



Sports

The annual Freedom Run was held Sunday morning as first festival event -- IC

The State Port

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VOLUME 66/NUMBER 45 SOUTHPORT, N.C. 50 CENTS

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The names are different
but the setting is certainly
local in Southport-- Page 2

Schools
Property purchase is proper

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

There is no indication anything was "improper or awry" in land-purchase negotiations between the Brunswick County Board of Education and Margaret Rudd and Associates Inc. Realtors, school board attorney Joe Causey concluded this week.

School board members subsequently voted to purchase up to 40 acres of land at a cost of \$7,500 per acre, or \$300,000, pending results of tests to be conducted by Construction Control Corporation, a management firm hired by the board.

The board wants to purchase up to 40 acres of land at Winding River Plantation, located off Zion Hill Road near Supply, as site for a new elementary school and future middle school.

Board member Billy Carter requested an investigation of his relationship with Margaret Rudd and Associates, the firm representing the landowner, after a fellow board member, whom Carter would not identify, suggested Carter would receive a kickback if the board chose to purchase the land because he is a friend and neighbor of Rudd's.

Causey told the board on Friday he obtained written statements from all members of the board, and met personally with Rudd and the agent handling the negotiations, David Thorp, and found no evidence of wrongdoing.

"Everything seems to be in order. See Property, page 6

Bald Head tax rate up 9.5 cents

Bald Head Islanders will pay ad valorem taxes at a rate of 67.5 cents this year after the village council Saturday approved a \$2,285,000 budget requiring a 9.5-cent tax-rate boost.

The new rate, applied to a tax base of \$235 million and a 99-percent collection standard, is expected to bring \$1,570,388 into village coffers.

The remainder of the budget is supported by a variety of revenues, including \$286,389 accommodations tax revenue.

Over \$500,000 is to be paid out in debt service for money borrowed to finance beach protection devices and renourishment last year and this.

Last week, village finance chairman Bill Taft pointed out that seven cents of additional taxes would pay for paramedic services for residents and visitors.



Photo by Jim Harper

Personnel from 13 departments competed in the annual Firemen's Competition Sunday, when activity of the N. C. Fourth of July Festival really got going. Today (Wednesday) is Beach Day, followed by a

children's fun day and naturalization ceremony Thursday, and of course the parade, bandstanding and fireworks on Friday.

Long Beach Road
SBSD hears proposal for new development

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

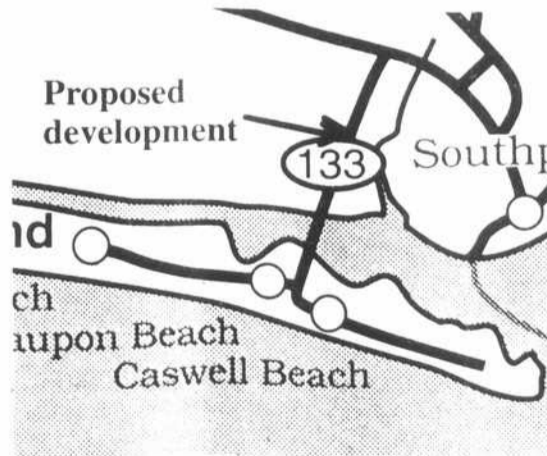
A proposed 400-unit housing development between Long Beach Road and the Carolina Power and Light Co. discharge canal will be the subject of a public hearing before Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District commissioners Monday morning.

The hearing will begin at 8 a.m. at the district office at 4310 Long Beach Road.

To be known as Bermuda Trace, the 126-acre area lying behind Oak Island Fun Park is to feature 400 single-family lots in a planned unit development.

"We'll be developing in phases so as not to swamp the market," said Ocean Isle Beach resident John Sutton of

See Proposal, page 6



Lockwood Folly
House bill may alter inlet flow

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Seventh District Congressman Mike McIntyre said last week he feels confident about support in Washington, DC, for a \$5-million bill to correct water pollution and erosion problems in the Lockwood Folly River.

The Lockwood Folly River Protection Act (HR 1905) McIntyre introduced last week would reopen the natural old eastern navigational channel at the mouth of the river and partially close the present manmade ocean channel, which lies between the west end of Long Beach and the east end of Holden Beach.

Fisherman have complained for years that shellfish pollution and shoreline erosion is caused in part by the artificial flow of the river, changed by dredge work performed by the U. S. Corps of Engineers to help improve traffic on the Intracoastal Waterway.

"This day might be a historical day," said longtime Holden Beach resident John Holden. "It has been for

'This was not a hurricane or a storm. It was done because of the way the area was dredged.'

Rep. Mike McIntyre

me. He is the fourth congressman that I have battled with, along with our commercial fishermen. I said he deserved a hug, and I gave him one."

For years, Holden has led the effort to correct problems he said date back to the 1930s. Lockwood Folly River is the county's largest estuary and is where a variety of fish and shellfish is harvested each year. However, in recent years the number of fish, oysters, shrimp and clams has

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Long Beach
Councilor: fine should be paid

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Long Beach knowingly violated state coastal management regulations in May, 1996, and should pay the penalty for doing so, a town councilor said this week.

Taking an admittedly "contrary" view to that expressed by mayor Joan Altman last week, councilor Frances Allen says the Town of Long Beach should pay a \$700 fine levied June 12 by Roger Schechter, director of the Division of Coastal Management (DCM) of the N. C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources (DEHNR). By registered letter last week, Schechter notified the town he had doubled a \$350 base civil penalty because the town knowingly violated a ban against bulldozing sand during loggerhead sea turtle nesting season.

'No one should be above the law, especially public officials.'

Frances Allen
Town councilor

Town officials admit that much Mayor Altman last week echoed past statements when she conceded the town had pushed sand into berms between May 15 and May 22, 1996. But, she said, it was DCM's inability to coordinate with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service that forced the town

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GORE

30 years on the board
Gore has served SEDC well

By Terry Pope
County Editor

During the past 30 years, Orie Gore of Southport has earned little praise for his role on the Southeastern Economic Development Commission, and few people may know the SEDC's role in the county.

But Gore also has no critics of his lengthy service, mostly volunteer work, serving on a board

that is all business and no glamour, but one that will route \$10 million in Economic Development Administration grants to southeastern North Carolina this year alone.

"There is better than \$6 million that we have brought into Brunswick County in the 30 years," said Gore, the only original member still on the commission that organized in 1967. "We think it's been good for the area. It's created a lot of jobs." The SEDC was formed 30 years ago and in-

cluded ten counties to work much like the Appalachian Regional Commission, which tackled poverty and need in the mountains of North Carolina. Over the three decades, presidents have threatened to eliminate EDA funding, especially during the conservative Ronald Reagan era.

Gore remembers the good times and the tough times for economic funding, through seven U. S. presidents, from Lyndon Johnson in 1967 to Bill

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