

The State Port PILOT

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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Sports

North Brunswick looks for second-round playoff win against Mt. Airy team -- 1C

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Photo by Jim Harper

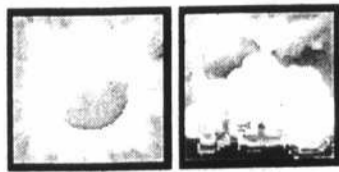
This is prime time for southward migrating yachters, and also prime time for south-bound yacht watchers, as sunny days and brisk northerly breezes seem to call forth at least a little sail for proceeding down the Intracoastal Waterway.

State response mixed

Caswell Beach Road is threatened by sea

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

State Road 1100, better known to locals as Caswell Beach Road, is threatened once again by the steady



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for mostly sunny skies and near record low temperatures for the period of Thursday through Saturday. Highs will only be in the mid 50's.

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creep of the ocean.

Town commissioner Bill Boyd Thursday told fellow commissioners the erosion rate beside Caswell Beach Road from the Oak Island Beach Villas to Caswell Dunes may have reached 4.5 feet per year. A mere 18 feet of sand separates the road from the Atlantic Ocean at the closest point.

Boyd and commissioner Bob Spake recently met with N. C. Department of Transportation engineer Doug Bowers, Bob Stroud of the state Division of Coastal Management and

others to lay plans to move Caswell Beach Road landward. A stretch farther to the east was moved some years ago.

Reaction of the state officials was mixed.

"Bowers said if we had ten feet (separating the ocean and road) they would take some drastic measures to shore-up the dunes," Spake said. "We'll keep measuring."

As things stand now, it appears DOT may be convinced to push sand
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Bald Head 'point' effort progressing

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Bald Head Islanders have raised \$410,000 of \$1 million needed by December 31 to forestall major development and help preserve Cape Fear in its present state.

Smith Island Land Trust board president Nancy Maguire reported Monday that a pledge party on the island over the weekend raised the total of cash and pledges to \$410,000.

Another pledge party will be held on the island November 30, after a November 29 public information session brings the preservation project into

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County rates at issue

Long Beach to test water on well plan

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

It was a close call for Long Beach Town Council Tuesday night.

But, by a narrow 4-3 margin, council members and mayor Joan Altman decided a water supply study performed by consulting engineers suggested a plan to construct a well field and water treatment plant is feasible enough to proceed with groundwater testing.

If Long Beach proceeds to devel-

op its own groundwater source and water treatment plant, it will cease to be the largest municipal water customer of Brunswick County.

Also Tuesday night, councilor Doris Hertel appeared to catch fellow council members by surprise, tendering her resignation from council effective February 1. Hertel said she intends to leave council for personal reasons and her decision to do so was a difficult one. She did not elaborate.

"I'm sorry we won't be able to

continue to benefit from what you have to offer," mayor Altman said as council accepted Hertel's resignation. The mayor said a new councilor will be seated at council's February meeting.

Altman broke a 3-3 tie of councilors to enter the next phase by which council will determine if Long Beach will develop a well field and treatment plant for its drinking water. Consulting engineers said initial costs of drinking

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Larger than original plan

County will pay more to start school offices

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Redesign work on the new schools central office building has forced it over budget.

But Brunswick County commissioners voted unanimously Monday to dip into the county's fund balance to pay the difference and to award contracts to the low bidders so the project can proceed on time.

"The project has been so successful up to this point," said architect John Thompson of Southport. "It's a disappointment that we didn't arrive at the \$2.4-million figure."

Instead, the school administration office, cooperative extension building and combination staff development center will cost \$2,708,809. It will be constructed along the southern edge of the planning department parking area at the county government center near Bolivia.

Low bidder for the general construction phase was Smith Construction Co. of Whiteville at \$2,037,800.

"It's a loose fit. It's not two sizes too big for both folks, but maybe a half-size too large to allow room for growth."

John Thompson
Project architect

Other contracts will be awarded to the following: Kelly Plumbing, \$106,700; Pridden Brothers for mechanical work, \$122,809; Harris Electric, \$334,650.

Under earlier plans, school officials had asked for 15,000 square feet of space and cooperative extension 3,000 square feet on a \$1.8 million budget. Thompson studied the request

and determined it would be inadequate for future growth and needs.

What has been designed is 20,000 square feet for school administration, 4,000 square feet for cooperative extension and a 2,700-square-foot staff development center adjoining the two buildings which can be shared by the agencies.

"Each had asked for a staff development and training area, so it made sense to build a shared facility," said assistant county manager Robert Hyatt. "Generally, we were quite pleased with the bid results."

Hyatt said the current trend in public projects is having to readvertise because of insufficient bidders. It is becoming more rare to be able to open bids on time because the amount of work available exceeds the limited number of qualified bidders in the area.

The original estimates were not based on the actual project that is being built, said Hyatt, nor did it include a joint staff training center. Commission
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