



Sports

The Brunswick Dolphins will take to the hardwood with Gene Doane as coach

The State Port

PILOT

VOLUME 64/ NUMBER 37 SOUTHPORT, N.C. 50 CENTS

Neighbors

Dosher Memorial Hospital hosts its annual Health Fair for Smithville Township

Our Town

Southport annexation map will be first presented to aldermen Thursday night

Yaupon seeking answer

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Yaupon Beach officials and their consultants will take three separate proposals to remedy wastewater disposal problems to a meeting with state regulators Friday.

While the town's treatment plant can treat up to 400,000 gallons of wastewater per day, its rapid-infiltration basin effluent disposal system will only permit percolation of 250,000 gallons per day, because of poor soils and changes made in its engineering design. This inability to dispose of treated effluent efficiently forced the state's Division of Environmental Management to impose a moratorium on new sewer taps in July, 1994. That has cost the town an estimated \$2,000 per week in lost revenues.

Consulting engineer Robert Graham of Boney and Associates told commissioners Monday night they could expect to spend \$306,993 to repair the existing rapid-infiltration basin with washed sand hauled from Wilmington, but the basin would still only treat 250,000 gallons per day.

He also proposed converting to a spray irrigation disposal system on the wastewater treatment plant's Fish Factory Road site at an estimated cost of \$277,200, if the elevation of the property does not have to be increased.

A third proposal involves pumping treated effluent to the Oak Island Golf and Country Club course to be used for irrigation at an estimated cost of \$371,000.

The Oak Island golf course has not specifically asked the town for the water, but operators of the course

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Photo by Jim Harper

Isn't it always the way? You catch the curl just right, hit a homer, turn a terrific land deal, grow beautiful tailfeathers (or possibly a mane), finish first in the election, crow louder than anybody else and then, just at that perfect moment ... your audience walks away.

Community Building

25-year lease of Army land is anticipated

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

An offer of a 25-year lease of the Cape Fear River site of the former Southport Community Building to the city may be good enough to assure a like building will be placed there.

Aldermen are scheduled to discuss Community Building replacement when they meet in regular session Thursday.

In a memorandum to board members this week, city manager Rob Gandy for the first time disclosed the lease-term it appears the U. S. Army is willing to offer.

"They have indicated that the long-term lease period would be 25 years and would commence when our present lease expires in April, 1998," Gandy wrote.

The Southport Community Building, built in 1941 as a USO center, burned to the ground in January. The

Most who said they want to build on another site said they did not wish to commit city funds to a building on property owned by the government

building had been the site of numerous social, cultural and civic events in the city's post-World War II history.

Since its burning, debate of how, or if, to replace it has been vigorous in Southport. In a survey conducted by city officials, 66 percent of respon-

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District future in limbo, plan changes again

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The future of the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District project remains in doubt as commissioners and their technicians search for a place and manner of disposal for treated waste.

Plans have been changed twice since February, and last Thursday a hydrologist indicated the board may still be barking up the wrong tree.

Ed Andrews, the same hydrologist Yaupon Beach is relying on in its sewage woes, told the SBSB board that only 70 percent of a suggested 150-acre site might be suitable for spray application of treated wastewater.

Only after soil samples of the acreage are examined sometime this week will Andrews be able to say if the site is capable of taking on 400,000 gallons of treated wastewater daily, and he did not give high hopes of the soil's suitability.

And almost as if he were presaging another setback, the district's engineer proposed yet another solution: Spraying wastewater on the district's present proposed treatment site, then pumping out the percolated water to the head of Calf Gully Creek, and thence to the CP&L-wildlife canal.

Engineer-consultant Finley Boney's suggestion was an effective return to square one, for when he first started advising the district some five years ago the bank of the canal was seen as the most suitable site for district wastewater treatment and disposal.

Andrews said he felt the plan to spray wastewater onto the 150-acre site west of Sea Pines and north of Oakwood Glen subdivisions would be approved by the state.

"The state's going to find a way to make this thing work," Andrews told

the commissioners. "They've been working with us, and they know they owe us one."

One aspect of the proposed woodland spraying would be that "the wetlands get wetter," said Andrews, "but the state knows it's going to happen and they're going to let us do it."

Not so confident, Boney said he wanted to get a final "buy-in" by state regulators before he started working up his disposal site plans.

And he said, "I want the district to have some feeling of fallback position on this second alternative."

Thus he described a system which

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Forecast

The extended forecast calls for a chance of showers of thunderstorms for the period of Thursday through Saturday with highs in the 70's and lows in the 50's.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, MAY 11	LOW
5:20 a.m.		11:44 a.m.
6:04 p.m.		----- p.m.
	FRIDAY, MAY 12	
6:17 a.m.		12:25 a.m.
6:58 p.m.		12:36 p.m.
	SATURDAY, MAY 13	
7:12 a.m.		1:20 a.m.
7:12 p.m.		1:28 p.m.
	SUNDAY, MAY 14	
8:07 a.m.		2:12 a.m.
8:44 p.m.		2:18 p.m.
	MONDAY, MAY 15	
9:01 a.m.		3:04 a.m.
9:37 p.m.		3:09 p.m.
	TUESDAY, MAY 16	
9:56 a.m.		3:56 a.m.
10:31 p.m.		4:01 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, MAY 17	
10:53 a.m.		4:48 a.m.
11:26 p.m.		4:54 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.

Auditor: Problems were there

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

When a performance audit of the Brunswick County school system revealed serious weakness in control of school finances, school board members wondered why some of these problems were not flagged sooner by their independent auditor.

Accountant Charles Flowers Jr., who has audited the school system for ten years, told the

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School audit justifies concern, officials say

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Not many of the former county leaders who called for a school performance audit last year are in office today to see the results.

However, the impact of the audit and its revelations about the financial condition of the schools' central office in a way eases the minds of county leaders who first demanded the study.

"I thought it was a good move for the audit," said former county commission chairman Don Warren, who

lost his seat in District 1 in the November election.

"I just wish the present board would have waited for the audit to return before settling the lawsuit with the school board. I think they reacted too quickly."

What prompted the audit was a dispute between commissioners and the former school board over how much money is needed to operate the school system. It led to a lawsuit filed against the county seeking \$14 million.

An out-of-court settlement reached this year will allocate the schools most of what they have asked for.

Warren said if he had won re-election no one would have settled until the audit was revealed. The embarrassing results might have been used as leverage to reduce the amount demanded by the schools, he said.

"I thought we believed from the very start that they had problems with asset controls and fiscal accountability," said Warren, "especially with the misuse of vehicles. And now we hear of misuse of cellular phones. But being personally involved with the school system

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Superintendent says he got B-

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Assume a stronger leadership role and spend more time in county schools.

These were the primary directives given Brunswick County superintendent of schools Ralph Johnston during his annual evaluation Monday afternoon.

The evaluation came just weeks after release of a state performance audit indicating serious weakness in control of school finances and resources, as well as inefficiencies in central office organi-

zational structure.

However, both Johnston and school board members said the performance audit played little part in Johnston's evaluation.

Instead, he was evaluated based on objectives set for him by the newly elected school board members in December: Improve test scores, bring school facilities up to par and serve as a strong leader for the school system.

School board members refused to comment on the evaluation and referred all questions to Johnston.

"They said that there are obviously weaknesses that need to be improved," Johnston said of his evaluation. "They told me they want me to take charge, and be more assertive in those areas."

Overall, Johnston said the board gave him the equivalent of a B- grade.

"I think they gave me a very satisfactory rating overall," he said. "Their criticism was constructive, and they pledged to continue to support me and work with me."

On the positive side, Johnston said the

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