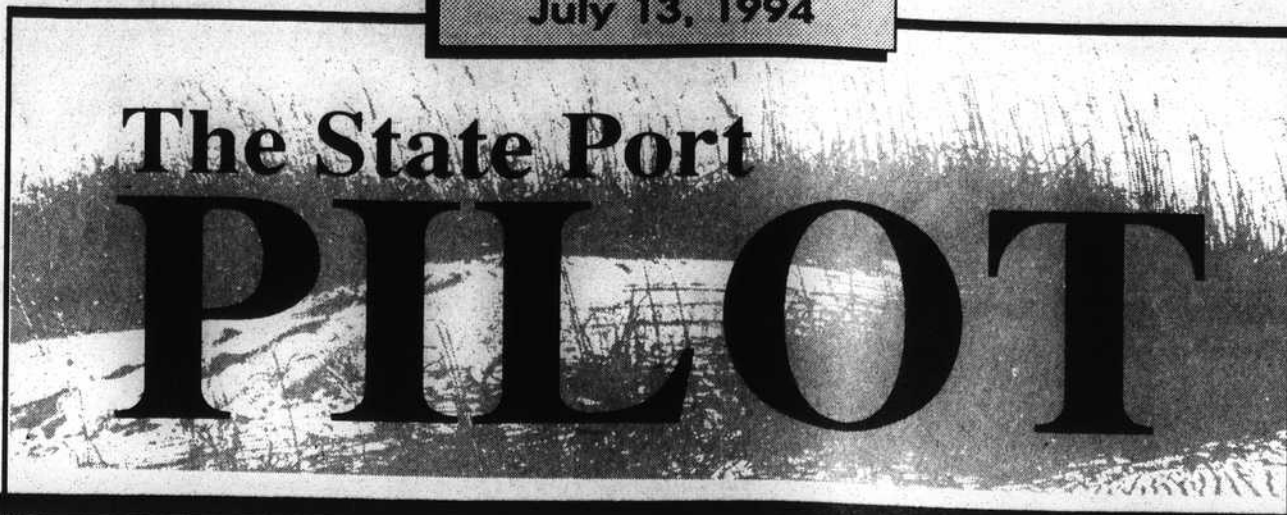


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Neighbors

Bottlenose dolphin are trusting of man, perhaps too much so -- Page 1B



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Sports

Brunswick Post 68 and Wilmington Post 10 are even. Game 3 tonight -- 8B

Our Town

The state has closed waters near the Yaupon Beach sewer plant - page 2

Beach sand could result from talks

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Long Beach officials say they are taking the "very first steps" necessary to initiate a beachface enhancement project that will put another 30 feet of usable beach between the strand's dune line and the ocean's high-water mark.

The target area that has been designated for beach building lies between 58th and Middleton streets.

"This is still very preliminary," said mayor Joan Altman. "We're just trying to be prepared."

Town officials began studying a beachface enhancement project about three weeks ago when a private dredging company under contract to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers contacted Long Beach, public works director Charles Derrick said.

Great Lakes Dredging, of Hinesdale, Ill., has indicated it may shortly need to dispose of a great quantity of beach-quality spoils. Neither Altman nor Derrick knew exactly where dredge material was to be taken, but corps projects scheduled in the area include maintenance of the Intracoastal Waterway and Lockwood Folly Inlet and the possible construction of an Eastern Channel to better flush the Lockwood Folly River basin.

Altman said the town is exploring permitting needs the town might have if the beachface enhancement project begins to look feasible.

"If we need permits, we want to have things ready to go," Altman said.

To that end, Derrick has compiled data necessary to secure a Coastal Area Management Act major permit. It may also be possible the spoils could be placed on the strength of blanket authority the corps of

See Beach talk, page 7



While erosion is a common concern on Oak Island, significant accretion has occurred over the past several years at each end of the island. Sand has buried many waterside steps near the east end of Caswell Beach, and on Monday Phil Tate was extending his deck there and adding new steps to the strand with the approval of coastal management authorities.

County zoning proposal

Overlay district allows industry, not deep mining

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A plan to protect the county's underground water supply has gained both local and state support.

Zoning laws that restrict deep mines and other industries from draining the Castle Hayne aquifer near Southport are being drafted.

The Brunswick County Planning Board, which meets again Wednesday, July 20, 7 p.m. wants county commissioners to adopt a special overlay district that protects the aquifer and coastal waters but does not restrict area industrial growth.

