

Our Town

Second graders take a look at the gypsy moth problem and offer solutions.

Neighbors

Emergency responders will be trained before the first spent fuel rods roll out of Sunny Point.

The State Port

PILOT

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Sports

South Brunswick is still in the hunt for a baseball playoff spot.

Tire project is rolling to a finish

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Five local shrimpers under contract to trawl for tires dislodged from the Yaupon Beach artificial fishing reef are expected to finish the project late this week, said Division of Marine Fisheries resource enhancement supervisor Mike Marshall.

The shrimpers began trawling last Monday, and Marshall estimated that by the end of this week 10,000 tires will have been brought ashore.

Last year, he said 4,500 tires were collected by trawlers and 10,500 tires were removed from Oak Island beaches. Totals are not yet available for this year.

Marine fisheries has spent a total of \$75,000 on trawling to date.

While this may sound like a lot of tires, and a lot of money, Marshall noted that no one really knows for sure how many tires are remaining in the water because the records describing the construction of the reef do not specify the number of tires used. However, he guessed that at least 100,000 tires were placed in the reef when it was built in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Marshall said marine fisheries has requested the General Assembly to consider a \$200,000 special appropriation to fund collection of all of the remaining tires. He added that he hoped the legislators would consider the request during their short session this month.

If approved, Marshall said his agency would hire a commercial salvor to collect all of the tires remaining in the reef, in addition to as many dislodged tires as possible.

Local commercial fisherman William Hickman has suggested to marine fisheries that it consider asking the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to place large pieces of rock generated by its upcoming dredging project on top of the reef to prevent any more tires from being dislodged.

The corps is planning to begin the dredging project in this area in August to make sure the shipping channel is at least 40 feet deep, Marshall explained.

He said Hickman's idea was good one. See Project, page 6



Photo by Jim Harper

"I didn't know when we put the tires down there I'd be back 20 years later pulling them out," said Davie Guthrie, captain of the N.C. Marine Fisheries vessel *Long Bay*, and one of the men who helped build the Yaupon Beach artificial fishing reef. Five

local shrimpers are collecting tires dislodged from the reef, and the *Long Bay* then transports them ashore. The trawling project is expected to net about 10,000 tires by the end of the week.

Bald Head democracy approved

By Holly Edwards
Municipal editor

Nearly all of the registered voters on Bald Head Island went to the polls Tuesday, and a solid majority voted in favor of changing the island government from a property-owner-appointed village council to one of islanders elected by island residents.

The final results of the referendum were 72 in favor and 33 against. Of the 119 island residents registered to vote, 105 went to the polls.

Village manager Wallace Martin called the voter turn-out "phenomenal."

"I think it shows a lot of participation and a lot of interest," he said.

While the village council is not legally bound to change the current form of government, council member Bill Leineweber said it was just matter of time before democracy came to Bald Head Island.

"Anybody can file a lawsuit in petition, but they'll shoot themselves in the other foot if they do," declared Leineweber. "The council needs to be elected."

Leineweber introduced a petition in February calling for the referendum, and property owners who are not residents immediately complained they were being betrayed.

Since the island was chartered in 1985, the property-owner's Bald Head Association board, was empowered to appoint three council members and the community's primary developer, Kent Mitchell, was permitted to name two.

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Full voting results Page 3

Soles tops Taylor 3-2

By Terry Pope
County editor

Voters of the 18th Senatorial District re-elected R. C. Soles Jr. of Tabor City on Tuesday by a 3-to-2 margin.

The longtime state legislator held off a challenge from Ron Taylor of Elizabethtown in the Democratic primary, 15,490 to 10,090.

The results are unofficial pending a canvass of votes on Thursday.

Brunswick County Democrats sided with Soles, deputy president pro-tem in the Senate, 4,883 to 3,208.

The 18th District includes all of Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen and part of New Hanover County.

In other regional races, incumbents David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach) and Dewey Hill (D-Lake Waccamaw) retained their seats on the State House of Representatives in District 14, a two-member district.

They led the way in Brunswick County, with Redwine capturing 6,229 votes and Hill 4,163. Claude Spivey of Columbus County finished third locally with 1,347 votes. No Republicans filed for the seats.

The Soles-Taylor race was expected to be a close battle. Taylor, who served in the State House, lost that seat and was convicted for his role in burning buildings owned by a business rival.

He campaigned heavily on the theme that he had learned from his mistakes and wanted a chance to return to state government.

