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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

50 CENTS

Sports

South Brunswick wins its Waccamaw opener and plays again tonight - 8B

Our Town

A proposed connector for Long Beach and Bethel roads considered - Page 2

Neighbors

History and memories lie buried in some abandoned graveyards in our area - 1B



Easter has us hoppin'

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

That giant sucking sound heard across Oak Island this week was no Texas millionaire announcing his political candidacy; it was the sound of merchants and public officials taking that one last deep breath before Easter weekend hits.

Easter weekend -- the unofficial beginning of the tourist season on Oak Island -- brings that first onslaught of visitors, annually swelling the population six- to seven-fold.

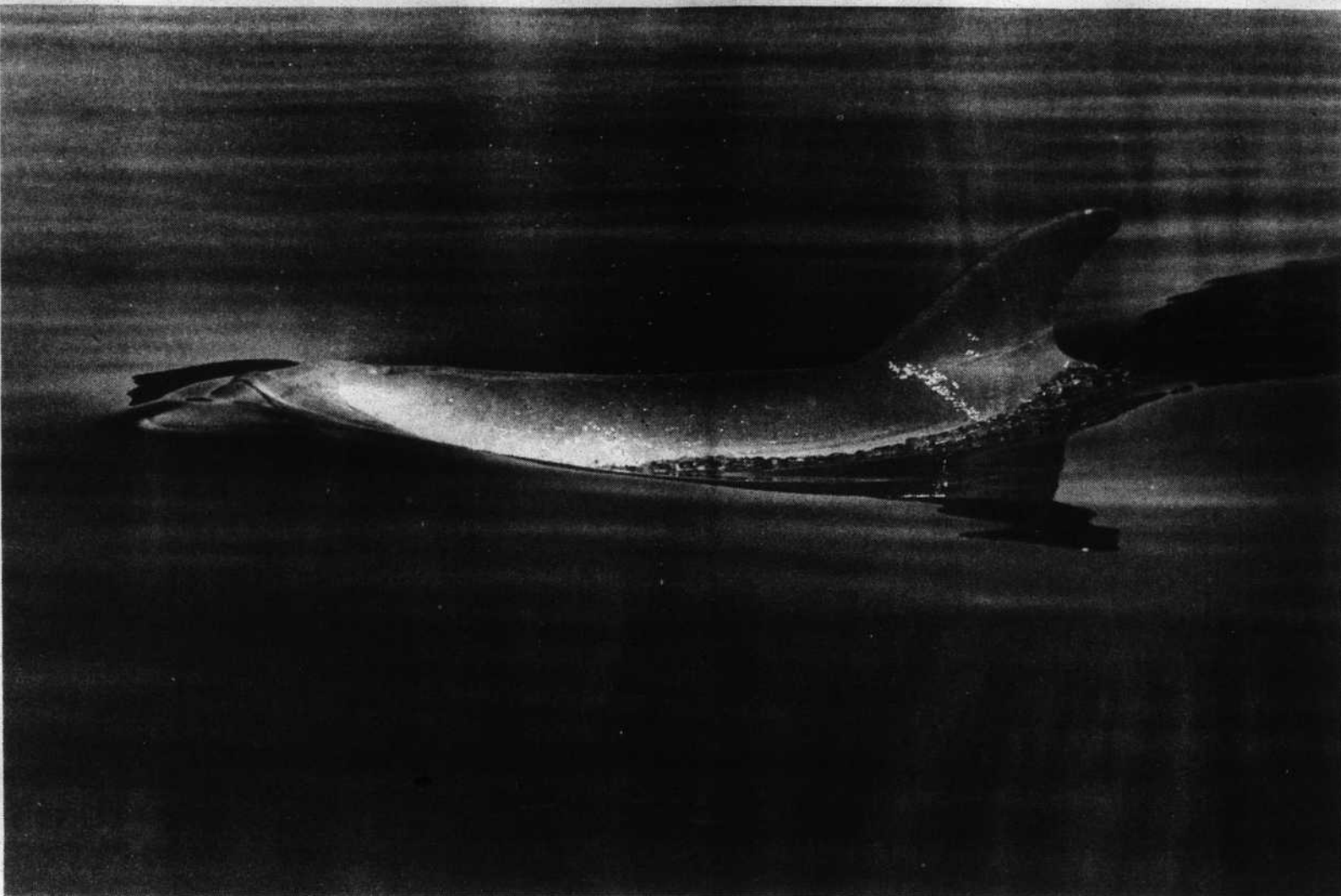
Easter weekend is a test, of sorts, for some merchants and public officials -- a test of readiness for the summer season that lies ahead.