But will a public now fearful of Martin Marietta's plan to open a limestone mine near Southport accept it? The planning board wants commissioners to appoint a committee to finalize the proposal.

"The issue for that area, and an issue for all of Brunswick County, is natural resource protection," said Wade Horne, Brunswick County's planning director. "It's not a case of land use but what that use does. We should quit beating around the bush with zoning and say what it is that we want to guard against, which is direct draw-down on systems that affect natural re-

'Which is worse, manufacturing facilities that are contained or to rezone it residential and put 2,000 houses out there, with 2,000 septic tanks and 2,000 wells? ... it's a resource protection issue.'

Wade Horne
Planning director

sources." State officials have worked with county planners to develop a natural resource overlay district that guards against pumping the aquifer in the area where Martin Marietta plans to locate. Approximately 5,000 acres from Boiling Spring See Overlay, page 13

Or else court will decide

County, school board face deadline on budget debate

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Members of the Brunswick County school board and board of commissioners say they hope they can resolve their budget dispute by Monday, July 18, when clerk of court Diana Morgan must either rule on the dispute or refer it to a Superior Court judge.

The school board maintains that it needs an additional \$1.25 million from the county just to continue to operate the schools at their current level.

County commissioners say they are not convinced all of the

additional funding is needed, and point out that a \$1.25-million increase in school funding would mean a two-cent tax increase next year just to make up the difference.

The school board voted last week to refer the dispute to the clerk of court for arbitration. Since then, county manager Charles McGinnis, commissioners chairman Don Warren, county finance officer Lithia Hahn, superintendent of schools Ralph Johnston, school board chairman Donna Baxter and school finance officer Rudi Connor have met twice and have conducted negotiations on the telephone.

The county reportedly has made several unspecified offers, but so

See Budget, page 8

Gypsy moth spraying seems to have worked

By Terry Pope
County Editor

One spray has done it all.

State agriculture experts who spent the past several months battling a local invasion of the gypsy moth believe an aerial spraying in May has worked to near perfection.

Just a few male moths have been captured in traps scattered in the Southport-Oak Island area.

Stray moths typically hitch rides from other parts of the country as vacationers and new residents move to the area. There are no plans to re-treat Brunswick County with another dose of pesticide.

"We're very encouraged about it," said Bill Dickerson of the N. C. Department of Agriculture's Plant Industry Division. "We feel certain that the treatment was effective."

Dickerson chaired a gypsy moth management team made up of state, federal and county officials which targeted eradication of an Asian strain of the pest that arrived aboard a ship docked at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point north of Southport in July, 1993.

Approximately 1,600 square miles in Brunswick and New Hanover counties were sprayed and trapped. Since the aerial spraying, two moths were captured near Boiling Spring Lakes, three near Wilmington, one in Wrightsville Beach and one in Calabash.

"We catch them all over North Carolina," said Dickerson. "So to pick up a stray moth

See Gypsy moth, page 12

County 'burning' to be part of plan

Regional incinerator could be answer to trash disposal

By Terry Pope
County Editor

County officials hope they will soon have a grip on garbage -- for the next 25 years.

They plan to sign a deal with a company that will operate a trash incinerator near Fayetteville.

All other options for handling the county's garbage flow have been put on hold while contract negotiations are underway with the Vedco Energy Corp. of Houston, Texas, which is building an \$89.5-million plant at the DuPont Co. site in Cumberland County.

That plant will be operated by BCH Energy, a partnership held by counties that

'We see an outcry from our citizens here about a new landfill. They don't want it. Plus, with recycling goals that all counties have to reach, this is our best option.'

Don Warren
Commissioners chairman

originated the deal -- Bladen, Cumberland and Hoke. "I think of the options available to us right now, it is the most viable alternative," said Don Warren, chairman of the Brunswick County

Board of Commissioners.

At a meeting last week, his board instructed interim county manager Charles McGinnis, interim county attorney Mike Ramos and county engineer Robert Tucker to iron-out final details of a proposed 25-year contract with Vedco to begin in 1996.

That would allow the county to close its landfill at Supply, which currently accepts about 76,000 tons of household garbage per year. The Vedco plant includes a sorting system to separate recyclable material from the fuel stream.

"We see Columbus County is now bogged down about discussions over a landfill," said Warren. "We see an outcry from our citizens here about a new landfill. They don't want it.

Plus, with recycling goals that all counties See Incinerator, page 6



Cans no longer can be part of trash, page 3