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Preston McGriff, former South Brunswick standout, is starting for UNCW -- 13B

The State Port PILOT

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FISHERIES

Pogy rule: Fishermen won't bite

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Negotiations between Brunswick County beach towns and three menhaden fishing companies regularly working off the county's shore are beginning to resemble a high-stakes poker game.

N. C. Fisheries Association executive director Jerry Schill said this week county beach towns had raised the stakes too high and the fishing interests were calling the bluff.

"If this is what the offer is -- put up or shut up -- we're going to shut up," said Schill, whose organization represents the three menhaden fishing firms, including Beaufort Fisheries Inc. of North Carolina and two Virginia-based firms.

Last week, fishermen were faxed a copy of new agreement provisions representatives of the towns had written in a meeting without fishermen present on November 8. Three key provisions not in a draft to which the fishing interests had agreed on September 21 caught the fishing interests by surprise.

The towns now will require pogy fishermen to keep their boats one mile off Brunswick County beaches at all times. Another provision requires the pogy companies to pay twice the cost of clean-up of a fish spill. A third new provision holds

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Fish license fee is before commission

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Virtually all municipal governments in the Southport-Oak Island area have been asked to formally respond to a proposal that would require saltwater fishing licensing in North Carolina.

The N. C. Marine Fisheries Commission will review that proposal while meeting in Smithfield Friday and Saturday.

City of Southport officials delayed action on a request from Surf City to join that town in a resolution of opposition to the state's plan, and Long Beach Town Council directed mayor Joan Altman to write a letter to the area's legislative delegation opposing the plan.

Yaupon Beach resident Buddy Rudd was a member of the Coastal Recreational Fishing License Committee charged with drafting the saltwater fishing license proposal.

He said many of the objections raised by Southport-Oak Island municipal government officials were the same as those voiced by attendees at public hearings the committee conducted statewide in October.

"People were afraid it was simply another tax and the money would be there for the General Assembly to grab and use," Rudd said. "The majority of people were receptive to the idea as long as the money (from license fees) went back to fisheries -- to the resource -- and couldn't be allocated somewhere else."

Locally, alderman Bill Delaney of Southport and councilman Bill Easley of Long Beach, both avid outdoorsmen, said they could support a saltwater fishing license program if monies from license fees

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Habitat law may shoot down industry

Regulation would limit development along Cape Fear River

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Some fear a rule aimed at protecting critical habitats may also endanger industrial development along Brunswick County waterways.

V. A. Creech Jr. of Belville says if the rule is allowed to take effect, then thousands of acres of prime industrial property in the county will be lost to potential development.

"The rule will have a severe economic impact on this county," said Creech, a Brunswick County Economic Development

Commission member who also owns industrial sites near Navassa.

"It will reflect negatively on the possibility of bringing industry in along the Cape Fear River," he said.

In an effort to protect species, in July the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission approved the new rules by an 8-5 vote. The proposal is pending before the N. C. Rules Review Commission but faces a tide of opposition.

Business and industry interests have passed resolutions asking the N. C. General Assembly to defeat the measure. The Wildlife Commission intends to limit new or expanded sewer

