Following a marathon 14-hour mediation process last Tuesday, commissioners and school officials reached an out-of-court settlement that will provide up to \$865,000 this fiscal year for a new elementary school in the Leland area. That money will come from the county's fund balance with no tax increase expected.

Also, \$556,672 was transferred within the school budget to current expenses. The Category II and Category III funds are normally used for school supplies and transportation.

The Brunswick County Board of Education had asked for \$4.2 million to build the school and an additional

See Fund, page 6

## School officials say session a learning experience for some

By Marybeth Bianchi  
Feature Editor

After the effects of last week's marathon session between the Brunswick County Board of Education and the county board of commissioners had worn off, school officials said they were pleased that lines of communication had been opened.

"What I'm hearing across the county is, 'We're pleased the two boards were able to come together,'" Supt. Ralph Johnston said. "The biggest thing that emerged ... I think these boards demonstrated we're building trust."

School and county leaders met for 14 hours last week to hammer out a funding compromise. The school system had requested more money than the county was willing to give. But after hours of negotiation, they worked out a solution: the county would allocate funds to buy land and plan for construction of a Leland area elementary school, and the school system would transfer money budgeted for equipment and vehicles to current

expense where it will be used for pay for instruction and support programs.

In addition the two boards agreed they, as well as county and school See Session, page 6

## City trying to clear-up water problem Old pump in Franklin Square could be source

By Holly Edwards  
Municipal Editor

Southport's oldest and most heavily used well will be overhauled during the next two weeks in an attempt by city officials to solve a recurring water problem for some city residents -- sand- and silt-ridden tap water.

City manager Rob Gandy told the board of aldermen Thursday night that the estimated cost of having the Franklin Square Park well cleaned and putting in a screen to filter out contaminants would be about \$12,500.

The contractor hired to perform these tasks, Skipper Well Drilling of Leland, is expected to install the stainless steel screen this week and clean the well next week. The well should then be back in service later this month, said public services director Ed Honeycutt.

The Franklin Square Park well was built in 1957, when screens were not a requirement. The Leonard Street well also does not have a screen, Honeycutt said, but it is newer and not as heavily used as the Franklin Square Park well. However, he added that

someday it too will need to have a screen installed.

The screen will be placed between the water source and the pump to filter out sand and rock. Gandy said he hopes the screen will also extend the life of the well and the pump by decreasing the amount of water flow through them.

In the past, the well has pumped an average of 350 gallons per minute, Gandy said, while the other wells pumped about 250 gallons per minute. He said he believes the larger amount of water pressure has been one of the

reasons the Franklin Square Park well has been a problem.

The county is providing the city with water during peak hours of demand while the well is out of service.

Gandy said he hopes screening the well will solve most of the water problems in the downtown area, but conceded that the well is not the only cause of water problems in Southport. Honeycutt explained that minerals found in the water source can cause a rotten-egg smell and discoloration in tap water that spends too much time in

See Water, page 6

## Town official blames fishery

# Dead menhaden wash ashore

By Holly Edwards  
Municipal Editor

About 45,000 menhaden washed ashore in Long Beach Friday between the 1600 block of East Beach Drive and 58th Street SE, ten days after an estimated 2,000 menhaden washed ashore on the west end of the strand.

Town manager Tim Johnson said he intends to send a \$1,300 bill to Beaufort Fisheries, the company that owns the menhaden boats operating in the area on both occasions, to compensate the town for its costs of burying the fish.

However, Beaufort Fisheries president and manager Jule Wheatly said his company is not responsible for the fish kill, and has not received any reports of broken nets. He also said that when menhaden boats have a fish spill, the dead fish are "knee-deep" on shore.

"All I can tell you is if it was us we would have had it all cleaned up by now," Wheatly said. "We get blamed for every damned thing that happens, even when we aren't there."

N. C. Marine Fisheries representative Pete Rivenbark said this week that water tests in the area have shown no indication of an algae bloom, and he has therefore ruled out the possibility of something in the water killing the fish. The only possible cause of the problem is therefore some sort of fishing vessel, he said, but unless someone witnesses the spill there is not much marine fisheries can do.

"Right now we have no idea how it happened," Rivenbark said. "It's just one of those things."

Johnson expressed frustration at the marine fisheries' lack of action, and at Wheatly's unwillingness to admit responsibility for

See Menhaden, page 6

OUTSIDE



## Tide table

| HIGH                 | THURSDAY, AUGUST 19 | LOW       |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 9:51 a.m.            |                     | 3:38 a.m. |
| 10:09 p.m.           |                     | 3:59 p.m. |
| FRIDAY, AUGUST 20    |                     |           |
| 10:44 a.m.           |                     | 4:24 a.m. |
| 11:39 p.m.           |                     | 4:51 p.m. |
| SATURDAY, AUGUST 21  |                     |           |
| 11:39 a.m.           |                     | 5:13 a.m. |
| 11:51 p.m.           |                     | 5:44 p.m. |
| SUNDAY, AUGUST 22    |                     |           |
| ----- a.m.           |                     | 6:03 a.m. |
| 12:34 p.m.           |                     | 6:42 p.m. |
| MONDAY, AUGUST 23    |                     |           |
| 12:45 a.m.           |                     | 6:56 a.m. |
| 1:35 p.m.            |                     | 7:41 p.m. |
| TUESDAY, AUGUST 24   |                     |           |
| 1:45 a.m.            |                     | 7:54 a.m. |
| 2:36 p.m.            |                     | 8:45 p.m. |
| WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25 |                     |           |
| 2:48 a.m.            |                     | 8:57 a.m. |
| 3:40 p.m.            |                     | 9:50 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 with a chance of thunderstorms. Highs will be in the lower 90s, lows in the 70s.