



Sports

South Brunswick golfers scrambled to claim the top seed in 3A playoffs-- 1C

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Outer loop

State speeds county route to interstate

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The Brunswick County portion of the Wilmington bypass to Interstate 40 has been nudged up on the construction schedule in Gov. Jim Hunt's 1997 update of his Transportation 2001 plan.

The update released Friday has the four-lane project from U. S. 17 near Town Creek to Interstate 40 north of Wilmington set for right-of-way acquisition and construction to begin in 1998, a year ahead of schedule. Another \$40 million has been added to the project, a divided highway at a new location to cross just north of Leland and Navassa.

The Northern Outer Loop will route traffic around Wilmington and connect U. S. 17 with I-40. A first segment is underway in New Hanover County and will connect U. S. 421 north of Leland to an I-40 exit near the Pender County line.

Unveiled by Hunt in 1994, his Transportation 2001 plan continues to speed construction and completion of key economic development highways which are seen as vital to the state's economy. The plan also includes construction projects accelerated by highway bonds passed by voters in November to help eliminate a backlog of state maintenance needs.

"We are committed to a transportation system that meets growing demands, boosts mass transit, protects the environment and maintains key economic development highways," said Hunt.

The plan recommends \$36 million to boost the state's transit and rail systems, including \$26 million for public transportation and \$10 million in federal highway funds for transit projects.

"This year's Transportation 2001 plan continues to set priorities for transportation needs," said transportation secretary Garland Garrett Jr., "and includes alternative modes of transportation that are essential to our state's future, if we are to move goods and people safely and conveniently."

Garrett is a native of Wilmington. In 1996, state voters approved issuance of \$590 million in highway bonds of which \$500 million is dedicated to completion of urban loops around major cities. \$300 million to help speed construction of intrastate

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Nothing wrong here. In fact, the activity least likely to create apprehension, guilt or pain -- and to leave one most relaxed -- in all of the sections of the Doshier Memorial Hospital Health Fair on Sunday was Shirley Glann's demonstration of massage therapy.

Photo by Jim Harper

South Brunswick School kids on the block

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

South Brunswick High School will convert to block scheduling for the 1997-98 school year.

The schedule will allow students to take four classes per semester, or eight per year, instead of the traditional six classes per year. Students will have four 90-minute classes each day instead of six 60-minute classes.

"One of the main benefits of block scheduling is that it allows students to take more electives," said South Brunswick High School principal Sue

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School opening in '98?

Construction of a new elementary school for Brunswick County will be delayed one year if school officials do not find a suitable site by the end of May, board of education chairman Glenda Browning said Tuesday.

"It's turning into a slower process than we hoped," she said. "We're hoping we still have a shot at getting the school

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Brunswick County Water taps are required by ordinance

By Terry Pope
County Editor

There has been no public outcry over a mandatory tap policy for the county water system which was approved by county commissioners Monday.

"I have only gotten four phone calls," said county attorney Huey Marshall. "Three calls were against and one was for."

In related business Monday, commissioners awarded a contract to Carmichael Construction Co. of Long Beach to lay lines for Special Assessment District 20 for \$819,651 and tabled a request from Sunset Beach that the county take over the town's water system. SAD 20 includes numerous subdivisions near Holden Beach.

The Sunset Beach resolution brought a response from District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach, who expressed concern that questions were being raised in executive session. She said the issue needed

While the county cannot force residents to buy water, the message is still clear: Pay for the water and receive it, or pay for the water anyway

to be discussed in open session so that all commissioners would receive the same information.

The mandatory tap ordinance requires owners of developed property with access to county water or sewer lines to pay a tap fee and connect to the system. The document approved unanimously by county commissioners reverses a decade-long policy of

See Water, page 8

EMS request City considers rescue charge

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Should people treated by Southport Volunteer Rescue Squad and transported in one of its vehicles be charged for this service?

City aldermen will tackle that question Thursday when they meet in regular session for the month of May.

Under a formula established by Brunswick County Emergency Medical Services, patients transported by other agencies in the county -- including Southport VRS -- could be charged up to \$250 for an ambulance trip that is now essentially free, depending on the decision reached by the board of aldermen.

"Brunswick County EMS is asking that other rescue departments declare whether or not they intend to bill for

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If Southport chooses to charge for its ambulance services and responds to a call to which Brunswick County EMS also responds, "... the agency who actually transports the patient will bill for services provided."

'This one is the Son of Disney'

No blue-light specials anytime soon

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Imagine this. You head up Howe Street out of Southport. You're busy and need to get some shopping done.

Reaching Doshier Cutoff you turn left and cruise into the spacious parking lot at the new Wal-Mart.

Finishing your shopping at Wal-Mart you turn west again on N. C. 211 and head up to the Long Beach Road intersection, passing J. C. Penney and K-Mart as you turn south on N. C. 133 headed toward the beach and the new Harris-Teeter grocery store near the foot of the Oak Island

bridge. Imagine this. Go ahead, but it is just your imagination. None of this is about to happen.

Southport-Oak Island this week was awash in rumors about imminent commercial development.

Hottest among the rumors dealt with a "soon-to-be" Wal-Mart store at Doshier Cutoff.

"The Wal-Mart rumor is a persistent one," said Don Eggert of the

"I think anytime you get a lot of growth in an area there is a lot of interest which turns to speculation. This is what we have here -- speculation."

Don Eggert
County planner

Brunswick County Planning Department. "Sometimes it's Leland and sometimes it's Southport."

Every time it has been simply a rumor. No county or municipal govern-

ment in the area has had any contact with Wal-Mart. That's not to say there will not be development at Doshier Cutoff. As the newspaper has reported in recent weeks, Sacred Heart Catholic Church plans to develop a 44-unit residential community for seniors on 7.75 acres just east of the church. To be known as Sacred Heart Villas, the project is to include 22 one-bedroom and 22

two-bedroom units in a single-story "campus-like" setting. The structure will feature a spacious lobby area, multi-purpose gathering room, kitchen, reading rooms, a main entrance and large porches.

Southport aldermen Thursday are to discuss a church request to tap Sacred Heart Villas to the city's sewer system.

Eggert said the county planning board has received preliminary site development plans for Sacred Heart Villas and will begin its review of the proposal shortly.

Other rumors circulating through the Southport-Oak Island area this

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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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