

The State Port PILOT

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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I-40 loop would aid economy

By Terry Pope
County Editor

County leaders want to accelerate plans to build the Northern Outer Loop near Leland.

That portion of the Interstate 40 bypass of Wilmington has been placed on hold.

But a resolution passed by Brunswick County commissioners Monday asks the state to support the timely construction of a route into Brunswick County.

The four-lane loop would extend north of Navassa and run adjacent to Leland Industrial Park before connecting to U. S. 17 near Town Creek.

Now the route will halt at U. S. 421 north of Wilmington. Traffic heading to Brunswick County's beaches will use U. S. 17-74-76 through Leland.

"I'll take half a loaf rather than no loaf at all," said Tom Monks, the executive director of the Brunswick County Economic Development Commission.

"It's going to help, but it's not going to be the great big help that bringing it to (Highway) 17 would have been."

County leaders see the Northern Outer Loop as important for both local tourism and to lure new industry to the area. Major highways are a plus for companies that rely on shipment of goods.

"We've had a lot of interest from some warehouse distributors," said Monks. "This is like a halfway point between the Pender County beaches

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The Easter Bunny made its annual appearance at Middleton Park in Long Beach during Saturday's egg hunt. Children lined up for a hug from the giant bunny after finding all the candy- and toy-filled plastic eggs they could. About 500 eggs were distributed to nearly 70 children.

Photo by Holly Edwards

'Best interest' of county

County board asks four-year terms on ballot

By Terry Pope
County Editor

County commissioners began Monday what they hope will signal a return to staggered, four-year terms.

A movement four years ago led to establishment of two-year terms for the commission and school board seats.

Commissioners claim the shorter terms lead to instability and want another vote next fall.

A resolution unanimously approved by the board of three Republicans and two Democrats asks for a new referendum.

They say the public can now easily see why two-year terms are a bad idea.

"What happens is, you get in and then you spend the first year getting familiar with everything," said Bill Sue, District 5 commissioner. "The

The push for a new referendum has crossed party lines on the commission; no one wants two-year terms

second year you spend all your time politicking for your seat. What it does is leave government to the bureaucrats."

The push for two-year terms followed the election of five Republicans to the county commission in

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Practically no change

'89 annexation plans revisited

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

For all intents and purposes, the annexation proposal of 1995 is just a rehash of the failed annexation attempt of 1989, a consultant with the state's Division of Community Assistance told a skeptical Southport Board of Aldermen Thursday night.

And that information left aldermen virtually plotting ways to snag the presently non-qualifying Smithville Woods subdivision into the annexation plan.

Tom Cassell, the division's chief planner, said the area his staff had qualified for annexation to the City of Southport differs only from the area the board attempted to annex in 1989 by inclusion of the last phase of Fiddler's Creek Apartments.

The area that has been qualified for annexation this year includes 566.7 acres with a boundary of 49,033 linear feet. It includes the ADM property, the Cogentrix plant on Carolina Power and Light Co. property and certain rights-of-way belonging to CP&L.

The 27 lots in commercial use include Wilsons Plaza shopping center and Pelican Building Center, both on

N. C. 211 north of the existing city limits.

Residential lots included are all those on either side of Moore Street extending to the ADM gate, all of Leonard Street extension and all of Jabbertown Road, the last phase of Fiddler's Creek and Forest Oaks townhouses, and all residential lots along North Howe Street from 12th Street to an area just north of Sandy Lane. The entire Sawdust Trail area is included, as is property along N. C. 87 to a street easement some distance from the N. C. 87 and Howe Street (N. C. 211) intersection.

While this appears to be the area

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Forecast

Partly cloudy will prevail for the period of Thursday-Friday with highs 75 to 80. There is a slight chance of a thunderstorm on Saturday with a high in the mid 70's

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, APRIL 20	LOW
12:37 a.m.		6:53 a.m.
1:01 p.m.		7:04 p.m.
FRIDAY, APRIL 21		
1:38 a.m.		7:52 a.m.
2:05 p.m.		8:08 p.m.
SATURDAY, APRIL 22		
2:40 a.m.		8:53 a.m.
3:09 p.m.		9:14 p.m.
SUNDAY, APRIL 23		
3:42 a.m.		9:53 a.m.
4:12 p.m.		10:19 p.m.
MONDAY, APRIL 24		
4:42 a.m.		10:50 a.m.
5:10 p.m.		11:19 p.m.
TUESDAY, APRIL 25		
5:38 a.m.		11:42 a.m.
6:04 p.m.		----- p.m.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26		
6:29 a.m.		12:13 a.m.
6:52 p.m.		12:29 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.

Soles: no chance of passage

Bill to 'accommodate' travel, dining interests

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

State Sen. R. C. Soles has sponsored a bill that would drastically reduce local government's role in appropriating occupancy tax funds, but he says he will not push for adoption of the legislation and he gives the bill little chance of passing the General Assembly.

"Whoever's got it stirred up down there needs to pull back a little because there is nothing that is going to happen," Soles said Tuesday from his Raleigh office.

Local government officials learned of the Soles bill -- known as SB 472 -- last week when Long Beach town manager Jerry Walters circulated copies. Yaupon Beach and Caswell Beach commissioners have gone on record

'The senator and I agree on a lot of things, but I don't support that bill. The accommodations tax should be left to locals to decide rather than us mandating something from Raleigh.'

Rep. David Redwine
D-Brunswick

in opposition to the measure and Walters indicated he would send a letter of opposition on his town's behalf to the area legislative delegation.

Under terms of the bill, all local governments approved to levy ac-

commodations taxes after March 1, 1995, would be required to pay two-thirds of collections to an outside agency to be used in promotion of travel and tourism. All governments

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Festival funding is spent

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Traditionally, the N. C. Fourth of July Festival receives a \$5,000 boost from the county for the annual celebration in Southport.

But when festival committee members recently asked for the funds the money wasn't there. It had instead been given to the Miss Brunswick County Pageant.

"The expectations are that the District 3 allocations have usually gone to the Fourth of July Festival," said District 3 county commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach. "It

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Friday incident ruled suicide

Second death is remarkably similar

A second suicide in less than a year has occurred in virtually the same spot in the same room in the same trailer on Sweet Bay Drive in Sea Pines subdivision.

In both instances, the victims reportedly sat down in the living room and shot themselves in the right side of the head with a small handgun.

Each case was officially ruled a suicide, but the similarity in the cases has gotten the attention of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

"The likelihood of two people committing suicide in the same

way in the same spot is one million to one," said investigating detective Mike Cierpiot. "Things like that just don't happen."

On Thursday, April 13, about 10:30 a.m. Kristi Denise Blair, 29, of 219 Mercer Street, Yaupon Beach, reportedly shot herself in the head with a .22-caliber pistol, according to the sheriff's report.

The owner of the trailer, Tony Nance, 45, told authorities he went into the kitchen to fix Blair a drink when he heard a "pop" sound. He said he ran into the living room to find Blair slumped over in a chair.

He said he immediately called 911 for help.

Blair remained on life support at Doshier Memorial Hospital for about an hour and a half after the shooting, Cierpiot said, but her family asked that the life support be disconnected.

Because there was not a medical examiner at Doshier, Cierpiot said, Blair was taken to New Hanover Regional Medical Center to be pronounced dead.

Blair also was at Nance's trailer on July 15, 1994, when Robin Myrick reportedly shot himself in the head in the same room

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