

# The State Port

# PILOT

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



## Sheriff's race main attraction

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Of the first seven who filed for political office Monday, four entered the race for sheriff.

"I don't think this many has ever filed for sheriff on the first day," said Lynda Britt, Brunswick County Board of Elections supervisor.

Two sheriff's department employees, a State Highway Patrol trooper and a Long Beach police sergeant lined up before high noon to officially file for sheriff.

The 1990 Republican nominee, James Brown of Southport, also reentered the race on Monday.

Sheriff John Carr Davis plans to retire at the end of his term.

The big showdown falls on May 3, when each will try to capture 40 percent of the vote in the primary to avoid a runoff. The winner will serve four years with an annual base salary of \$53,200.

Ronald Hewett of the Holden Beach community had vowed to become the first person to file. The Democrat did so Monday.

He shook hands with a fellow employee, chief deputy John W. Marlow of Calabash, who was the second candidate to file for sheriff.

Hewett is the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program coordinator and joined the department in July, 1983.

"We must have leadership in the sheriff's office," said Hewett, "that is both progressive and responsive to the needs of our citizens. Our drug problem, a crime within itself, is clearly the root of so many other crimes."

The order that one files for office has no weight on the official ballot.

"They will be alphabetically listed, regardless," said Ms. Britt. "There may be other advantages of getting here early."

Such as press coverage. Television cameras and reporters gathered to observe the usual first-day rush.

Marlow, a Democrat, joined the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department in September, 1977. He worked his way up the ladder as deputy, detective and as chief of deputies, a position he has held for ten years.

He is second in command and the department head in the absence of the sheriff.

His focus is also on drug abuse prevention with another twist.

"We must also educate the parents," he told reporters, "and work with senior citizens."

Bill Sisk of Long Beach ran as a Republican in the 1990 race but will enter as a Democrat this time.

He has 32 years of experience as an officer and is a sergeant with the Long Beach Police Department.

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## PARTIAL POST



Members of a newly organized post office committee hope to get enough local support to convince federal postal officials that a full-service post office, rather than contracted postal service, is needed on Oak Island.

### Petition drive underway

## Postal patrons want a stamp of approval

By Holly Edwards  
Municipal Editor

The effort to obtain federal support for a full-service post office on Oak Island is picking up steam, with petitions filling up at local businesses and postal committee members poised to begin a letter-writing campaign to federal postal officials and government representatives.

Long Beach mayor Joan Altman said she has contacted Leo Mercer, Gov. Jim Hunt's eastern representative, and Rep. Charlie Rose's office to invite them to meet with the postal committee later this month and explain the process involved in acquiring a first-class post office.

The committee will review the petitions and prepare for the letter-writing campaign at its next meeting Monday, January 10, at 5 p.m. at the Yaupon Beach Town Hall. Members of the public are invited to attend.

"We want to have our ducks in a row so we can present to them the support we've gotten, and let them know we're serious," said committee member Susan Warren. "The only thing the representatives will understand is sheer

*'Even if they don't live here, even if they live out-of-state and own a home here, if they let their representatives in Washington know their concerns, then they might ask our local representatives, "Why are my constituents having a problem in your area?"'*

Susan Warren  
Committee member

volume of effort." Altman indicated that the petitions she has seen so far list several pages of names, and that

See Postal, page 6

## Board votes 3-2

# County bans area mining; lawsuit likely

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Chairman Don Warren asked for an unanimous vote, but mining opponents settled for a slim 3-2 majority Tuesday on a move to ban mining north of Southport.

The county ordinance adopted on second reading by Brunswick County commissioners immediately prohibits the use of explosives and dewatering within five miles of the Carolina Power and Light Co. Brunswick nuclear plant and the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point ammunitions seaport.

Martin Marietta Aggregates has applied for state mining permits to open a rock quarry on a 1,000-acre tract in that area. Company officials have threatened to sue the county.

"If it hadn't been for the lawsuit, I'd been with them," said District 5 commissioner Donald Shaw.

