

Observance of Dr. King's birthday planned Friday at college, Sunday in our city

Police dog, officers are credited with saving life of Southport man -- Page 2



Sports

South Brunswick could face remainder of the schedule minus head coach

The State Port PILOT

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Dosher will purchase lot on Howe St.

Dosher Memorial Hospital will purchase wooded property across the street from the hospital for \$125,000.

Hospital administrator Edgar Haywood said the property will be used for outpatient service expansion, and noted that demand for outpatient services at the hospital is growing rapidly -- about seven to eight percent a year.

He said he expects an expansion project to be initiated within a year.

An investor has a contract pending with realtor Margaret Rudd to purchase the property, which spans 312 feet along Howe Street.

Rudd said the property was listed for sale at \$182,000.

The hospital board of trustees met with the investor in closed session last Wednesday night.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the board offered the investor \$125,000 for 213 feet of Howe Street frontage.

Haywood said all contracts should be finalized within two weeks.

The property will provide much-needed space for such services as physical therapy, x-rays and outpatient emergency care, he said.

"Our spacial needs are growing," Haywood said. "We're about at the street every way you look, and unless we start building a high-rise here the only thing we can do is buy more property."



Photo by Jim Harper
Brunswick County extension agent Bruce Williams, volunteers and Long Beach town employees this week constructed sand fences with discarded Christmas trees near the western point of the Long Beach strand. Three 50-foot sections of fence were erected; Williams will return to the same location in March to plant beachgrass. The point of the experiment is to show beachfront property owners that they can help minimize erosion.

SBSD facing problem with permit, funds

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

In the most crucial week of its five-year existence the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District must make a \$1.3-million adjustment in its financing plan, and also learn how state permitting can be obtained quickly to get the sewer project underway.

Last week bids for the nine-month project to bring sewer service to around 800 homes in the Long Beach Road area came in about \$700,000 above what planners had thought the cost would be.

Awarding of contracts had already been set back 90 days by the district board because a funding shortfall was anticipated, but in light of the great financing disparity -- present funding from Rural Economic Community Development (formerly Farmers Home Administration) totals \$3.3 million, and the project cost will likely be \$4.6 million -- the district Monday had to start forwarding plans that would greatly alter the proposed service area in order to cut costs.

Meanwhile the district has arranged to meet with state

See Problem, page 12

County funds outside study of refuse plan

By Terry Pope
County Editor

An outside consultant will study long-range trash disposal options before county commissioners sign what may be a 25-year contract.

Would it cost more to truck garbage to an incinerator near Fayetteville or to operate the county's landfill near Supply?

David M. Griffith and Associates of Raleigh has been placed on a retainer to come up with answers.

County officials narrowed their choices by eliminating a proposal from American Refuse Systems Inc. of Pinehurst, which plans to open a regional landfill in neighbor-

Vedco also operates a materials recovery plant, which would enable Brunswick County to meet recycling goals

ing Columbus County. That project is now tied up in a legal dispute.

A 25-year agreement with Vedco Energy Corp. of Texas, which is building an incinerator

See Refuse, page 19

Forecast

We can expect mostly cloudy skies for Thursday and Friday with low temperatures in 40's and highs 55-60. There's a chance of showers on Saturday with a high in the mid 60's.

City considers equal pay plan

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A plan to allow Southport's electric customers to pay a fixed billing amount each month will come before aldermen when they meet in regular session Thursday.

Those who opt to participate in the plan may average their annual billing over 12 months and pay a level amount for 11 of those 12 months. An adjustment payment will be charged in a designated month, likely a spring or fall month when billing is generally low.

A letter, which may be sent to electric customers announcing

See Pay plan, page 6

Sunny Point routing fund request detoured

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Highway officials say they have hit a roadblock in their plans to redesign a dangerous intersection north of Southport.

There is a lack of funds. That hasn't halted resident Beverly Brown in her effort to have the crossroads upgraded.

She carried her message last week to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, which agreed to ask the N. C. Department of Transportation to make the highway project a major priority for funding in 1995.

The N. C. 87/133 junction at the entrance to Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point is where Ms. Brown's son, Vincent, died in a car wreck two years ago.

In order to be safe, she said, the intersection needs to be revamped. Highway 87 should be the primary route for traffic and the streets realigned.

"This has not been funded in the past

See Request, page 6

County boards requested study

Auditors open school books

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

The stress level among Brunswick County school system employees likely will increase this week as three representatives of the state auditor's office begin on-site interviews to determine just how efficient and well-organized the school system is.

A summary of the auditors' findings is expected in March.

A school system performance audit was initiated in December when questionnaires were sent to all 1,389 school employees.

So far, 517 questionnaires have been returned and about 100 employees have asked to speak with the auditors personally, deputy state auditor Jimmy Benson told the school board last week.

The state performance audit was requested jointly by the Brunswick County boards of education and county commissioners during a funding dispute last year.

'All school systems must function with limited resources. I believe that we can identify methods for the schools to use those resources more effectively.'

Janet Hayes
Audit supervisor

At the time, each board agreed to contribute \$5,000 to fund the audit. The state, however, will absorb most of the cost, which is expected to total \$46,720.

The performance audit will evaluate the school system's organization and structure, not the effectiveness of its educational programs, said Janet Hayes, audit supervisor.

"All school systems must function with limited resources," she said. "I believe that we can identify methods for the schools to use those resources more effectively."

Hayes noted the auditors can only make recommendations and cannot enforce changes in school operations.

A certain amount of anxiety is associated with any evaluation, conceded superintendent of schools Dr. Ralph Johnston.

But, he added, most school employees feel they can discuss their concerns with auditors without fear of retribution.

"I don't sense that anybody is really concerned about that," Johnston said. "I think they feel very comfortable."

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Customers stuck with higher rate; mail goes through

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

There seems to be an inverse relationship between the cost of a stamp and customer satisfaction with the U. S. Postal Service.

Each time rates go up, customer satisfaction plummets.

When the postal service raised the cost of a stamp from 29 to 32 cents effective January 1, many people recalled every frustration they've ever experienced with mail delivery.

"Every time they raise the price of stamps the service gets worse," declared one disgruntled Southport man waiting in line at the post office Monday morning.

"Like every other government agency, the employees are underqualified and overpaid. I told my kids not to expect a letter for a while."

"Thirty-two cents is a lot of money to send one

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