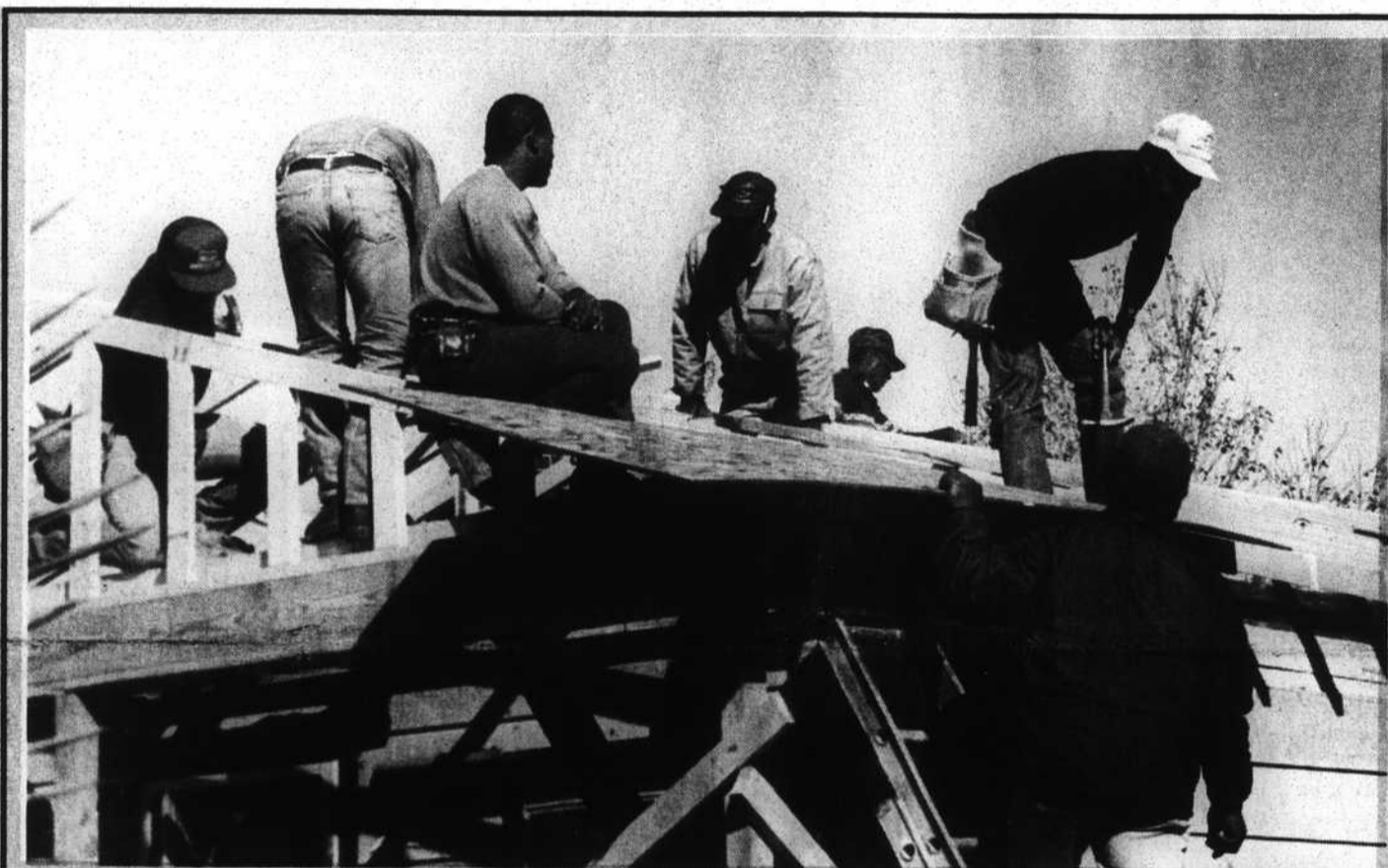
discharges, development and further activities near water sources which might have an adverse impact on local downstream endangered species.

The area considered closed to new industry would cover one-sixth of the state, said Tom Monks, executive director of Brunswick County's EDC.

"A fourth of all counties would be affected if the ruling comes into effect," said Monks. "Virtually every site along the Cape Fear River could be affected."

Upstream from Southport, the Cape Fear wanders along the

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A coordinated effort between county government and the community this Thanksgiving brought volunteers together to help Navassa resident Ann Johnson protect her home from

the rain. "Most every one of the guys you see around here, all of them, have been touched by her in some way," said Navassa commissioner Eulis Willis.

Thanks to good neighbors she has new roof overhead

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Five-gallon paint buckets lined up inside a front bedroom were used to help catch the water when it rained.