By all indications the business owners, public officials, and even year-round residents may be in for quite an exercise this Easter weekend.

"If it is anything comparable to what we've had in the last three weeks, we're going to be very busy," said Ann Mansfield, owner of Jiffy Bait and Tackle on Oak Island Drive in Long Beach.

Ms. Mansfield said business at Jiffy began picking up about a month ago as the weather started to turn a bit warmer. Like most business operators on Oak Island, she believes visitors will be swarming area shops and attractions if the weather cooperates this Easter weekend.

"We've already been busy," Ms. See Easter, page 6



A porpoise glides down Dutchman Creek after a brief foray with a companion far up that stream looking for food. These all-time pleasers are to be seen in the ocean, harbor and its tributaries in all seasons.

Photo by Jim Harper

'Responsibility on their part'

Schools show restraint in fund disbursement

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Some of the most crucial capital and instructional needs in Brunswick County schools will soon be met.

The school board voted unanimously Monday afternoon to allocate a large portion of the additional \$1.35 million in local funding it received this year in a legal settlement with the county.

About \$393,200 of that amount will be used immediately to repay the estimated shortfall in the schools' \$9.4-million interim budget.

Of the approximately \$957,000 remaining, \$673,468 was allocated Monday by the school board for needs deemed critical by school principals.

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About \$283,000 in local funding remains to be allocated this year. "What makes this task so difficult

is that the schools' needs are so great and so varied," said superintendent of schools Ralph Johnston, who drafted the funding proposal.

The school board approved all of Johnston's recommendations, which included computer support specialists for all three high schools and South Brunswick Middle School, and a part-time computer specialist for Southport Elementary School.

The board also approved expenditures of \$15,000 for furniture for the new addition at North Brunswick High School, \$8,000 for a sidewalk at West Brunswick High School, \$20,000 to remove a mobile unit and excavate at North Brunswick High School, \$100,000 for general school

See Restraint, page 5

Buying power

County, schools considering joint purchasing plan

By Terry Pope
County Editor

School and county officials may take a step toward better working relations by forming a central purchasing office for the two agencies.

In a cooperative spirit which has been missing in recent years, commissioners also voted on Monday to allow county engineer Robert Tucker to assist the school system on some school projects.

The school board asked See Buying, page 6

Taps

Moratorium remains but town hopeful

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Some existing Yaupon Beach business owners and residents may be permitted to tap to the town wastewater treatment system as early as next week, under terms of a pending agreement to relax, but not lift, a state-imposed moratorium on further sewer taps.

Mayor May Moore said the elements of such an agreement were forged at a Tuesday afternoon meeting between some town elected officials, their consulting engineers and representatives of the Wilmington regional office of the state Division of Environmental Management (DEM). Consulting engineers Finley Boney and Robert Graham, of Boney and Associates, will hammer-out details of this accommodation with Rick Shiver, head of Wilmington's DEM office this week. Moore said the agreement should be presented to commissioners for ratification when they meet Monday night.

DEM representatives Tuesday, however, refused to lift the moratorium which has been in effect since July, 1994, until substandard soils used to construct the wastewater treatment system's rapid-infiltration basin are replaced.

"This was presented as an interim agreement to meet the needs of the town residents until sand is placed in the basin and the moratorium is lifted," mayor Moore said.

Although the mayor said specifics of the agreement remain "up in the air," she believes those in town limits who have thus far been unable to tap to the wastewater system may be accommodated.

"We have some existing homes and businesses which have not tapped on and we have some who want building permits," Moore said. "My assumption is those who have existing homes and businesses will be given priority. But, that is my assumption. It is not part of any agreement now."

