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Schools opening may wait

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Summer vacation may last a little longer than expected for Brunswick County students.

Superintendent of schools Ralph Johnston said he will make a recommendation to the board of education this week concerning the possibility of extending summer vacation until after August 29, when a Superior Court judge is expected to decide whether to overturn or uphold a jury's decision to award the school system \$14 million.

He said if the first day of school is delayed, it will likely be delayed until after Labor Day.

The school board would have to call an emergency meeting to officially change the school calendar for the upcoming year. School board chairman Donna Baxter said she would support any recommendation made by Johnston.

By law, the school system is required to operate for 180 school days, so any delay now would have to be made up prior to June 30, 1995, said school board attorney Glen Peterson.

The school system adopted an interim budget until its funding battle with the county could be settled, and has been paying its bills from a fund balance estimated to fluctuate between \$60,000 and \$200,000.

"It makes no sense for me to spend money I don't have," declared Johnston.

He also said it is difficult for school officials to plan for additional or expanded programs until they know how much

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Photo by Jim Harper

This old gray goose ain't where she used to be now that grass is going to seed along Airport Road. A whole gaggle was out on the roadside last week eating its way eastward from the Bowmer property, where they usually reside.

Northern regional sewer system talks are clogged

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Overlapping boundaries are confusing, and sometimes boggle local elections in the Leland area.

That same kind of confusion now threatens to clog plans to develop a northern regional sewer system.

Talks did not go smoothly when representatives from Belville, Leland, Navassa and the Leland Sanitary District met last week to decide the best way to establish a North Brunswick Regional Sewer Authority.

No agreement was reached on how the governing commission should be composed and what role the sanitary district would take. The district includes all of the three towns and areas outside town limits, stretching to the Eastbrook community and to Olde Towne.

"What we're trying to do is get four boards to work together for whatever is best for northern Brunswick County," said Leland councilman Jane Gilbert, the town's representative on the regional sewer committee. "We're

'We're not there to worry over turf. We're not there to worry over politics. We're there to work for what is best for the people in this part of the county.'

Jane Gilbert
Leland councilman

not there to worry over turf. We're not there to worry over politics. We're there to work for what is best for the people in this part of the county."

Also serving on the sewer committee are V. A. Creech Jr. of Belville, Larry Paulson of the sanitary district and Eulis Willis of Navassa. They plan to meet again Tuesday, August 16, to iron out a possible compromise on options for

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Long Beach spill

Redwine wants menhaden scrap put on the table

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

State Rep. E. David Redwine says he wants to broker a deal between warring beach communities and menhaden processors, but a spokesman for the industry says he has little new to bring to the table and the spearhead of sanctions against poege fishing says he isn't interested in talking.

Redwine has issued invitations to discuss the matter to local government officials at all county beach towns, to the N. C. Fisheries Association and three menhaden operators working offshore Brunswick waters. Scientists from the state's Division of Marine Fisheries also will be present. The meeting is to be held August 17, 7 p.m., at Brunswick Community College.

At least three Brunswick County beach towns have joined Long Beach in a petition seeking to drive menhaden boats at least one and a half nautical miles from county beaches from May 1 to September 30 and no closer than a half-mile from October 1 to December 31. The towns plan to present that petition to the N. C. Marine Fisheries Commission in Morehead City August 26.

The move against the menhaden industry has been prompted by a number of fish spills which have littered area beaches over the years, forced costly clean-up efforts and threatened the tourist industry. Fishermen say the sanctions will mean the end of the menhaden industry.

"I don't know that, at this point in time, I'm willing to talk to them," said Long Beach councilman Jeff Ensminger.

Ensminger has taken the lead in pushing for sanctions against poege fishermen. It was he who wrote the petition calling for sanctions much like

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Yaupon to lend support

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Yaupon Beach will support Long Beach and other Brunswick County beach communities in their push for restrictions on menhaden fishing off the county coast.

But, commissioners said Monday night, they will remain "amenable" to any mediated solutions to the dispute between fishing and tourist interests that may emerge from a planned bargaining session to be hosted by N. C. Rep. E. David Redwine next Wednesday. (See related story.) Commissioner Jackie Slockett will represent Yaupon Beach at that mediation session.

Yaupon Beach commissioners' decision came after hearing a presentation by Mike Street, of the N. C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

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Long Beach committees being told to 'think big'

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Members of the town's Capital Improvements Committee were encouraged to think big, to dream of what can be, and not to consider money Tuesday night.

That charge came from the mayor and Long Beach councilmen in the first of six half-hour sessions scheduled with members of standing town advisory committees.

"The advice to think big is something we would really like you to do," mayor Joan Altman told members of the CIC. "Think about the big-ticket items."

Councilman Horace Collier said it is council members' job to watch money. They first

want to know the options.

But, mayor Altman noted, CIC's charge will likely change this year as the town undertakes a benefit-district study in conjunction with a professional planning firm. That study is expected to be an exhaustive look at capital needs and means of financing them for an extended number of years.

CIC's new role will likely be as consultant to the consultants.

A good number of CIC's projects have been put into the works in the coming budget year. The group has been instrumental in planning for water storage projects, construction of the new fire station, and recreation center expansion. Water storage

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Coastal region must plan for its future

Committee says cooperation among towns, region needed

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

North Carolina's coastal management program is only as effective as the land use planning of local governments, and Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) land use planning guidelines do not adequately protect coastal waters or coastal water quality.

Coastal Futures Committee chairman Richardson Preyer described this as the most significant conclusion contained in the committee's 47-page report to Gov. Jim Hunt on the shortcomings of CAMA.

'I'd like to see a correlation among land use plans, so that everyone in the county, and all the counties in a region, are marching to the same tune.'

Eugene Tomlinson
Committee member

"Land use planning is probably the heart of our recommendations," he said. Preyer added that in order for land use plans to be effective, there must

be more state and local cooperation and more public participation in developing the plans.

The report will be officially presented to the governor in September during a committee meeting in Wilmington. The governor will review the document and present his own report and recommendations to the N. C. General Assembly for its review in January.

It will then be up to the General Assembly to decide which recommendations are enacted and which are funded.

Hunt established the 12-member committee in October, 1993, and charged it with reviewing the effectiveness of CAMA on the 20th anniversary of its adoption.

Many of the committee's recommendations will involve state funding, and Preyer acknowledged that General Assembly debate may revolve around money rather than the environment.

However, Preyer pointed out that of the 50 states North Carolina ranks 47th in the amount spent per capita on protecting water and

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