

The State Port

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Sports

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Tessari to serve 11 years

Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Former Southport entrepreneur Michael Tessari was sentenced last week in federal court in Harrisburg, PA, to 11 years and five months in prison and ordered to pay restitution totaling more than \$9.6 million.

Federal sentencing laws do not allow for parole so Tessari will serve the full sentence. Upon release, he will appear before the Pennsylvania Board of Parole and likely be returned to prison for an additional term, said Pennsylvania Department of Parole supervisor Bob Largent.

Tessari, 40, was paroled in 1988 after serving three years on conviction of 64 counts of theft by deception involving more than \$900,000.

"Because his conviction is a violation of parole, when he is released he will serve additional time as a parole violator," Largent said.

Tessari pled guilty in February to charges of money laundering and wire fraud involving a scam in which federal investigators confirmed 120 persons throughout Pennsylvania invested more than \$15 million.

Tessari presented himself as an expert with ten years' experience in the packaging materials business, and promised investors huge returns on their investments.

When the scheme collapsed in the fall of 1995, 86 of the victims suffered losses totaling \$9,626,093, assistant U. S. attorney Martin Carlson stated in documents presented to U. S. District Court judge Sylvia Rambo.

While more than \$9.4 million was used by Tessari to promote the fraud, Carlson said, large sums of money also were used to support his "extravagant personal lifestyle" in the Southport area.

Carlson stated that these expenses included more than \$678,000 in real estate purchases, about \$407,000 in home construction and improvements, more than \$607,000 in business venture promotion in the area including a karate studio, health club and pizza parlor, \$247,000 for a corporate aircraft, cash contributions and gifts totaling more than \$125,000 and See Tessari, page 8

Mailing change

Pilot delivery may be slowed

Subscribers to The State Port Pilot may be affected by changes mandated by the U. S. Postal Service.

Newspapers have been required to submit their mailing lists for review by the postal service, which uses a computer-generated CASS program to make changes it says are appropriate. In many cases, postal delivery of the Pilot has been interrupted.

"It wasn't broke," said Pilot editor Ed Harper. "And the postal service 'fix' may inconvenience some of our subscribers for some time."

For example, Harper said, the proper address of a subscriber at Villa Nova Trailer Park, Lot 71, on Long Beach Road was changed to P.O. Box 1479, Southport, and placed in the post office bundle.

Out-of-county subscribers may be affected by the changes also.

"We have worked diligently to improve delivery to subscribers who live See Change, page 8

