



Sports

Pro golfer Fred Couples visits the Winding River course he designed -- 1C

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Innovative may aid in cc

or damage from the sea -- Page 2

# Zoning relaxed

'Commercial' was restricted by 1994 rules

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Until now, county zoning laws have been strict against property owners who want to build homes in commercial zones.

But an amendment approved last week relaxes such restrictions, a move that will please some long-time property owners who have felt trapped by the growth of commercial areas since county zoning was approved in January, 1994.

If a person doesn't mind living next to a shopping center or business district, now the county doesn't mind either. Families will be allowed to build in any commercial low-density (C-LD) zone with a special exception permit from the county board of adjustments.

"It would not apply to someone who wants to subdivide a parcel," explained interim county planning director Judy Russell. "It would allow an individual property owner who owns a piece of land and wants to put a house on it to now do so."

Single-family units, modular homes and manufactured housing will be allowed on lots platted and recorded prior to January, 1994. The homes must meet the front-, side- and rear-yard setback requirements and be situated a minimum of 50 feet from any commercial use or structure.

The amendment was approved unanimously on a motion by District 3 county commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach.

Since county zoning was enacted in 1994, the Brunswick County Planning Board has struggled with how

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Balloon sculpting was among the arts demonstrated at Saturday's Art in the Park and no one appreciated the process, and the product, more than this youngster.

Photo by Jim Harper

## Long Beach:

# Reservations should cancel Redwine bill

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Take us out of the mix, Long Beach Town Council has told the area's legislative delegation.

In separate letters to representatives E. David Redwine, Dewey Hill and Thomas Wright, mayor Joan Altman this week asked Long Beach be excluded from House Bill 859, the bill that seeks to consolidate occupancy taxing authority in Brunswick County.

"The town council and I are opposed to HB 859," Altman wrote. "We request that you remove the provision pertaining to the Town of Long Beach from this bill."

HB 859 came into being this year after the two Brunswick County chambers of commerce sought to establish a one-percent countywide accommodations tax to raise an estimated \$450,000 to fund a travel and tourism promotion bureau. In a meeting with representatives of area municipalities Rep. Redwine, of Brunswick County, formed a task force of chamber members and municipal in-

'We continue to support efforts to better fund Brunswick County tourism promotion; however, we cannot support legislation that diminishes the town's ability and authority to raise necessary funds.'

terests to iron-out the parameters of a bill to set the one-percent countywide tax in motion.

Municipalities were assured that the one-percent countywide tax on short-term rentals would not affect their ability to charge accommoda-

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REDWINE:

## Strings attached on any new tax

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Although reaction to his bill consolidating occupancy taxing authority in Brunswick County and establishing a one-percent tax for travel and tourism promotion has been mostly positive, Rep. E. David Redwine Tuesday said he would schedule a meeting next month with all concerned to once again discuss the tax proposal.

"After May 1, I am going to ask for another meeting of the task force and again start from square one to explain what we have and try to arrive at some consensus," Redwine said. "I think everybody could

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'I think everybody could feel like they were in a win situation, instead of towns like Long Beach and Caswell Beach feeling like losers if this passes.'

# CAMA permitting left to state

Town says inspection work not cost-effective

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

It may take those wishing to build structures in the state's coastal zone up to three weeks to get permits to do so, but the Town of Long Beach will not step in to speed the permit process along.

Mayor Joan Altman last week broke a tie vote of town council to, in

effect, keep the town's building inspections department out of the CAMA minor permitting process. In formulating its budget for the current year in June, 1996, council determined the town's inspections department did not receive adequate state reimbursement to continue issuing CAMA minor permits, needed for some construction in town. Code enforcement officer David Clemmons

said the state's Division of Coastal Management formerly paid the town \$50 to issue a minor permit, but local inspectors may have to spend a half-day measuring a lot before that permit could be issued. The town is paid only \$40 for a final inspection, he said.

With the town out of the CAMA permit issuing business this year, one employee of DCM, headquartered in

Wilmington, has been given charge of all permitting in New Hanover and Brunswick counties. He cannot keep up with the workload and only schedules a half-day every two weeks in Brunswick County, Clemmons said.

Councilor Jeff Ensminger last Tuesday said permitting delays -- now between three and four weeks -- warranted a reassessment of council's

See CAMA, page 9

## Another day at the office

# Daughters follow parents' footsteps

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

More than 200 young women in the Southport-Oak Island area participated in Take Your Daughter To Work Day, a national program that brings millions of girls into the workplace.

The Ms. Foundation founded the event five years ago after highly publicized research studies concluded that girls' self-confidence and self-esteem dropped markedly during adolescence. Several studies suggested that subtle differences in the way girls were treated at school played a role in the decimation of their sense of self-worth.

Lt. Col. Margaret Savelle, second in command at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, agreed that subtle action can carry a strong message.

"Studies in schools showed that teachers tend to call on boys far more frequently than they call on girls," she said. "Subtle

actions like this on the teacher's part can send the message to girls that men are going to be called on more often for answers and looked to more frequently for leadership. It's no surprise that eventually most girls stop raising their hands."

Sunny Point invited both daughters and sons to spend Thursday at the terminal, although most of the 14 young people who participated were girls.

Savelle called the program a "wonderful opportunity" for young people to learn about the variety of jobs available in their community.

"Kids get out and see that there really are people in their own community who have jobs like this and that they can do this if they want," she said. "I firmly believe that anyone who can do a job ought to be given the opportunity to do it."

Although women can be found in virtually all military positions, Savelle said she doesn't think the infantry will ever be "enlightened" enough to allow women in front-line combat po-

sitions. The public also would be reluctant to accept women in such roles, she added.

"People don't want to think about their mothers and daughters getting killed in combat, but women are already put in harm's way in many situations," she said. "I wouldn't want to have to tell anybody that their child was killed in action, whether that person is male or female."

Young people were given a tour of the ammunition terminal Thursday and Sunny Point personnel explained what function each department performs. The tour included offices at the headquarters building, the fire department and the railroad maintenance department.

However, many young people said they were most impressed with forester Tony Gaw's demonstration of how Sunny Point personnel clean up spills of oil and other substances.

"I thought it was neat because he spilled coffee and poured

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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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