



Sports

South Brunswick runs -- and jumps -- away with the county track championship

The State Port PILOT

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Neighbors

A visiting artist pieces together a unique display for the Blue Dolphin Gallery

Our Town

Boiling Spring Lakes will consider an administrator to operate city government

How 'long term'?

Community center may be replaced

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Sunny Point's commander has agreed with Southport officials: Both the Army and the City of Southport would be best served by long-term lease of the old Southport Community Building property.

In an April 16 letter to mayor Norman Holden, Col. Lawrence M. Curtin said he has set the process in motion to extend a "long-term" lease of the land to the city.

"My public works division chief agrees with your assessment that a long-term lease is a more viable alternative than seeking to acquire this property from the U. S. Army," Curtin wrote Holden. "This method will ensure that the land presently under lease to the City of Southport will remain available for your use for the foreseeable future."

The Army's apparent willingness to extend the city a long-term lease of the prime waterfront property next to Fort Johnston likely will come as good news to the 66 percent of Southport citizens who said in a recent poll they want the Community Building rebuilt substantially as it was -- on its original footing.

The Community Building was lost to fire in the early hours of January 30. Since that time, community debate has been spirited. According to the city-initiated poll, the 34 percent of respondents who said they opposed reconstruction of the Community Building on its original site, did so because the Army owned the land beneath it.

The city's insurance carrier has said it will pay actual cost to replace the Southport Community Building on its original site. Because it was in a historic district and because the original building occupied archaeologically significant land, expansion of the original footing of the building on the riverfront site would be virtually impossible. But, the interior of the building may be modernized and altered somewhat, city officials believe.

Meeting April 19, city aldermen voted 4-1 to "pursue" replacement of the Southport Community Building on its Fort Johnston site. Only alderman Nelson Adams opposed reconstruction on the original site, but al-

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Photo by Holly Edwards

South Brunswick High School students got a first-hand look at the dangers of drinking and driving last week in this mock crash organized by the Anchor Club. County fire, rescue and law enforcement officials used the Jaws of Life to extract "victims" of the crash.

The Anchor Club hoped this dramatic enactment would discourage students from drinking and alcohol on prom night and encourage them to attend the drug- and alcohol-free After-Prom Party sponsored by the club Saturday night.

Yaupon weighs options

On-site spray one alternative for wastewater

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Spray application of treated effluent -- or at least a lower-rate infiltration technique -- has emerged as a possible solution to the wastewater disposal problems with which Yaupon Beach has grappled since July, 1994.

Since that time, the state's Division of Environmental Management has enforced a moratorium on new taps to the town's wastewater management system. The moratorium was ordered when it was discovered effluent was ponding in the system's rapid-infiltration basin -- a huge lagoon into which effluent is placed for percolation into the ground.

And, during that moratorium, it was discovered the rapid-infiltration basin can only accommodate flow of 250,000 gallons per day. The Yaupon Beach wastewater treatment plant, built in 1992, can treat 400,000 gallons of wastewater per day. DEM has said until the rapid-infiltration basin is repaired, the moratorium will remain in force.

With that in mind town officials, their engineering and hydrogeological consultants and DEM officials met Friday in Yaupon Beach to discuss not repairing the basin at all. Mayor May Moore, consulting hydrogeologist Ed Andrews, and DEM officials themselves, now say spray application -- or spraying water over a larger tract of land rather than depositing it in the rapid-infiltration basin, may be a more effective means to reach the town's goal of disposing of as much effluent as its wastewater plant can treat.

Estimates to repair the ill-constructed rapid-infiltration basin -- good for about the next 50 days -- exceed \$144,000. Even when repaired, consulting engineers say, the basin would still only accommodate flow of 250,000 gallons per day, not the 400,000 gpd it was designed to

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Sheriff, registrar sue county

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Upset with a hiring freeze imposed last month on jobs within their departments, the sheriff and register of deeds filed suit Monday against the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and interim county manager Charles McGinnis.

The action filed by Shallotte attorney Joseph Causey asks for a Superior Court judge's ruling on whether the county can legally restrict how sheriff Ronald Hewett and registrar Robert J. Robinson hire or

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Opposition will continue

Martin Marietta gets extension for permits

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Martin Marietta will have another year to submit data in support of its application for a state mining permit on a tract north of Southport.

A one-year extension has been granted by Charles Gardner, director of the Division of Land Resources of the N. C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

The 180-day deadline set in November would have expired May 28.

Residents who organized the Brunswick Mining Awareness Committee to fight the application more than two years ago say they will continue to lead the battle against the proposed mine.

'At the end of one year, a decision will have to be made. But you don't change the aquifer, and you can't change the sinkholes.'

Bob Quinn
Committee spokesman

The company asked the state for more time to conduct studies at the site. It has been pending since December, 1993.

"We aren't going to relax," said Bob

Quinn of Southport, Brunswick Mining Awareness Committee chairman.

"The people here aren't going to relax, because we know what it's all

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Audit revealed improper use of equipment

Schools pledge to address problems

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Quick and aggressive action was promised this week by the Brunswick County Board of Education to rectify problems detailed in a performance audit of the school system conducted by the state auditor's office.

And, some board members said they will push for investigation of reports of financial mismanagement and possible violations of law.

"I believe very strongly that this is just the tip of the iceberg," school board vice-chairman Glenda Browning said of the audit report. "It's proven that some of the perceptions about the school system were correct, and we must act swiftly and severely to make sure these things don't happen again."

School board chairman Clara Carter said she was "appalled" by the report.

"I am appalled that people given the public trust could have made some of these decisions," she said. "I do not believe we

'I recognize that some of these problems have been around a long time, but (Johnston has) been here two and a half years now and a lot of this stuff happened during that time.'

Billy Carter

can have business as usual. It's a day for accountability, and I pledge my efforts to that end."

School board members discussed the audit report in a special-planning session Monday night, and said they will begin taking action on the findings at their next regular meeting May 8.

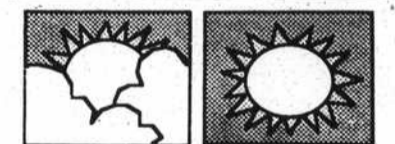
The report indicates that some employees utilized school vehicles, cellular phones and credit cards for their personal use, state and federal funding was improperly allocated and the organizational structure of the school system hampers communication among school employees.

The report also notes that the auditors were unable to determine the magnitude of the problems because of time limitations and the disorganized state of school records.

Therefore it's now the school board's responsibility to determine the magnitude of the problems, said board member Billy Carter.

"We've got a poor system and bad accountability," he said. "And when you're dealing with public funds you've got to have accountability for it."

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Forecast

The extended forecast for the period of Thursday-Saturday will be partly cloudy skies with lows in the 50's and high near 80. Sunday will be clearer and warmer with a high in the mid to upper 80's.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MAY 4	LOW
11:43 a.m.		5:44 a.m.
11:57 p.m.		5:48 p.m.
	FRIDAY, MAY 5	
----- a.m.		6:26 a.m.
12:26 p.m.		6:33 p.m.
	SATURDAY, MAY 6	
12:40 a.m.		7:12 a.m.
1:14 p.m.		7:24 p.m.
	SUNDAY, MAY 7	
1:29 a.m.		8:02 a.m.
2:09 p.m.		8:22 p.m.
	MONDAY, MAY 8	
2:24 a.m.		8:57 a.m.
3:09 p.m.		9:25 p.m.
	TUESDAY, MAY 9	
3:22 a.m.		9:54 a.m.
4:09 p.m.		10:28 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, MAY 10	
4:21 a.m.		10:50 a.m.
5:07 p.m.		11:28 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.