But this Thanksgiving Day became one Ann Johnson of Navassa says she will want to remember.

She watched from a neighbor's as volunteers replaced the roof to her own home to make life a bit easier for the beloved widow.

"For as long as the day I live, I'll remember this Thanksgiving," said Ms. Johnson. "I couldn't even get in my bed to sleep."

It was a project that involved the entire community -- both

volunteers and local businesses, said Thurman Everett, Brunswick County's public housing director. Ms. Johnson applied for, and received help from, the county's weatherization and urgent relief repair programs.

But federal guidelines restrict amounts spent on any one home to \$3,400 for both assistance programs. It wasn't enough to even cover the cost of a new roof. That's where the volunteers helped.

"This is a coordinated effort by county government, facilitated through community action," said Everett. "There's not enough money in weatherization and urgent repair to do this house. However, they wanted to volunteer and to do the labor, to maybe

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Several found in county

Gypsy moth spraying to be repeated

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Three areas of the county will be sprayed again in April to combat an Asian variety of gypsy moth that apparently avoided a first dose of insecticide last spring.

But residents in the Southport-Oak Island community will be spared the aerial treatments. Moths were found near Holden Beach, Shallotte and at Half Hell Swamp near Bolivia.

No stray moths with Asian DNA links were trapped in the primary target area surrounding the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point depot north of Southport.

That's where the Asian moths flew

from a military ammunition ship in July, 1993, and now threaten the United States with a major infestation.

"It's a probability that the moths sur-

vived in a treatment area," said Bill Dickerson, plant pest administrator for the N. C. Department of Agriculture, "and then wandered in an area left untreated."

'We're doing everything we can to keep this pest in check. It's important that we take all reasonable steps to keep this moth from becoming established and spreading.'

Jim Graham
Agriculture commissioner

Planes sprayed two kinds of insecticide onto more than 130,000 acres in Brunswick County and part of New Hanover County last April, when moth eggs hatch into larvae. Traps placed throughout the county in 1993 told pest experts where to spray.

State agriculture officials announced last week the following proposed spray areas for April, 1995:

- 2,560 acres along Half Hell Swamp, four square miles between Winnabow and Bolivia.

- 640 acres near Shallotte.

- 640 acres near Holden Beach, along the Intracoastal Waterway.

In Little River, S. C., another 2,500 acres are targeted for treatment along

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Oak Island request gets lost in mail

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Chances of seeing a full-service U. S. Post Office on Oak Island anytime soon appear mired in the "snorkel shoot" of the federal bureaucracy.

But Oak Island activists say they will keep pushing for a first-class postal facility for their rapidly growing communities.

Oak Island officials last week received copies of a letter to U. S. Congressman Charles G. Rose III (7th District) from John Hagarty, the postal service's manager of legislative affairs.

He told Rose that Mid-Carolinas District postal officials met with locals petitioning for a full-service post office for the three Oak Island communities and said USPS is sympathetic, but out of money. He said a snorkel shoot on the mailbox at the contract post office in Long Beach is about the best improvement USPS can make right now.

"While we understand the interest of the Oak Island community," Hagarty wrote, "I must advise that at this time there are no plans to establish an independent post office on Oak Island."

As for help right now, only the snorkel shoot will help Oak Island postal customers keep their heads above water.

"A new 'snorkel-type' collection box has been installed which allows for motorists to deposit mail for collection without leaving their vehicles," Hagarty wrote Rose. "This should help alleviate some of the traffic congestion, which inevitably accompanies the summer population increase."

Hagarty said USPS will also explore "the possibility of stamps by consignment contracts with local businesses" so area residents can purchase them more conveniently.

But as for a new building -- a first-class post office on Oak Island -- forget it for now, Hagarty notes.

"The Postal Service's capital funds are severely limited," Hagarty wrote Rose, adding that requests for new facilities are prioritized as

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