



Sports

South Brunswick hosted rival West Brunswick in Tuesday night action - 1C

The State Port

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50 CENTS

Neighbors

Shrimpers, tired of fouling their nets, gett paid to do something about it - 1B

Our Town

Yaupon Beach still looks for place to dispose of its treated wastewater - Page 2

Decision up in air
Redwine could seek Rose seat

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

With speculation high that Democratic 7th District U. S. Congressman Charlie Rose may announce his retirement today (Wednesday), pressure is mounting on 14th N. C. House District Rep. E. David Redwine to seek a move to Washington.

Redwine, himself, says the decision is a difficult one. In the end, it's a decision that may not be finally made until February 5, the last day candidates may file notice of their intention to seek office.

"It's been a real struggle and it continues to be," Redwine said Tuesday. "If everybody had taken what I said and moved on it would be one thing, but as we deal with Wednesday and (Rose's) announcement the pressure intensifies."

Last week, Redwine announced he had decided to forego a run for the Democratic nomination for Rose's congressional seat. He filed notice of his intention to seek reelection to the state House. Speculation on a Redwine congressional candidacy came last week after publication of reports Rose would step down at the end of his current term of office and would endorse Redwine as his successor.

Rose's office has since denied those reports. Rose's staff has said he will announce his plans today in Fayetteville but, as of Tuesday, had not indicated where or when that announcement would take place.

"As we get closer to that announcement, I think people are beginning to realize he is not going to run," Redwine said.

That opens a door of opportunity from Redwine which may not be opened again for years -- a door through which he is reluctant to pass only for family reasons.

"In terms of opportunity, being realistic... the political realities are, the chances are good the opportunity won't come again."

Redwine said that opportunity is one that he welcomes, but one he may pass, not wanting to uproot his young family. His youngest child is ten years old.

"It's something I'd like to do, if it were just me and my wife, Penny," Redwine said. "I want to do it. It's hard to set personal ambition aside. If the kids were older, it would be different. It's hard when people are coming to you."

Yet while he remains hesitant, he See Decision, page 5



REDWINE

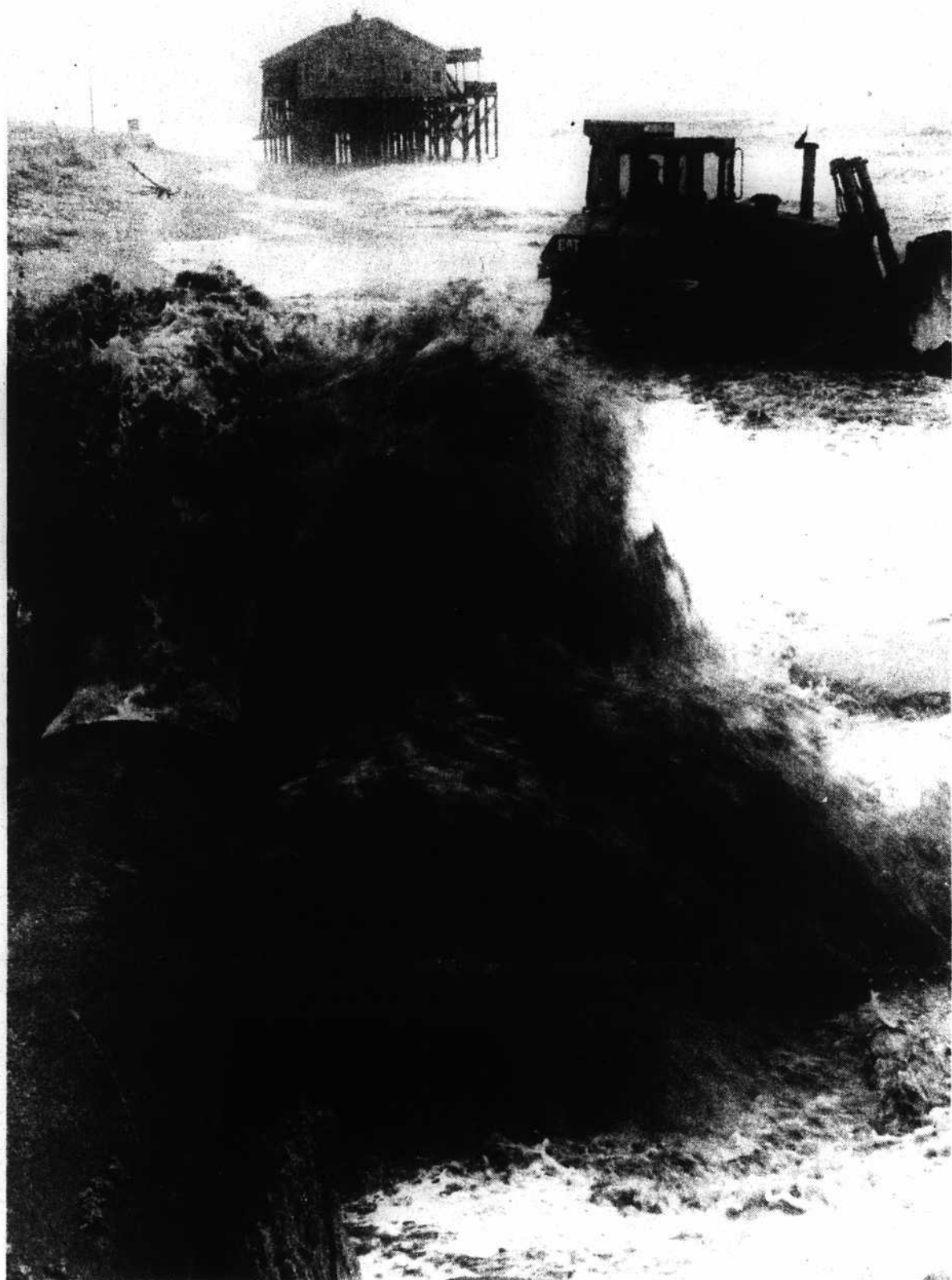


Photo by Jim Harper

Dredgers were busy pumping sand ashore and pushing it around on Bald Head Island's South Beach in last Saturday's blustery southwester. About one-third of the renourishment project had been completed by Tuesday, and sand was expected to be replaced this week around the Dunlap cottage (top) which has been moved once to escape the encroaching sea.

