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Two former South cagers squared off in Division I basketball Saturday -- 1C

The State Port

PILOT

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The offensive turned the Vietnam War and changed Sgt. Willie Gore's life -- 1B

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Hospital may seek 'authority'

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

How Doshier Memorial Hospital was chartered may determine whether it should pay property taxes to Brunswick County and to the City of Southport, a lawyer for the hospital and Brunswick County tax supervisor Boyd Williamson say.

Hospital trustees learned Monday night their attorney, Michael Murchison of Wilmington, and Williamson will meet to discuss Doshier's potential property tax liability the first week in February. Under discussion will be whether some \$1 million of real estate owned by the hospital and rented to doctors and others at fair market value is subject to property taxation.

Williamson, in a January 10 interview with *The State Port Pilot*, suggested property used for purposes other than those directly associated with the public hospital are subject to property taxation, under the N. C. Machinery Act, the body of law governing property taxation in this state.

"Buildings on hospital property that are being rented and the doctors are making a profit and paying rent, that's taxable," Williamson said on January 10.

The county tax supervisor said if the Doshier Memorial Hospital properties are "discovered" -- added to the county tax scrolls -- the hospital could be liable to pay property taxes for the years 1991-95 with penalties graduating ten percent for each year of arrears.

In a January 15 letter to hospital administrator Edgar Haywood and finance officer James Shomaker, Murchison countered Williamson's contention, saying there are "two exemptions for real property taxes in North Carolina which arguably may apply to Doshier."

Murchison told hospital administrator -- See Hospital, page 6

'Doshier is in the real estate business. They're creating a market force.... They can potentially rent cheaper by not paying taxes.'

Boyd Williamson
Tax supervisor



Photo by Jim Harper

A grackle can work up a powerful thirst just now eating chinaberries, and other delicious stuff that might be found under the bleak winter sun. How nice to be able to drop over to the nearby neighborhood gutter for refreshment.

Wastewater management

Yaupon, state finally to discuss alternative

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Just shy of 18 months after declaring a moratorium on new taps to the Yaupon Beach wastewater management system because its method of disposing treated effluent was defi-

cient, N. C. Division of Environmental Management officials have called town leaders and their engineers to Raleigh to discuss "alternatives."

Mayor Dot Kelly and commissioners Dick Marshall and Roy Johnson will keep that appointment Monday, but have not been told which "alter-

natives" will be on the table.

DEM's Wilmington regional supervisor Rick Shiver said Tuesday DEM staff has three treated effluent disposal options to put before Yaupon Beach officials.

"Obviously, the option we have See Yaupon, page 11

Do recycling charges equal a double tax?

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Commencement of Brunswick County's contract to dispose of garbage in partnership with a solid-waste-to-energy company near Fayetteville leaves municipal officials here with two policy questions to face in budget deliberations this spring:

■ Are municipal residents paying twice to recycle?

■ Is that bad?

Town manager Jerry Walters of Long Beach and city manager Rob Gandy of Southport say they will bring those policy questions to their respective governing boards shortly, as the budget preparation process for FY 1996-97 progresses. They may also be questions for Caswell Beach and Boiling Spring Lakes, both of which operate recycling stations, and Yaupon Beach, which pays Caswell Beach so its residents may use a recycling center there.

Under terms of Brunswick County's contract with BCH Energy Limited Partnership Inc., trash is hauled 90 miles by a private carrier to BCH's

'The likelihood is, we'll reevaluate the need for a recycling center in the community. The \$2,000 a month we pay for the center is a significant amount.'

Jerry Walters
Long Beach manager

bubbling fluid bed incinerator where trash is burned, converted to steam and sold to a Dupont plant nearby.

But first, recyclable items are removed from the waste stream by BCH, under terms of its contract with See Double tax, page 6

Leland opts for regional sewer study

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Leland officials have broken off negotiations with the Town of Belville and will instead pursue a regional approach to sewer service.

The unanimous vote of council last week halts current talks with Belville over a proposed contract to tap onto that neighboring town's sewer treatment plant.

It also officially endorses a Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority study which may take six to seven months to complete. That draft will also include recommendations for all of northern Brunswick County.

"The number-one priority now is regionalization, and the number-one See Leland, page 8

'I will bend over backwards to get Belville in the process. We want them in the process. But if we must, we will go on without them.'

Kurt Taube
LCFWSA director

Units permitted by county zoning

We're a 'mobile' society

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Figures show Brunswick County was on the move in 1995. So were a number of mobile homes.

Mobile homes outnumbered new stick-built houses in the county by almost a four-to-one margin last year, according to figures released by the Brunswick County Building Inspections Department.

One reason is the county's open-door zoning policy for mobile units.

"Eighty-five percent of the county has mobile homes available to it by zoning," said Brunswick County planning director Wade Horne.

Last year, 916 permits were issued for mobile homes, up 18 percent from the 773 permits issued in 1994. An average of 76 mobile homes are moved into the county each month, but building inspections doesn't attach a

value to the units for its yearly report.

Also last year, 256 permits were issued for single-family dwellings, an increase of 34 percent from 1994's total of 191 permits.

It was another building boom for the county with the value of new construction at \$32.4 million in 1995, up 61 percent over the previous year's estimate of \$20.2 million. The county ranks second in the state in growth.

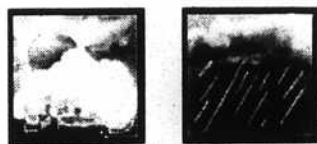
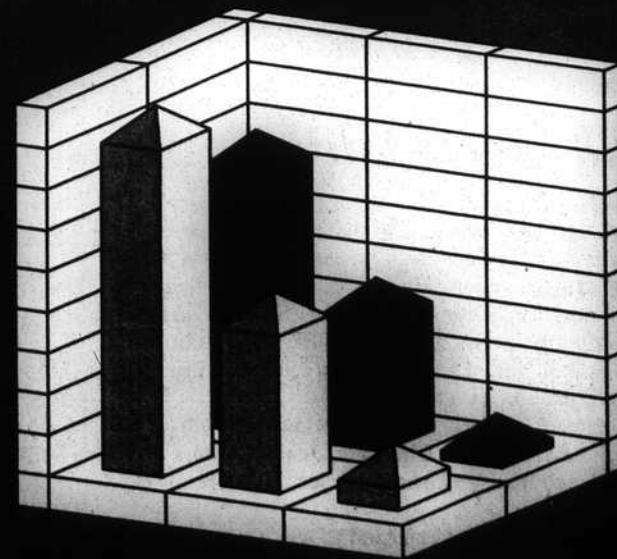
Mobile homes are welcomed into the county because all residential zones now allow them in some form -- singlewides in higher density zones, and doublewides in medium density zones.

"That is a rarity," said Horne. "In my opinion, that is not good for the county."

In other counties the reverse is true -- mobile homes are restricted to certain zones. Most residential areas do not normally allow them. County commissioners are

See 'Mobile', page 9

BUILDING PERMIT SUMMARY



Forecast

It's cold again. We can expect winter temperatures for the period of Thursday-Sunday. Highs only reaching into the 40's.

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