

The State Port

PILOT

VOLUME 65/ NUMBER 21

SOUTHPORT, N.C.

50 CENTS

Neighbors

Friends, neighbors are back doing the same ol' things after the holiday break -- 1B

Our Town

Caswell Beach assessment will finance final phase of undergrounding -- Page 2



Sports

South Brunswick's Cougars drop two close ones to the 'Pack Tuesday night -- 1C

Long Beach
Rec center
financing
is in order

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Councilors Tuesday night saw a man about a horse -- actually 500 horses, approved a finance contract for expansion of the town recreation center and emphatically said "no" to a Holden Beach request for dredge spoils Long Beach is due, as town council met in regular monthly session.

While a good deal of council's time was consumed by discussion of the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department's annual Horse-a-Thon, scheduled March 29-31 this year, council did act to approve a United Carolina Bank proposal to finance about 50 percent of the cost of building a 40-by-110-foot extension of the Long Beach Recreation Center.

UCB offered to loan Long Beach \$137,200 for three years at a 4.45-percent interest rate with annual payments of \$49,200.

Of the four institutions offering bids, BB&T offered a 4.26-percent interest rate but town manager Jerry Walters said other provisions of the package, including holding a portion of the loan in escrow and charging for construction drafts, brought the difference in payments to only about \$90.

"We felt this money is better spent enhancing
See Rec center, page 6

Garbage
heads out
of county

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Trucks began hauling the county's garbage to a Fayetteville area incinerator two weeks ago.

Residents aren't likely to notice a change. Since there is less trash to bury these days at the landfill near Supply, employees there are in transition but won't lose their jobs.

"We've been hauling since the first day of the year, and so far it's working smoothly," said Darryl Somerset, Brunswick County operation services director.

The county's contract with BCH Limited Partnership Inc., the operator of a bubbling fluid bed incinerator built by the Vedco Energy Corp. of Houston, TX, will turn trash into electrical energy and help boost the county's recycling efforts.

The \$2.3-million-per-year deal began January 1 for 25 years with an option to end it after ten years if the county isn't pleased with results. Waste Industries Inc. has a contract to haul the county's garbage to three transfer stations, but it expires on July 1.

Waste Industries has also negotiated a deal with Vedco to haul the trash from the county transfer
See Garbage, page 6



Photo by Jim Harper

Roofers were at work Monday setting metal panels in place atop the Belville Elementary School on Highway 133. The 650-student facility is expected to be completed by summer and to open for classes next fall. More information on the project is on page 3.

Brunswick
211 plant
upgrade
approved

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The county must go to the well in search of \$2.03 million needed to upgrade its N. C. 211 water treatment plant.

Once thought to be on the verge of shutting down, the plant was given new life Tuesday when Brunswick County commissioners voted unanimously to accept a construction plan which exceeds the original \$1.48-million estimate by \$380,000.

The plant draws groundwater from a series of 15 wells but is no longer the county's primary source of water. The newer Malmo treatment plant in northern Brunswick County draws water from the Cape Fear River in Bladen County and can treat up to 24 million gallons per day.

A pipeline reaches the Southport-Oak Island community and extends to Calabash, but residents along the coast view the N. C. 211 plant as a safety valve and a source that could become valuable if contamination develops in the Cape Fear.

District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach said residents in all areas of the county expressed concerns when the board entertained
See 211 plant, page 6

FILING PERIOD

Former
members
try again

Former District 3 county commissioner Wayland Vereen of Yaupon Beach has filed for the seat he previously lost to Republican Leslie Collier of Long Beach.

Vereen, 61, was defeated in the November, 1994, general election by Ms. Collier. He becomes the second Democrat voted off the board two years ago to enter the primary race.

Don Warren of Shallotte previously filed for the District 1 commission seat he lost to Republican Doug Simmons of Calabash. Commission chairman Jerry Jones of Shallotte has announced he will not file for reelection.

Incumbent commissioners Bill Sue of District 5 and Tom Rabon Sr. of District 4 has each filed for reelection.

Overall, filing has been slow since starting January 2. Candidates have until noon on Monday, February 5, to enter local races.

All five seats on the school board and county commission are up for grabs. Also open is the reg-
See Members, page 6



Forecast

Was that a touch of Spring we felt this week? Expect the moderate temperatures to continue but with a chance of showers through to Sunday.

INSIDE

- Opinion 4
- Obituaries 11
- Pilot TV 6B
- Police report ... 5C
- District Court .. 6C
- Business 7C
- Plant Doctor ... 8C
- Classifieds 1D

Not on public property
City draws the line
on hidden weapons

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Southport alderman Bill Delaney attempted to shoot down a proposed ordinance banning the carrying of concealed weapons on city property Thursday, but his fellow board members recoiled, adopting the measure by a 4-1 margin.

"You know how adamantly I am against this thing," Delaney, an avid hunter and gun owner, told aldermen. He said he had called other board members to lobby for their vote against the concealed weapons ban, one similar to those passed by all other Southport-Oak Island municipal governing bodies and by Brunswick County commis-
See Weapons, page 6

'If someone's going to come shoot the mayor, he's going to do it if we have a resolution or not.'

Bill Delaney
Ward II alderman

Roundtable talk
Churches must
lead the march

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Blacks and whites shared breakfast Monday morning and discussed their feelings about racial differences and the cultural barriers that separate people.

The theme that tied the discussion together was the need for local churches -- and local ministers in particular -- to assume a leading role in bridging gaps that continue to divide the local community along racial lines.
See Churches, page 8

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

SECOND IN A SERIES

Can the dream
come true today?

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

It's been over 30 years since Martin Luther King Jr. rallied support for his dream of racial harmony and equal treatment for all Americans.

Since then, federal laws prohibiting racial discrimination have been enacted and a generation of Americans has been
forced to reexamine its attitudes about the meaning of racial differences.
But has King's dream that all Americans be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin been achieved?
Longtime Southport alderman Nelson Adams notes that black people can now eat at
See The dream, page 8