Commissioners had hoped for more from their Tuesday meeting See Yaupon taps, page 6



Forecast

We can expect partly cloudy but otherwise nice weather for the period of Thursday-Saturday. Highs each will be in the high 60's with lows in the 40's.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, APRIL 6	LOW
12:33 a.m.	6:58 a.m.	
1:00 p.m.	7:09 p.m.	
FRIDAY, APRIL 7		
1:20 a.m.	7:48 a.m.	
1:51 p.m.	8:03 p.m.	
SATURDAY, APRIL 8		
2:14 a.m.	8:44 a.m.	
2:50 p.m.	9:03 p.m.	
SUNDAY, APRIL 9		
3:11 a.m.	9:42 a.m.	
3:50 p.m.	9:05 p.m.	
MONDAY, APRIL 10		
4:10 a.m.	10:39 a.m.	
4:48 p.m.	11:04 p.m.	
TUESDAY, APRIL 11		
5:06 a.m.	11:32 a.m.	
5:43 p.m.	----- p.m.	
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12		
6:00 a.m.	12:00 a.m.	
6:35 p.m.	12:22 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.

For members only

St. James adds second course, new clubhouse

St. James Plantation has announced plans to construct a second 18-hole championship golf course with an 8,000-square-foot clubhouse in the community's second phase of development.

Construction will begin early this summer with completion scheduled in fall 1996.

The new country club complex -- called The Members Course -- will be constructed by community developer Homer E. Wright Jr.

Golf course architect is Clyde Johnston and Associates, of Hilton Head, SC, a regional designer whose courses seek to retain the natural beauty of the coastal landscape. Some of Johnston's most notable designs includes Heather Glen Golf Links, Myrtle Beach; Wexford Plantation Golf Club and Planters Row at Port Royal Plantation, Hilton Head; and Marsh Point Golf Club on Kiawah Island, all in South Carolina.

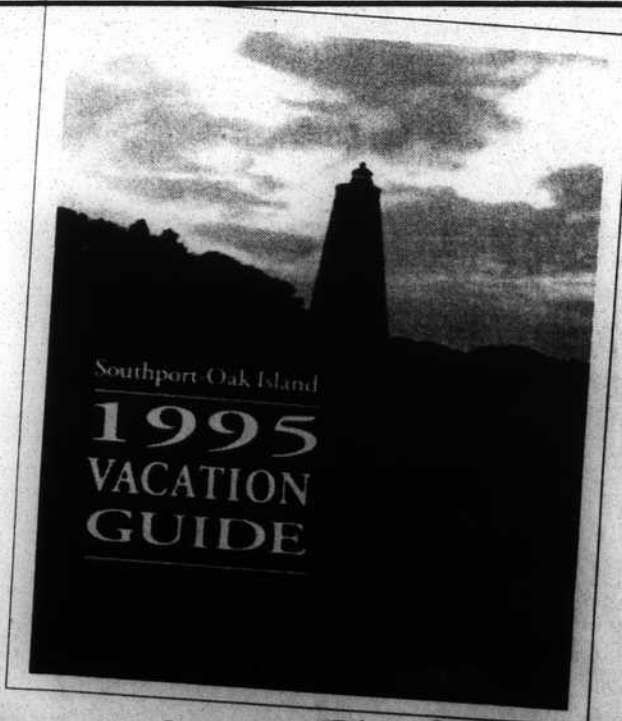
The new clubhouse, the second for St. James Plantation, will be designed by architect David R. Polston

of Wilmington. Polston has created more than 140 community recreation centers throughout the Southeast and Canada.

Features of the St. James social and recreation center include dining facilities, tennis courts and a swimming pool.

"The addition of the second golf course is a significant milestone in the development of St. James, offering property owners their own private championship layout and an all-inclusive club facility befitting the finest country clubs," said John Atkinson, executive vice-president of St. James Plantation, which is currently developing 2,100 acres of residential property along the Intracoastal Waterway near Southport.

The new course complements the existing 18-hole Dye-designed championship course, in addition to a clubhouse with dining, tennis and a pool.



Vacation Guide

The 1995 Vacation Guide published by *The State Port Pilot* is included in this edition.

The 72-page supplement, which includes features on things to do while visiting the Southport-Oak Island area, will be available throughout the spring and summer months at most local businesses. Real estate companies regularly display the guide in their rental properties.

"The '95 guide is valuable to vacationers to our area," noted Ed Harper, editor of the *Pilot*, "but it also is a resource for residents who sometimes may overlook recreational opportunities available to them as well."