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South Brunswick visited North last night, plays host to Scorp Friday -- Page 12

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50 CENTS

Neighbors

The horsemen enjoyed it; so did the spectators -- and Oak Island merchants -- 1B

Our Town

Bald Head Island council wants to renourish beach, install groins -- Page 2

Beach tract

Council tables plat; 'travesty' says developer

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A potential developer of a 14-lot subdivision at the westernmost portion of King's Lynn called Long Beach Town Council's action to table his preliminary plat submission a travesty Tuesday night.

Council, led by member Horace Collier, complained the preliminary plat was not detailed enough. Mayor Joan Altman, taking a stab at Coastal Area Management Act regulations, said the town had the responsibility to do what state regulators would not. She also pointed to the town's land use plan which discourages development west of any existing housing at King's Lynn and discourages development of unique habitats.

Along the way, Brunswick County tax supervisor Boyd Williamson was called upon to defend county valuation of the tract.

"We've been through three planning board meetings," said Stuart Cook, one of two men who identified themselves as potential buyers of the 9.05-acre tract on western King's Lynn. "In working with the planning board, they have asked (we include) different things on the preliminary plat. We've gone through meticulously. They said we met all requirements of the preliminary plat. Tabling or stifling progress ... would be a travesty."

The proposed subdivision, known as The Harbor at King's Lynn, is composed of a series of lots with about 50.5 feet front-footage and running from 399 feet to 599 feet deep north to south on the western end of King's Lynn, west of any existing development. Asking price for the property now owned by King's Lynn Inc. is \$695,000, said Margaret Rudd, agent for that corporation.

Mayor Altman said if development is to occur on that tract it had to be rigidly scrutinized.

"This is one of the last relatively open spaces in Long Beach," Altman said.

"The public has used this land very openly," she said, "thanks to its

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LONG BEACH



The Long Beach strand looked like a scene from the Old West last weekend when more than 400 horses and 500 riders turned out for the fourth annual horse-a-thon. The event was the most successful fund-raiser yet and generated about \$24,000 for the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department

Fire department benefits

Horse-a-thon reins in funds

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

The sound of country music, the pungent scent of horses and high-spirited riders clad in chaps and cowboy hats filled the Long Beach Campground and other open spaces last weekend for the town's fourth annual horse-a-thon.

A total of 465 horses and 516 riders raised about \$24,000 for the Long Beach Fire Department -- \$10,000 more than last year.

Virtually every square foot of the campground, as well as the large field behind Town Hall, was occupied by horses and trailers.

"As far as I'm concerned this was the best one ever," declared Tanya Buff, who organized the first horse-a-thon four years ago. "We had 156 horses the first year, and it's just about doubled in size every year since then."

Buff said that the event attracts a large number of spectators as well as riders, and that all of the motels on the island were full.

"A lot of people come just to watch the horses," she said. "The

merchants love it. Every restaurant in town was packed Friday and Saturday night."

While some town residents complain that the horses damage the dunes and leave piles of manure on the beach, Buff said with few exceptions riders entered the beach only at designated areas and cleaned up their horses' mess.

Buff lived in Long Beach for 16 years and said she was able to ride on the beach until an ordinance prohibiting horses on the strand was passed. She decided to go before the town council with her idea for the horse-a-thon.

Now, people come from all over the state to attend the event, she said, and there were riders from as far away as Virginia, Georgia, Michigan and Missouri.

"It's some people's dream to ride on the beach," she said. "To me, this horse-a-thon is the best thing I've ever done. I'm making people's dreams come true. And, in the end, what else do we have

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Yaupon sewage

Study says site figures were wrong

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Bad news came to already frustrated Yaupon Beach commissioners Thursday night:

The rapid-infiltration basin at the town's wastewater treatment plant works at about 62.5 percent of its designed capacity and, for now, a moratorium on new taps to its wastewater treatment system continues.

