



Sports

North Brunswick, West Brunswick fall in second round of state playoffs -- 1C

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Beach water

Town explores the economics of own supply

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

It will cost the Town of Long Beach between \$8.47 million and \$8.89 million to develop well fields and build a water treatment plant to provide drinking water for its customers. Those customers would initially pay between \$2.71 and \$3 for each thousand gallons of water consumed, if Long Beach were to provide water from its own groundwater source, but those costs would fall to between \$2.18 and \$2.25 per thousand gallons by the year 2020.

These are the findings of a water treatment plant feasibility study prepared for the Town of Long Beach by Rivers and Associates Inc., a consulting engineering firm from Greenville. While costs have been presented in a range in the study, actual costs will be dictated by how productive wells prove to be in the area studied. If wells on land just west of the Brunswick County well field off N. C. 211 produce about 300 gallons per minute (gpm), the study indicates, only seven wells spaced 2,000 feet apart will be needed to meet the two-million-gallon-per-day (gpd) capacity of the proposed treatment plant. If wells produce only 200 gpm, 11 wells will be needed and will be spaced 3,000 feet apart.

The higher the productivity of each well, the less initial costs will be for well construction. The town will also need to purchase less land if wells produce at higher rates. The difference between 200,000-gpd and 300,000-gpd wells could lower the cost by \$738,000, engineers say.

Long Beach currently purchases treated drinking water from Brunswick County at a cost of \$1.81 per thousand gallons and resells it to its retail customers for \$1.93 per thousand gallons. Long Beach water customers also pay a \$7.24 monthly flat rate which is used to pay debt service on the town's water distribution system. The fees anticipated in the engineering report do not reflect the costs of the distribution system. Debt on that system will be paid in 2003.

The engineering report finalized last week also suggests higher initial consumer costs, as the treatment plant will be processing drinking water at less than its capacity in its early years. As the town takes on more customers, fixed costs and operating and maintenance costs will be spread over more consumers.

If Long Beach does develop a groundwater source and builds a water treatment plant, it will cease to be the Brunswick County water system's

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Photo by Jim Harper

Joe Scott, Robbie Robinson and Jason Harvell were hard at work repairing the Long Beach Pier on Monday. Hurricane Fran destroyed the seaward end of the pier in September, requiring the setting of 14 new pilings and planking of about 90 feet of deck, including the T-end.

County schools

'Living' class touches on sex ed instruction

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

A new "healthful living" program to be implemented in Brunswick County schools will teach that abstinence from sex until marriage is the best way to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, but will cover contraceptives in a general way.

The board of education unanimously approved first reading of the planned program last week and will hold a final vote in December.

The N. C. General Assembly approved the abstinence education law this summer to limit what public schools can teach about sex, said assistant superintendent for instruction Mary McDuffie.

Under the new law, school systems cannot expand the

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Oak Island

Second bridge is top priority in TIP request

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A second bridge to Oak Island tops Brunswick County's 1996 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) request presented last week to the N. C. Department of Transportation Board at a Division III meeting held at UNC-Wilmington.

Over the past two years, Brunswick County and its municipalities, along with the Brunswick County Airport Commission, have worked together to present a consolidated request to the DOT board. Previously, each town council presented its individual list, and with 18 municipalities with various needs it became a difficult task.

"It is generally felt that the request will carry more weight if it shows DOT that we're all working together in Brunswick County," said Don Eggert, planner II with the Brunswick County Planning Department. He presented the package to the DOT board last Thursday.

The lists are compiled by DOT for next year's North Carolina TIP, where all projects are ranked and prioritized. The countywide requests are:

■ Second bridge to Oak Island -- alleviate significant traffic congestion and provide a much-needed second evacuation route in the event of industrial accident or storms.

■ Wilmington Outer Loop -- to relieve traffic congestion and meet traf-

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Long Beach

Burning ban now in effect

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Despite the fact over 700 persons signed petitions seeking to rescind an ordinance which bans burning of yard debris in the Town of Long Beach, town council last week affirmed its intention to prohibit open burning in town limits.

Council adopted the burning ban three months ago, but the prohibition just became effective this week.

Mayor Joan Altman broke a 3-3 tie of councilors on councilor Doris Hertel's motion to amend the town's burning ordinance to allow the practice on Wednesdays and Saturdays only. Joining Hertel were councilors Frances Allen and Kevin Bell.

Councilors Jeff Ensminger, Horace Collier and Helen Cashwell voted to uphold the burning ban.

"The reason I am opposed is, we haven't had the opportunity to prove lack of burning works," mayor Joan Altman said, casting the deciding vote. She said her vote to uphold council's burning ban was guided by state law, which limits open burning to areas "1,000 feet from another structure not on the property" on which the burning takes place.

Altman said there are few homes

'... I will personally put this (anti-burning ordinance) on the agenda in the spring, to review how it has worked or has not worked, for council action at that time.'

Joan Altman
Long Beach mayor

in Long Beach that are 1,000 feet from any other structure.

"We are not the same town we were 20 years ago," the mayor said.

Early in the meeting, resident

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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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Christmas-by-the-Sea nice package



By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Salty ocean breezes and small-town charm form the backdrop to the annual Southport-Oak Island Christmas-by-the-Sea Festival.

The celebration begins Sunday, December 1, 3 p.m., with a performance of holiday music by the Brunswick Concert Band at the Brunswick Community College Odell Williamson Auditorium.

New this year is a Christmas crafts program for children ages five through 11 at the Long Beach Recreation Center on Thursdays, December 5 and December 12, at 4:30 p.m.. The cost is \$5 per child and parents are asked to register in advance by calling the recreation center at 278-5518.

A community Christmas tree-lighting ceremony will be held Friday, December 6, 7 p.m., at Middleton Park in Long Beach. Refreshments will be served and holiday music will be performed by a handbell choir and the Brunswick Concert Band Brass Ensemble.

Shrine units, homemade floats, police, fire and rescue units, equestrian groups, beauty queens, the South Brunswick High School marching band and a visit from Santa are some of the highlights of the annual Christmas parade on Oak Island to be held Saturday, December 7, 3 p.m.

Serving as parade marshal this year will be "Charlie the Alligator" -- the new official mascot of the battleship USS North Carolina. Charlie is a soft and fuzzy seven-foot-tall version of an 11-foot alligator that has endeared

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