In his home county of Columbus, Soles won easily, 7,696 to 3,793. Soles also took the New Hanover county precincts, 338 to 106. But Taylor captured the majority in his home county of Bladen, 2,983 to 2,573.

No Republican filed for the seat.

In the race for District Court judge, Shalotte attorney Wayne Long led Brunswick County with 3,839 votes. Others were Tom Aldridge of Whiteville with 2,655 and G. Phillip David of Whiteville with 880.

In the Republican race for the 7th Congressional District, Brunswick County voters chose Robert Anderson over Jim Cooper, 1,323 to 851.

Oysters slipping away

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Experts believe the native North Carolina oyster grows faster and avoids disease better than neighboring varieties, but unless something is done to protect the coastal shellfish it, too, won't survive.

State leaders at an all-day summit held at UNC-Wilmington on Friday heard grim reports of how the oyster has suffered in some northern states. They, including North Carolina governor Jim Hunt, say it's time to form a study panel and to commit state funds to save the oyster harvest.

"It's just been an absolutely devastating change," Hunt told the group of fishermen and legislators. "We can no longer just talk about the problem. Now we've got to commit our resources to do something about

it. The decline of the oyster harvest has been a devastating blow to many of our coastal communities."

At the turn of the century, around 5.6 million pounds of oysters were harvested in North Carolina waters. That figure has dropped to 300,000 pounds annually.

"One McDonald's in Dare County will gross more in dollars than all the oyster harvests across the state," said State Sen. Marc Basnight, president pro-tem of the Senate. "If we don't make a monstrous change in the way we are treating and discharging water into our coastal areas, there will be a following generation to come to this institution to debate what happened to the oyster."

He and State Rep. David Redwine (D-Ocean Isle Beach), who is co-chairman of the Joint Legislative Study Commission on Seafood and

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Hewett, commissioners win

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Results from Tuesday's primary produced two upsets on the school board but no county runoff races, and for some candidates it was a welcomed relief.

Ronald Hewett, the 30-year-old Supply native, won the Democratic nomination for sheriff in what some labeled the hottest local race. He will face Republican James Brown of Southport in the fall.

Incumbent school board members Polly Russ of District 2 and Thurman Gause of District 1 both lost their chance at re-election.

Russ was defeated by former school principal Clara Carter of Supply, and Gause lost

to newcomer Olaf (Bud) Thorsen of Shalotte Point.

With four Democrats in the race for sheriff, Hewett needed at least 40 percent of the vote to avoid a runoff. He cleared that margin by about 200 votes.

"I'm certainly looking forward to a rest and hitting the road in November and working hard," said Hewett.

The sheriff's lieutenant and DARE officer outdistanced retired State Highway patrolman Jerry Dove of Long Beach, 3,559 to 2,455. John Marlow of Calabash, chief deputy, finished third with 2,320 votes.

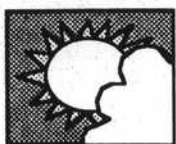
All totals are unofficial results subject to an official canvass of votes Thursday by the Brunswick County Board of Elections. "I think my work with the children certain-

ly did help," said Hewett, who is hoping to replace retiring John Carr Davis. "I meet all of the parents at DARE graduation. But only the voters really know what set me apart. I ran a good, positive campaign."

The chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners survived a close call to defeat a Democratic challenger. Don Warren of Shallotte defeated Randy Stanley, 3,862 to 3,536.

"I think that the support of the county commissioners is there," said Warren, of District 1. "Randy is a fine young man, and his family has been involved in politics for a number of years."

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Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies on Wednesday night through Saturday. Highs are expected to be in the 70s each day, with nighttime lows in the 50s.

Weather updates are available on Pilot Line. Dial 457-5084, then extension 191.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MAY 5	LOW
5:01 a.m.		11:05 a.m.
5:28 p.m.		11:38 p.m.
FRIDAY, MAY 6		
5:50 a.m.		11:52 a.m.
6:15 p.m.		----- p.m.
SATURDAY, MAY 7		
6:36 a.m.		12:26 a.m.
6:58 p.m.		12:35 p.m.
SUNDAY, MAY 8		
7:19 a.m.		1:11 a.m.
7:38 p.m.		1:17 p.m.
MONDAY, MAY 9		
7:59 a.m.		1:53 a.m.
8:16 p.m.		1:56 p.m.
TUESDAY, MAY 10		
8:37 a.m.		2:33 a.m.
8:53 p.m.		2:35 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11		
9:13 a.m.		3:12 a.m.
9:28 p.m.		3:13 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.