

Sports

Football forecasters can collect \$25 for their effort in our pigskin contest -- 4-5C

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Neighbors

Does Richard Nubel have both oars in the water or is he just making waves? -- 1B

Our Town

A proposed Yaupon Beach motel can be built under certain conditions -- Page 2

EDC objects to label

By Terry Pope
County Editor

"What is clean industry and how can it be recruited?" is the topic of the October 19 public meeting scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m. at the Carolina Power and Light Co. visitors Center near Southport.

It is one in a series of seven sponsored by the Brunswick County Long-Range Planning Committee used to gather input on how the county should manage its growth over the next 25 years.

However, the Brunswick County Economic Development Commission says that wording is all wrong.

It may imply that officials responsible for recruiting industry have done a poor job by luring "unclean" or undesirable businesses here. The commission has asked that fliers used to promote the public meetings be changed to read "job creation to meet employment needs." It's a term that EDC executive director Tom Monks prefers.

The relationship between the EDC and Long-Range Planning Committee has been strained after a countywide public session last month with appointed and elected officials from across the county didn't include the commission. It was at that session where eight topics of concern were voted on by the group of 135 in attendance and became the focus of the
See Objects, page 8

Obscenity in schools is charged

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

The Brunswick County school system is pandering obscenity to juveniles by allowing pornographic materials to be distributed in county school libraries, parents told the board of education Monday night.

A parent of a South Brunswick Middle School student told the board his son obtained a book entitled *The Funhouse* last month from the middle school library and soon began asking his father questions about some of the material contained in the book.

"I took the book from my son and was appalled and sickened at what I read in the book," said parent David Putnam of Boiling Spring Lakes. "I was further upset that the very same people that I entrust my children to for five days a week allowed my child to bring home this filthy trash as part of an assignment."

Putnam said the book contains pornographic material.
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Photo by Jim Harper

Bald Head Island was busy digging (and pumping) itself out Monday after overwash from Hurricane Luis filled South Bald Head Wynd with beach sand and flooded lagoons and some golf holes with salt water. This location is at the beach access near the old Swansquarter site, with the villas in the left background. Power also went out in shoreside homes, and some locations were still without electricity on Tuesday.

Long Beach says strand was helped

While some of Brunswick County's south-facing beaches may have suffered for the astronomical high tides and passage of Hurricane Luis this week, Long Beach actually profited some.

"Quite honestly, we gained sand in some places because of the northeast winds," town manager Jerry Walters said this week. "We're not in as bad shape as Holden Beach or Ocean Isle Beach. Any erosion we
See Strand, page 7

BHI overwash floods lagoons

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Overwashing swells from Hurricane Luis filled Bald Head Island golf course lagoons, flooded two golf holes and filled sections of South Bald Head Wynd with beach sand.

Workers were still busy Tuesday trying to clear the roadway, pump the lagoons back down to normal level and restore electricity to some 35 homes still without power since overwash downed service Friday evening.

Most electric power had been restored by Sunday evening. Electrical service was uninterrupted in portions of the island not overwashed.

Operations had been resumed at the Bald Head Island Club.
See Lagoons, page 6

County school position filled; search begins

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Interim superintendent of schools John Jones appeared relaxed and confident Monday night as he spelled out concerns to the Brunswick County Board of Education.

He was hired Thursday to serve as interim superintendent of schools following former superintendent Ralph Johnston's resignation, and will be paid \$5,000 per month.

"I'm from the old school, so I feel real strongly about the three A's -- attendance, attire and attitude," he told the school board.

Jones said the way a student dresses is a good indication of that student's positive self-image and attitude towards education. And, he said, regular attendance is an essential component of academic
See Search, page 13



JONES

Johnston resigns

Former superintendent cites health reasons for departure

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

A Brunswick County school board member said the board had grounds to fire former superintendent Ralph Johnston but instead offered to pay him some \$5,000 in local funds until December 31 to leave his job without a fight.

Both Johnston and the school board were represented by counsel in a six-hour closed session held last Wednesday.

"The contract states that if he is medically unable to continue his job then the contract is null and void," board member Billy Carter said. "Common sense would tell you that the board probably had the foundation to support itself if it had to in court, but the board of education has the responsibility to do what's in the best interest of the school system."

Technically Johnston, who has held the top education job since 1992, will remain on paid medical leave for the next 60 days. After that, he may return to work for Brunswick County in a job the board created for him -- special projects coordinator -- at his \$81,517 superintendent's salary, most of which is funded by the state.