Are salaries in line?
School officials say problems remain

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

A new salary schedule for classified employees of the Brunswick County school system does not adequately reward longtime employees for years of service and some position classifications reflect the subjective opinion of the consultant who drafted the schedule rather than the value of those positions to the school system, board of education members say.

The board will ask consultant G. V. Davis to attend its next meeting February 12 to explain the salary schedule and help the board implement changes in the plan.

The salary schedule took effect December 1 at a cost to the school system this year of \$213,166. It assigned

450 classified employees (employees without state certification) to 57 newly defined classifications. Each position was assigned a salary range reflecting state averages for similar positions.

"Titles often dictate salaries, and I think we need to look at some of the titles we're giving people," declared school board chairman Clara Carter. "When the board makes a decision it needs to be based on sound information, and I don't believe all of the information we have right now is sound."

As an example, board member Pat Brown noted that principal's secretaries are classified within the same pay level as painters.

"I know everyone on our staff is valuable, but a See Salaries, page 9

Regional alliance
Health care seen taking on new role

'Transformation to preventive environment'

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Seven sponsoring hospitals of the Coastal Carolinas Health Alliance -- Doshier Memorial Hospital and The Brunswick Hospital among them -- signaled their acknowledgement of a major shift in the role of health care providers Friday with release of a major study of community health care needs.

The substantial community health needs assessment comes as a result of over a year's study by Janus Health Care Consultants Inc., during which existing economic and demographic data were compiled, focus groups were conducted, and residents of the five-county area in southeastern North Carolina were surveyed.

At a Friday press conference at St. James Plantation, administrators of the five community steering committee See New role, page 7

The key concerns

In its assessment of health care delivery needs in Brunswick County, the Coastal Carolina Health Alliance documented a number of key concerns in both a community diagnosis performed by the county health department and in a survey of health care providers conducted last summer.

Community Diagnosis

1. Teenage pregnancy
2. Public transportation
3. Only one obstetrician in Brunswick County

Provider Survey

1. Affordable health insurance
2. Smoking
3. Teenage pregnancy
4. Alcohol abuse

Compromise likely
Message sent on billboards

By Terry Pope
County Editor

It was billed as the great debate when it first began.

But what a committee of county planners, billboard industry representatives and citizens has drafted for the county's new billboard ordinance isn't as controversial as first expected.

It will go to public hearing Monday, February 5, 5:30 p.m., before Brunswick County commissioners who are set to adopt new standards which increase spacing requirements and eliminate billboards in rural zones and the county's two scenic byways.

"I think it's much improved, based on the number of signs we have," said Judy Russell, Brunswick County zoning administrator. "Since 1993, this

county has permitted more signs than any other county in the state."

An influx of billboard permit applications prompted officials to re-study the sign ordinance last year and to impose a moratorium on issuance of permits pending a new set of laws. The major changes increase linear spacing from every 1,500 feet to 3,000 feet along the major thoroughfares (U. S. 17, 74-76, 211), restricts them from waterways and bridges and doesn't allow them in rural zones to help protect rural settings.

It also bans them along N. C. 211 west through the Green Swamp, which has been declared a North See Billboards, page 6



Forecast

Rain is likely through the period of Thursday-Saturday. We will start seeing that gradual climb to higher temperatures that signal warmer weather.

County looks to future with a plan

The historic document is expected to guide the county through the next 20 years when the number of permanent residents is expected to more than double

By Terry Pope
County Editor

From a year-long planning process have evolved 16 specific recommendations now forwarded to county commissioners as ways to deal with population growth over the next 20 years.

The Brunswick County Long-Range Planning Committee's final report will be submitted to the commission Monday, February 5, 6:30 p.m., and includes a list of recommendations which focus on education, location of industry, stormwater management, transportation planning and protection of the Castle Hayne aquifer.

The historic document is expected to guide the county through

the next 20 years when the number of permanent residents is expected to more than double. It is a figure than many experts now label a "conservative" rate of growth.

"As you can understand, this was not an easy task," said committee chairman David Sandifer of Holden Beach, "requiring at times focused research and informative discussions with persons more knowledgeable than we about the issues. This has also been a learning experience for each member of the committee. We have certainly been rewarded with a much better understanding of our county and its people than before we began this process."

More than a year ago, commissioners appointed the planning committee to go out into the community and to gather

ideas on what planning topics government ought to be concerned with as it prepares for an influx of new residents and more retirees. A meeting of county officials was followed by a series of public meetings at scattered locations, used to compile data and input from citizens.

The committee is composed of Sandifer, vice-chairman Suzanne Osborne of Southport, Nick Newton of Ocean Isle Beach, Rosetta Short of Long Beach, Donald Ray Long of Ash, Michael Royal of Winnabow, Robert Quinn of Southport, District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach and planning board chairman John Thompson of Olde Towne. Its set of 16 recommendations also calls for immediate action by county See Future, page 6

INSIDE

- Opinion
- Obituaries
- Church
- Schools
- District Council
- Business
- Print TV
- Classified