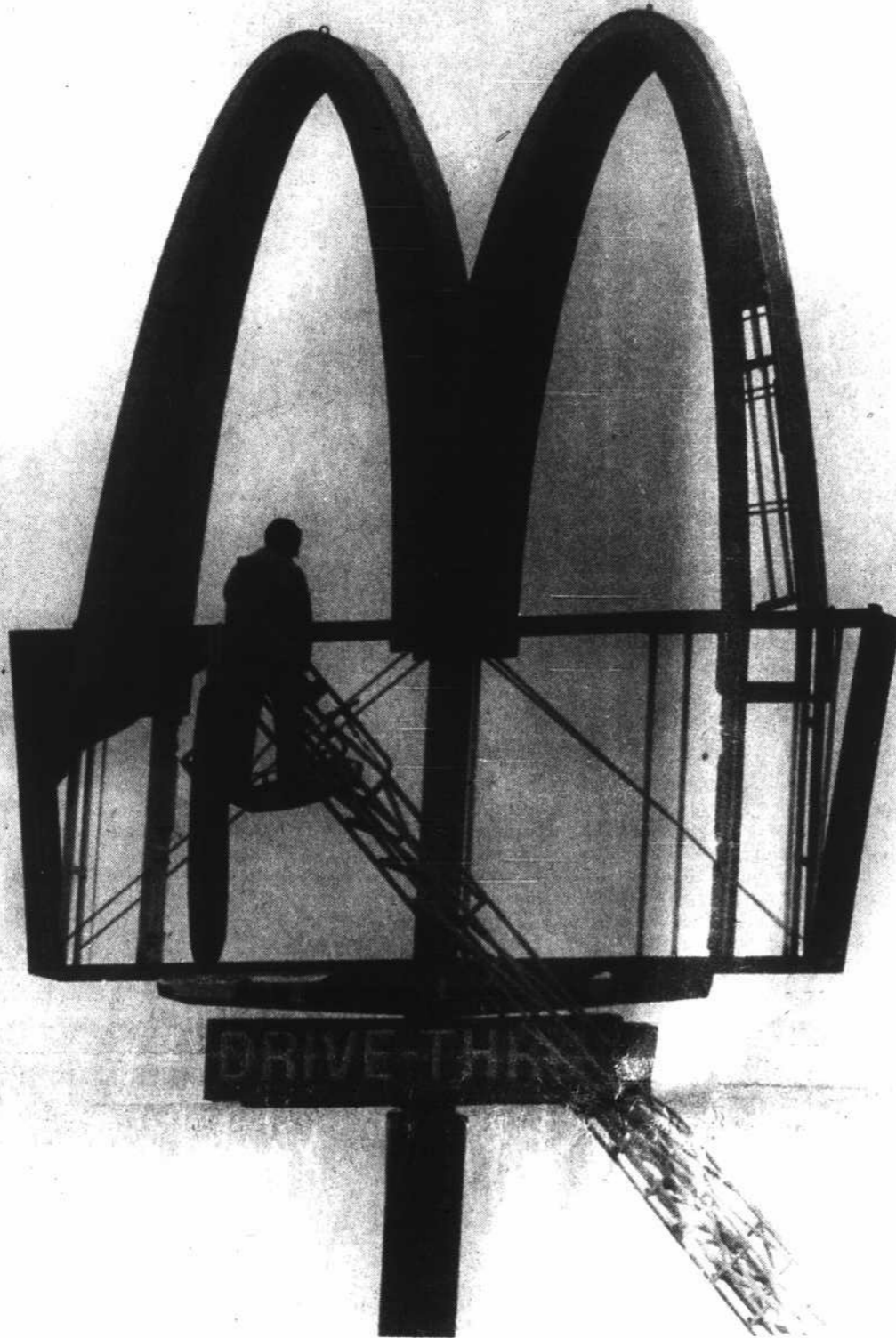


Photo by Jim Harper

Having been driven through a couple of times this season, by hurricanes Bertha and Fran, it was time last week for the golden arches sign at the River Run McDonald's to get refurbished. Clean-up, including pick-up and prop-up of a number of other damaged business signs, continued throughout the community this week.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Long-range committee to meet Thursday night

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The invitation to county commissioners was short, sweet and well-received.

No questions were raised about funds, and the lack of communication alluded to during a recent Brunswick County Long-Range Oversight Committee meeting was never mentioned.

Instead, committee chairman Michael Royal of Boiling Spring Lakes put a different light on the workshop Thursday, September 19, that will bring together officials from 18 municipalities and numerous county agencies for the second countywide planning meeting at Bolivia Elementary School from 5 to 7 p.m.

Describing it as a "goal-setting meeting," Royal addressed commissioners on Monday and encouraged them to once again become a part of the process of helping to plan for tremendous county growth projected over the

See Committee, page 6

County to keep cost-cutter

But could savings be achieved in-house?

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Hiring an outside consultant to examine the county's spending practices has saved the county \$240,786 to date. Another \$200,000 has been saved by putting chemical supplies for the water department out to bid.

County commissioners were split 4-1 Monday on whether to continue hiring outside consultants to search for ways to cut costs, with District 4 commissioner Tom Rabon Sr. of Winnabow dissenting.

"My reason for voting to hire an assistant county manager was not to assist the county manager but to save the county money as a purchasing agent," said Rabon. "All of this I was for. I was instru-

mental in bringing this about. But I don't think we need that anymore."