In any event, Johnston's employment in Brunswick County will terminate December 31 of this year.

Johnston began a medical leave of absence Thursday in his new position.
See Johnston, page 13

New ferry contract awarded

The N. C. Board of Transportation has awarded a \$4.7-million contract to build a new ferry for use on the Cape Fear River. The contract, awarded to Steiner Shipyard Inc. of Alabama, calls for construction of a 180-foot vessel to operate between Southport and Fort Fisher.

Odell Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach, who represents Brunswick and New Hanover counties on the state board, said work on the ferry is expected to begin next month. The ferry will carry approximately 400 passengers and 35 automobiles.

Work on the project is scheduled for completion in November, 1996.

Yaupon wastewater plan

Impact must be reviewed

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A preliminary engineering report and environmental assessment of the planned Yaupon Beach spray-irrigation treated wastewater disposal system will have to include its impact on the Oak Island Golf and Country Club property, town commissioners learned Monday night.

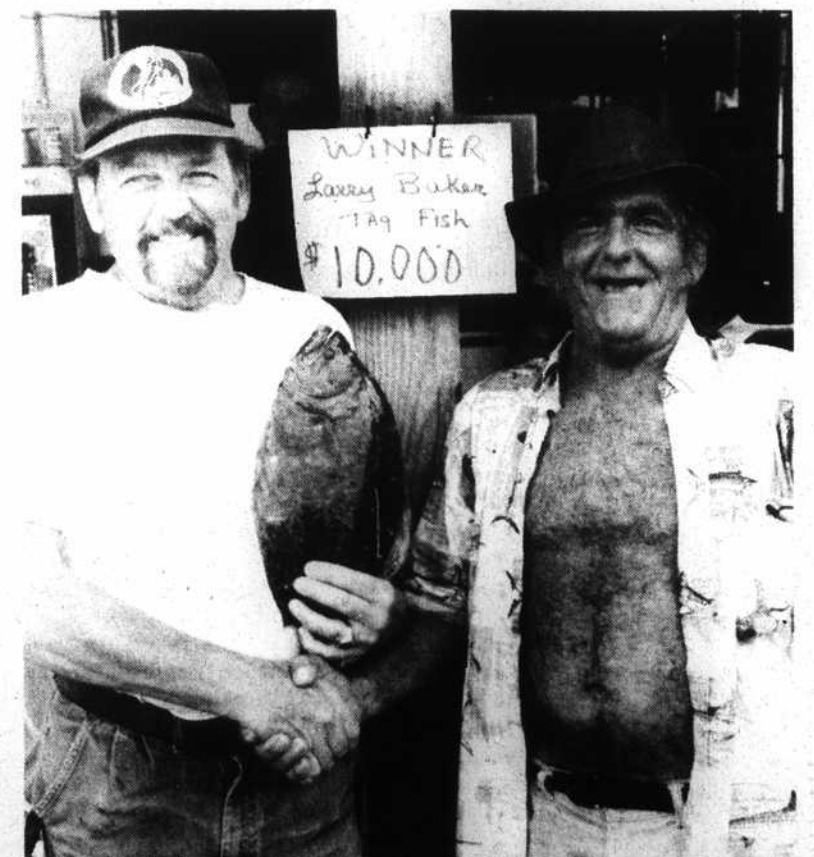
An assessment of the environmental impact on the golf course and its abutting properties was one of the conditions sought by the Arboretum Community Association which has vowed to oppose spray-irrigation on the golf course which abuts that Caswell Beach subdivision.

Commissioners got good news about the proposal Monday night also: Spraying on the golf course may be done right up to private property lines. State regulators apparently will

not insist that a substantial buffer be established between the spray area on the golf course and private property, including the Arboretum.

Consulting engineer Robert Graham told commissioners it was discovered no buffer zone would be required in discussions between hydrogeologist Ed Andrews -- who has been retained by the golf course -- and an engineer with the state's Division of Environmental Management.

"Ed Andrews met with the review engineer who will review the golf course portion of the project," Graham said. "(Andrews) was under the impression that the state would make us maintain a 50-foot buffer from houses. Since then he met with higher-ups in the Groundwater Section (of DEM) and this is not true. We
See Impact, page 7



Almost certainly the most valuable fish ever caught on hook and line here was this 2.36-pound flounder landed by Larry Baker (left) in the Wildlife Bait and Tackle Flounder Tournament over the weekend. Director Jimmy Price congratulates Baker on his tagged catch, which qualified him for a \$10,000 prize.