He and commissioner Jerry Jones voted no, as they did at a special meeting last Wednesday to force a second reading.

"I know we don't need it there because of explosives and sinkholes," said Shaw. "But if \$2 million comes out of the taxpayers' pockets, that's a lot of money."

Members of the Brunswick Mining Awareness Committee and others gave the board a standing ovation following the vote.

Shaw said he heard from two or three sources the county has a \$1-

million ceiling on its insurance policy to pay for damages. Martin Marietta claims it has already invested up to \$2 million preparing and testing the quarry site.

"That's what I'm afraid of," said Shaw. "This would be a \$2- or \$3-million lawsuit."

With Charter House Inc. of North Carolina, the county and the board of commissioners are covered under general liability insurance, and an attorney would be assigned by the firm.

It also provides coverage for individual commissioners with no limit on attorney fees to defend a suit. However, it does have a ceiling on

See County bans, page 12

## Lakes board is 'repaid' for \$200 donation

By Holly Edwards  
Municipal Editor

Opposition to last month's decision by the Boiling Spring Lakes Board of Commissioners to donate \$200 of city funds set aside for charity to the Brunswick Mining Awareness Committee led a group of city residents on a fund-raising drive to repay the city and quell the controversy.

Resident Tommy Prince presented the board with \$200 Tuesday night

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## Strand survives high winds, tides

The Long Beach strand survived this week's high winds and high tides virtually unscathed, with the exception of the area between 43rd and 58th streets SE, said public works director Charles Derrick.

The town spent about \$6,000 last month to bulldoze sand between 10th Place West and 58th Street SE, and Derrick indicated that most of that work remains intact.

"So far, so good," he said. "It seems like the majority of the beach did

well. We apparently had a lot of sand build-up over the past two days, and that's encouraging."

However, Derrick added that a section of the beach between 43rd and 58th streets SE, near the middle of Oak Island, apparently did not benefit from sand build-up and therefore fared worse during the storm.

"It seems like the west end is looking good, the east end does okay, but

See Winds, page 6

## Channel switching starts Monday

# Stay tuned for cable changes

By Marybeth Bianchi  
Feature Editor

Your favorite television stations won't be in their old familiar places next Monday.

Vision Cable is rearranging the channels to make the service more "customer friendly," the company's general manager said this week.

This latest change facing cable television customers is the result of new regulations mandated by the Federal Communications Commission in September. And, it should be the last change.

"This is just our final step in complying with all the FCC guidelines for re-regulation, as well as making our services as customer friendly as possible," said Bill Greene.

One reason for the change is to eliminate "basic service" customers' need for a converter box, Greene explained.

In the past, Vision Cable provided converter boxes at no cost to the customer, but Greene said, "The FCC won't let us do that."

The company must now charge customers for converter boxes: 71 cents a month for non-remote control models and \$1.31 for those with a remote control.

Also, as a result of the realignment, cable customers who subscribe to the "basic service" package will find the nine broadcast stations available to them grouped together from channels 2 to 12.

With the change, the four-channel "superstation" package will also be available without having to rent a converter box, Greene said, as long as the customer has a cable-ready television set. The stations will also be

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## OUTSIDE



### Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JANUARY 6	LOW
2:36 a.m.		8:51 a.m.
2:48 p.m.		9:07 p.m.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 7		
3:41 a.m.		9:57 a.m.
3:54 p.m.		10:09 p.m.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 8		
4:44 a.m.		10:58 a.m.
4:57 p.m.		11:08 p.m.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9		
5:43 a.m.		11:54 a.m.
5:55 p.m.		12:19 p.m.
MONDAY, JANUARY 10		
6:37 a.m.		12:03 a.m.
6:50 p.m.		12:46 p.m.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11		
7:28 a.m.		12:54 a.m.
7:40 p.m.		1:34 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12		
8:14 a.m.		1:42 a.m.
8:26 p.m.		2:19 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 forecast for Thursday through Saturday calls for mostly cloudy skies, with rain likely on Friday. Highs are expected to be in the 50s, with nighttime lows in the 30s.