



Sports

A new feature in the *Pilot* sports section -- NASCAR news for you racing fans

The State Port PILOT

VOLUME 66/ NUMBER 31 SOUTHPORT, N.C. 50 CENTS

Neighbors

A variety of Easter activities and much more is featured in section B this week

OWN

Alderman may be pointing a gun -- Page 2

Land plans

Forum: what's said, done not always same

By Terry Pope
County Editor

What town and county leaders write in their land use plans and what they actually do to help protect the environment often are two different things, some frustrated residents told the N. C. Coastal Resources Commission when it met at Sunset Beach last week.

Southport resident Bob Quinn, representing the Brunswick Environmental Action Team (BEAT), told the CRC the public has the impression that land use plans are "full of rhetoric and empty in application." He said plans are important and that state regulators ought to enforce or at least encourage local governments to practice what they preach when it comes

See Plans, page 6

DOSHER

Health plan is expected early June

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Dosher Memorial Hospital should be in the managed health care business by June 1, said hospital administrator Edgar Haywood.

Health care coverage by the Coastal Carolinas Health Plan -- a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) composed of all nine hospitals of the Coastal Carolina Health Alliance and Acordia National Insurance Company -- will first be offered to hospital employees.

The change in health care coverage will save the hospital about \$35,000 this fiscal year, which is approximately how much it cost Dosher to participate in the PPO, Haywood noted.

He said health care coverage under the PPO will be offered to the public a few weeks after start-up.

Twelve members of Dosher's medical staff have agreed to participate in the PPO, Haywood said, and three doctors still are reviewing the proposed contracts. Acordia National

See Health, page 6



A cross in the yard of Trinity United Methodist Church is draped in purple, emblematic of the pre-Easter period leading up to the celebration of the principal Christian holiday and shift of church colors from purple to white.

Photo by Jim Harper

GOP celebrates payoff Benton's hard work is remembered

By Terry Pope
County Editor

At their annual convention Saturday, county Republicans celebrated paying off the debt on their headquarters building near Supply.

But someone who spent hours at the facility and devoted his efforts toward strengthening the party was not among those in attendance.

Billy Benton Sr., 53, of Shallotte died suddenly

Thursday morning. When he was appointed to the Brunswick County Board of Elections in 1991 Benton became an emerging figure in the Republican party and a familiar face at headquarters he helped build. "Everyone knows how much he loved the Republican party," said Phil Norris. "Billy would be here today if he could."

Outgoing party chairman Tom Pope said Benton was someone who had spent hours at the building to

See Payoff, page 6

Beach n ment Trust and to help pay for projects

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Before mayor Joan Altman even had time to sign-off on a town council resolution creating a new Beach Preservation Trust Fund, the fund accepted its first contribution.

Resident Dara Royal, who had earlier urged council to create the trust to accept contributions for beach nourishment projects, stepped

forward with a check for \$5,000.

Ms. Royal, who has for the past three months used public comment time before council to lecture members on the need for beachfront nourishment, said the contribution was made in memory of her deceased parents.

The \$5,000, she said, is the equivalent of what Long Beach would pay in partnership with the federal

See Long Beach, page 7

Regional plan for wastewater worth pursuing

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A regional wastewater treatment and disposal center at Southport may be a good idea for the city and the region, city manager Rob Gandy said this week. Area municipal officials plan to shortly hold a meeting of all interested to see who else thinks the plan beneficial.

"We're going to have a sit-down," Gandy said. "The only way to do this is to shake the bushes and see how many players there are out there. When you know who your customers are you make your plans to build a plant of the right size."

While discussing budget priorities last week, Long Beach Town Council authorized town manager Jerry Walters to open negotiations with Southport to establish a regional wastewater treatment and disposal system in the city. In a plan envisioned by Long Beach Town Council, a wastewater collection system would be built in that town and a force main constructed across the Intracoastal Waterway. A sufficiently sized pipeline running eastward along the waterway marsh would deliver

'I'd like to go ahead and build it and have the capacity assurances for 20 years.... I'd like to see us be the prime example of regional cooperation in southeastern North Carolina.'

Rob Gandy
Southport manager

wastewater to Southport for treatment and disposal.

So, what's in it for Southport? Gandy says the plan has potential to lower city residents' present sewer bills. And, when it comes to the area

See Wastewater, page 6

Leland area development underway

Magnolia Greens project on course

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Most golf courses boast of 18 holes of championship play, but Leland's first golf course community is developing just 16 holes for now.

Two of the 18 planned holes at the new Magnolia Greens lie in a heavy manufacturing zone, which does not allow golf courses or residences. Landmark Inc. will apply for rezoning so it can finish the course on par.

"We're going to feel compelled to give it to you so you don't have the only 16-hole course in the county," Brunswick County Planning Board chairman John Thompson told Chris Stevens of McKim and Creed Architects of Wilmington, designers of the project, at a meeting last week.

Stevens said Landmark will bring the two holes back in play on its 893-acre project located between U. S. 17 and Lanvale Road west of Leland. Landmark has asked the Town of Leland for satellite incorporation of the property, and

The 893-acre project is located between U. S. 17 and Lanvale Road west of Leland

Leland has held a public hearing on non-contiguous annexation and passed a resolution to seek assistance of the N. C. General Assembly to extend its corporate limits.

Last week, the county planning board approved a master development plan for Magnolia Greens that includes the 16 holes of golf, 494 single-family homesites, 297 multi-family units and 443 patio homesites, for a total of 1,234 residential units at a density of 1.7 units per acre. The map leaves a large portion of the land on its southeast corner open and reserved as a natu-

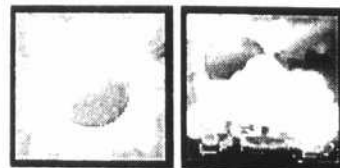
ral Carolina Bay and will also include a driving range, practice green, clubhouse and recreation areas as part of its planned unit development.

Landmark will build its own wastewater collection system and seek a permit to spray treated effluent on the golf course and common areas. Landmark is the Wilmington-based company that has developed Leland Industrial Park and Liberty Landing subdivision off N. C. 133 near Belville. It will tap onto the Leland Sanitary District water distribution lines.

Most of Landmark's residential projects lie in New Hanover County, and it completes up to 200 housing units per year and provides lots to general builders. The golf course is already under construction and is designed by golf professional Tom Jackson of South Carolina. Its main entrance will lie just north of Lanvale Road on U. S. 17.

"Hopefully, we'll be playing golf before the year is out," said Stevens. "We have a pretty aggressive schedule."

See Course, page 6



Forecast

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

INSIDE

Police report . . .	9
Obituaries	11
Calendar	3B
Church	7B
Business	8B
Schools	13B
TV schedule	16B
District Court . . .	18B