



Sports

South Brunswick girls are eliminated from regional basketball playoffs -- 1C

The State Port

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M-M lawsuit tabled

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A lawsuit filed against Brunswick County by Martin Marietta Materials won't be headed to court anytime soon.

Both sides have agreed to a "stay of proceedings" in the lawsuit filed last year in Brunswick County Superior Court by the Raleigh-based mining company, claiming the county's anti-explosives ordinance and zoning amendment passed last October are unconstitutional and have resulted in losses of \$1.6 million for the firm.

"It was Martin Marietta's idea that this action be stayed, which the county agreed with that," said county attorney Huey Marshall.

Following a one-hour closed session Tuesday night, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners approved a motion to go along with the request.

A Brunswick County Superior
See Lawsuit, page 6

Women sue Long Beach councilor

Long Beach town councilor Horace Collier Tuesday confirmed he had been charged with two counts of simple assault in separate arrest warrants drawn by councilor Frances Allen and town resident Betty Weaver.

The charges apparently stem from an encounter between Weaver and Collier subsequent to the February 18 meeting of town council at the Long Beach Recreation Center. In a letter published in the February 26 edition of *The State Port Pilot*, Ms. Weaver asserted Collier had pushed a soft drink bottle into her chest as she attempted to question him about town affairs.

Several days later, Allen circulated a letter to fellow councilors asserting Collier had pushed her aside as she attempted to hand written information to Weaver while Weaver's encounter with Collier was on-going.

Collier refused to offer substantial comment on the matter, referring questions to his attorney.



Photo by Jim Harper

Welcome to Southport indeed. The new ferry soon to be operating on the Southport-Fort Fisher run moored periodically at the Southport city pier over the past week while work was underway at the Price's Creek terminal, and on one of her visits city manager Rob Gandy went aboard for a look, and then clambered back ashore.

Parents support plan

Year-round school approved for north

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

With a majority of parents in northern Brunswick County backing a plan to implement year-round schools, the board of education voted unanimously Monday night to approve a

year-round school schedule at Belville Elementary, Lincoln Primary and Leland Middle schools for the 1997-98 school year.

Parents attending Monday night's meeting applauded the board decision.

Public meetings on year-round

schools were held prior to the board vote, and surveys of the plan were sent home to parents of students at the three schools. Seventy percent of parents responding said they supported the plan.

"As long as the parents embrace it, I think you'll have great success with year-round schools," said board member Billy Carter.

The schedule calls for classes to begin July 21 and end June 11. The number of instructional days will remain 180, but students will attend school for nine weeks and then have three weeks off. Summer vacation will last five weeks.

With frequent and shorter intervals of time away from school, both students and teachers will be more refreshed and excited about being at school, principals say.

"It's going to be real hectic at first and it will take a lot of planning, but in the end I think kids and teachers will be more enthusiastic about com-

See Year-round, page 6

City recycling plan continues

Southport's Public Services Department has remind residents that the city's curbside recycling program is still in effect and has no connection with Brunswick County's "blue bag" system.

"Your monthly solid waste fee is paying for this service, so please use it," said director Ed Honeycutt. "You can commingle aluminum cans, brown, green and clear glass and number 1 and number 2 plastic containers in your recycling bin. Newspapers should be placed on top."

Pick-up for recycling is every other week on the same day as regular garbage pick-up. Those with questions may contact the utility office at 457-7900.

Who's at fault? Yaupon sewer plant location is questioned

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Rain and groundwater are flowing from an elevated area adjacent to the Yaupon Beach wastewater disposal basin, preventing percolation of effluent from the town's beleaguered treatment plant, commissioner Roy Johnson charged Monday night.

Johnson, an engineer, says a hydrology report -- part of a preliminary engineering report for a proposed new spray-irrigation disposal system -- and on-site inspection of the facility support his claim.

"If that's the case, the plant shouldn't have been put on that site in the first place," commissioner Dick Marshall concluded. Other commissioners agreed.

The newest revelation of alleged engineering shortcomings at the Yaupon Beach wastewater plant infuriated mayor pro-tem Bill Smith, who said the town should haul the system's designers and state regulators who permitted the plant into court.

"I frankly question the engineering, the hydrogeological study and the state for accepting the plant," Smith said. "It's time to make somebody accountable. I'm tired of throwing money after money and getting no results."

The inability of the rapid-infiltration basin to accommodate the 400,000-gallon-per-day flow for which it was designed first became evident in July, 1994, when officials of the state's Division of Environ-

'It's time to make somebody accountable. I'm tired of throwing money after money and getting no results.'

Bill Smith
Mayor pro-tem

mental Management ordered a moratorium on new taps to the town's wastewater management system. That moratorium, somewhat modified, remains in effect today and brought to a screeching halt new construction in Yaupon Beach.

When financing the wastewater management system, commissioners had counted on revenue from new construction and from out-of-town customers willing to pay one and a half times the sewer rates paid by customers in town.

None of those additional revenue sources has materialized with the moratorium in effect. The town now faces the prospect of defaulting on loans from DEM used to construct the facility.

See Sewer, page 6

Bald Head effort finally gets point

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Capping a remarkable year, Bald Head Island cape-savers last week got the point.

Literally, the Smith Island Land Trust which has been negotiating to preserve developable property at Cape Fear purchased 11.06 acres of ocean frontage for \$1.5 million from the primary island developer.

The trust also obtained an option to buy an additional 20.47 acres.

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Forecast

The extended forecast calls for mostly sunny skies Thursday through Saturday with highs in the 70's.

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