After lengthy testing and computer modeling, hydrogeologist Ed Andrews was only able to certify flow through the rapid-infiltration basin at 250,000 gallons per day. The basin was designed based on models provided by Andrews in 1991 that established its capacity at 400,000 gallons per day. A consulting engineer said the disparity in the two percolation rates was due to improvements in computer modeling systems, suggesting that because older modeling techniques were used in 1991 capacity never was 400,000 gallons per day.

Yaupon Beach now awaits review of the hydrogeological analysis by the N. C. Division of Environmental Management, which may certify the plant's capacity at 250,000 gallons per day and lift the moratorium.

Although capacity is 37.5 percent lower than originally thought to be, peak flow through the plant last summer was nowhere near the 250,000-gallon-per-day level. On its day of highest usage last July, only 180,000 gallons of wastewater flowed through the plant.

Mayor May Moore was bothered by the disparity of flow estimates in the 1991 and 1995 analyses.

"The thing that bothers me so much is, how could he make such an enormous mistake (in 1991)?" Moore said. "This is real money and this is people's..."

Consulting engineer Robert Graham of Boney and Associates, which designed the plant and rapid-infiltration basin based on Andrews' 1991 representations, suggested it was the change in modeling techniques and computer software that is to blame for the disparity.

"I hate to sit here and make excuses for Ed (Andrews), but the state of the

See Sewage, page 5

City, BEMC pact benefits are discussed

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A proposed contract by which Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation would take over some operational responsibilities for the Southport electric distribution system will be the prime topic of discussion when aldermen meet in "retreat" session at City Hall Thursday.

The retreat is to begin at 6 p.m.

Last month aldermen held a preliminary discussion with BEMC general manager David Batten and district manager Don Hughes at which virtually all phases of city electric management were put on the table. BEMC has offered to take over operation and maintenance functions of the city electric sales effort, as well as take over billing and collection functions now provided by City Hall staff.

One thing BEMC can't do: It can't sell power to the city more cheaply. The city is bound by contracts extending to 2026 to buy primary and supplemental power from North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power

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Experience is cited in interim

Board taps McGinnis for manager position

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A familiar face is back on the job as interim county manager.

Charles McGinnis of Concord guided the county through budget preparations and through four months as temporary manager following the car accident that left Wyman Yelton seriously injured in April, 1994.

He will work this time on a \$400-per-day contract until a permanent person is hired. The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners approved the deal following an hour-long closed session Monday.

Is he a likely candidate as a permanent replacement for Yelton, who was fired last week by a 4-1 vote of the

board?

"I have told him (McGinnis) he is certainly welcome to apply for the job if he is interested," said board chairman Jerry Jones of District 2.

Yelton was hired in July, 1993, after the resignation of David Clegg. He was on sick leave from April to September, 1994, after the car wreck that killed his wife and left him seriously

injured.

McGinnis guided the county through a budget session and was instrumental in implementing a one-stop permit office at the Brunswick County Government Center near Bolivia. It serves as one place where residents can go to obtain building and health department permits or to pay

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Forecast

The extended forecast calls for beautiful weather Thursday through Saturday with highs in the 70's and lows in the 40's. Could Spring actually be here?

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MARCH 23	LOW
12:51 a.m.		7:08 a.m.
1:13 p.m.		7:22 p.m.
HIGH	FRIDAY, MARCH 24	LOW
1:57 a.m.		8:13 a.m.
2:20 p.m.		8:30 p.m.
HIGH	SATURDAY, MARCH 25	LOW
3:02 a.m.		9:16 a.m.
3:27 p.m.		9:37 p.m.
HIGH	SUNDAY, MARCH 26	LOW
4:05 a.m.		10:16 a.m.
4:29 p.m.		10:38 p.m.
HIGH	MONDAY, MARCH 27	LOW
5:03 a.m.		11:10 a.m.
5:25 p.m.		11:34 p.m.
HIGH	TUESDAY, MARCH 28	LOW
5:56 a.m.		11:59 a.m.
6:16 p.m.		12:00 p.m.
HIGH	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29	LOW
6:44 a.m.		12:24 a.m.
7:02 p.m.		12:43 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; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.