Rabon said he instead wants to see assistant county manager Robert Hyatt earn his pay by cutting costs in the purchasing department on his own. When the board voted to hire an assistant county manager, it was assured the position would virtually pay for itself.

Hyatt earns \$60,030 per year, third highest paid of all county employees behind county manager Jim Varner's \$72,775 salary and long-time social services director Jamie Orrock's salary of \$64,567.

Of the \$240,786 saved to date Robert Segal, an expense reduction consultant, will receive half of that amount under his agreement with commissioners.

Thus far, the county has saved the following amounts as a result of Segal's recommendations: can liners, \$2,273; milk, \$1,208; gasoline, \$21,808; vending, \$2,873; Brunswick Electric penalties, \$13,649; life and disability insurance, \$47,373; chlorine, \$8,713; health insurance premiums, \$97,761 on PPO and \$23,689 on PCP; maintenance, \$2,609; Atlantic Telephone discontinued service, \$829; cost report, \$12,098; flexible spending account, \$1,400; and federal excise tax, \$5,000.

County fiscal operations director Lathia Horne anticipates total savings this year will reach \$930,882. Of that amount, \$375,000 will be used to purchase a generator for the county government center near Bolivia that will be used to help See Cost-cutter, page 6

Corps violation?

Ocean debris hurts shrimp, tourist trades

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Since 1987, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has, in violation of an Environmental Protection Agency permit, dumped an estimated 31 million cubic yards of dredge spoil, littered with huge stumps, tractor tires and solidified mud, on a site about three miles off Yaupon Beach, Caswell Beach and Bald Head Island, a representative of the Brunswick County Fisherman's Association charges.

Shrimper Billy Hickman, who spoke before Yaupon Beach commissioners last week, told Caswell Beach commissioners Thursday contaminants from the dump site have broken free, ruining a prime white and brown shrimp dragging ground. The debris now clogging and tearing shrimpers' nets is beginning to float ashore, cluttering the beaches which lure tourists to this area.

"This is coming to the beach. It's going to cover us up. We've got to join forces as a coalition to stop the Corps of Engineers."

Billy Hickman
Oak Island shrimper

"This is something we've all got to address," Hickman told Caswell Beach commissioners, "because this is going to be an ecological and economic disaster."
See Debris, page 6

Long Beach

Street-end steps will be provided

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Staff was directed to develop a plan to build steps to the Intracoastal Waterway skirt from 21 municipally owned street-end bulkheads Tuesday night as Long Beach Town Council met in regular monthly session.

In other matters brought before council's monthly meeting, council balked at adopting a policy limiting smoking to designated areas of public buildings and determined to send letters to relevant agencies seeking a review of U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' dredge spoil dumping procedures.

Commissioners Helen Cashwell and Doris Hertel opposed the directive to add staircases to the 21 town-owned street ends -- a venture which town manager Jerry Walters esti-

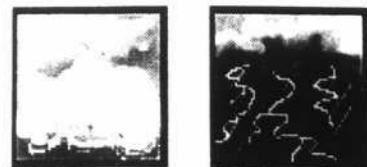
mated will cost Long Beach \$12,600 for materials alone. Walters is to report back to council on a plan to initiate the work in the most efficient manner and to pay for it.

Funds for the street-end steps were not budgeted this year.

"I think we should pursue all 21 street-ends," councilor Jeff Ensminger said, offering a motion to do so. "We've got a policy that says we'll have steps and we got away from it. I think we should do each one of them."

The bulkheaded street-ends matter was brought before council last month when councilor Horace Collier reminded council and Walters a policy had been enacted mandating steps from all street-end bulkheads the town develops. For some reason, Collier said, the town

See Long Beach, page 9



Forecast

The first day of Autumn is Sunday but we will continue to have temperatures in the 80's. Also, expect a chance of showers and thunderstorms.

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