



Sports

Southport aldermen plan to honor major league player Quinton McCracken -- 1C

The State Port

PILOT

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News

The weather smiles just as the Fourth of July begins

Our

Former Southport students joined in a special reunion this week -- Page 2

North sewer

Developer aids county with project

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Developers of the Magnolia Greens golf and residential development near Leland struck a deal with Brunswick County commissioners Monday to provide sewer to the project by December, perhaps before regional efforts are underway.

Landmark Corp. wants to bring sewer to its development quickly under Phase I of the Northeast Brunswick Regional Wastewater Facilities Plan. The company will pay for engineering services to do so while the county continues to secure interlocal government agreements with Leland, Navassa and the Leland Sanitary District.

Leland Town Council set a special meeting today (Wednesday) at 4 p.m. to discuss the county's interlocal agreement and a contract with Landmark Corp., said councilman Jean Spight. The Leland Sanitary District has a special meeting July 15 to discuss the regional contract, and Navassa has agreed to review the contract.

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County water

Loud voice against fees

By Terry Pope
County Editor

An angry crowd of more than 150 people, mostly from the Shallotte area, said it would collect donations to hire a lawyer and fight a mandatory water tap policy adopted in May by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

Four board members stood firm in favor of the ordinance on Monday and voted down District 1 commissioner Don Warren's attempt to rescind the action, which he led in May. Warren's motion to drop the policy was defeated, 4-1, amid shouts from the crowd that commissioners were taking away constitutional rights.

"The people are angry because they don't understand the rates, and we don't know the rates," said Warren. "We should know. These people don't know what is happening. I think we ought to let the public have input on making the decisions."

The controversy stems from an ordinance approved May 15 that requires property owners pay a mandatory service fee and tap-on fee, plus a monthly water availability fee, on all

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Photo by Jim Harper

Hands raised in a gesture of courage and hope, new citizens swore allegiance to the United States of America in a naturalization ceremony at Fort Johnston last Thursday. The ceremony was for the second year a highlight of the N. C. Fourth of July Festival.

Naturalization ceremony

Our new Americans celebrate the Fourth

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

United States citizens share three important qualities: All of us are immigrants, all of us are proud to be Americans and all of us are equals, 7th District U. S. Congressman Mike McIntyre told a group of 57 people who became Americans during the second annual Fourth of July Naturalization Ceremony.

"Just remember, when you become a citizen of this

country, you are equal to the rest of us who have been citizens a long time," McIntyre said.

The ceremony was held Thursday on the Garrison at Fort Johnston.

Lois and Jerry Gable of Long Beach were the driving forces behind establishment of the Naturalization Ceremony in the N. C. Fourth of July Festival program. The Gables say the ceremony provides a deeper meaning to the festivities and gives all of us an opportunity to pause

See Americans, page 6

Regional sewer project

SBSD delays award of bid, to seek grant

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

By delaying award of construction bids until October, Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District can tap into up to \$1.5 million in grant funding which will then be available through the federal Rural Economic Development Commission.

That grant will partially offset an apparent \$3.5-million cost overrun the district realized when it opened bids recently for the 500,000-gallon-per-day wastewater treatment plant and sewer collection sys-

See Grant, page 6

"It is inevitable; it's coming. We've had some tough obstacles to overcome but we've overcome them."

James W. Smith
SBSD chairman

Split vote

Long Beach will contest state penalty

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

"Heil Hitler," shouted Long Beach United for Progress president Rupert Riley as town council concluded a 15-minute noon meeting Monday.

"Oh, you're sickening, too," town resident Betty Weaver called across a small fire station meeting room to mayor Joan Altman.

"Why is it called a public meeting if the public can't speak?" another one of the 35 or so persons attending the brief session shouted out.

Outside the meeting room councilor Frances Allen continued to whip up supporters, telling them she felt repeatedly violated by fellow council members.

The show of acrimony was spurred by a 4-2 council decision to contest before an administrative hearing officer a \$700 fine levied against the town of Long Beach by officials of the N. C. Division of Coastal Management. The division asserts, and the town does not deny, that Long Beach pushed sand between 58th Street SE and 14th Street SE, from May 15 to May 22, 1996, in violation of a prohibi-

"There was no effort made to hide that. It is hard to hide a bulldozer."

Jerry Walters
Town manager

tion on beach bulldozing at that time of year. The ban at that time of year is to protect loggerhead sea turtles which may be nesting.

At the Monday session, town manager Jerry Walters repeated a claim he has made publicly and mayor Joan Altman has supported: The town made every attempt to secure a needed easement to allow the sand-pushing team when a need to push it that critically eroded area occurred.

The Division of Coastal Management is to blame, because it failed to communicate Long Beach's situation. See Penalty, page 10

POLITICAL FODDER

LBUP platform has same plank

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

While shouts of "Heil Hitler" are far from commonplace at meetings of Long Beach Town Council, the recent fine imposed by state coastal regulators on the town over a beach bulldozing incident has taken on a strange political life larger than the issue itself.

It has done so, not so coincidentally, in an election year.

Long Beach residents who have opposed paying for any nourishment of the beach with local funds have used the fine as evidence council does not really want to protect turtles.

That the town would bulldoze during a ban to protect nesting turtles is evidence of council's disdain for turtles, some argue. Residents who believe this, also believe council wants to renourish the beach to protect private property.

This assertion is made as the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is engaged in the design of a beach nourishment project which, coincidentally, will place sand on the same area of Long Beach shore at which the disputed bulldozing during turtle nesting season took place. The corps will fund its portion of this project under a program that is, ironically, established to See Platform, page 10

Festival fun despite heat

Everyone expects the N. C. Fourth of July Festival in Southport to be nothing short of the best family holiday fun available. And, the 1997 festival didn't disappoint.

Friday night the N. C. Fourth of July Festival Committee concluded the three-day event with an extravagant fireworks display above the Cape Fear River.

"It was an extremely well-coordinated festival," said Margaret Rivera, first vice-president of the 1997 event and president-elect for 1998. "This festival was the culmination of a lot of hard work by so many dedicated committee members and so many others who just showed up to help. The magnificent fireworks display was a fitting ending for a nearly perfect festival. We went out with a bang."

Southport municipal officials too were well-satisfied with the

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