

Sports

Another tough loss for the Cougars; now comes cross-county battle out West -- 1C

Bring and dance in France -- 1B

City board reservations about old yacht basin bed-and-breakfast plan-- Page 2

## Caswell options

Town to bid water system maintenance

By Richard Nubel  
News Editor

Although it has received two previous proposals from the Town of Long Beach outlining services and costs of maintaining its municipal water system, Caswell Beach will seek yet another proposal from Long Beach and one from Brunswick County.

This time, however, Caswell Beach has outlined exactly how it wants the proposal to manage its consolidated water distribution system bid. Bid specifications were sent both the county and Long Beach on August 26. Commissioner Bill Boyd, though he was deposed by fellow commissioners last month as the commissioner charged with dealing in contractual matters, did not indicate when commissioners met Thursday that either Long Beach or Brunswick County had responded to the August 26 request for proposal.

"I did get a draft copy this weekend from the county," Boyd said. Without disclosing the contents or substance of the county's offer, Boyd said he returned the "draft" proposal

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## Brunswick may come to rescue

By Richard Nubel  
News Editor

Volunteer service to the town rescue squad is but one of many opportunities for service in an increasingly busy society. Long Beach town manager Jerry Walters said this week.

Partially because of this, the Long Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad, like others around the county and state, suffers a manpower shortage and frequently can't muster full crews. Additional professional emergency medical assistance to the Southport-Oak Island area may be available before Christmas, Brunswick County EMS director Tracy Jackson said.

"I suspect we've got more volunteer opportunities demanding more people hours and less of a pool for traditional volunteer services," Walters said.

The Long Beach town manager's observation was prompted by a demand from mayor Dot Kelly of neighboring Yaupon Beach last week to renegotiate an annual payment to the Town of Long Beach for rescue service. Under terms of a contract between the two towns, Yaupon Beach is to pay 16 percent of rescue squad

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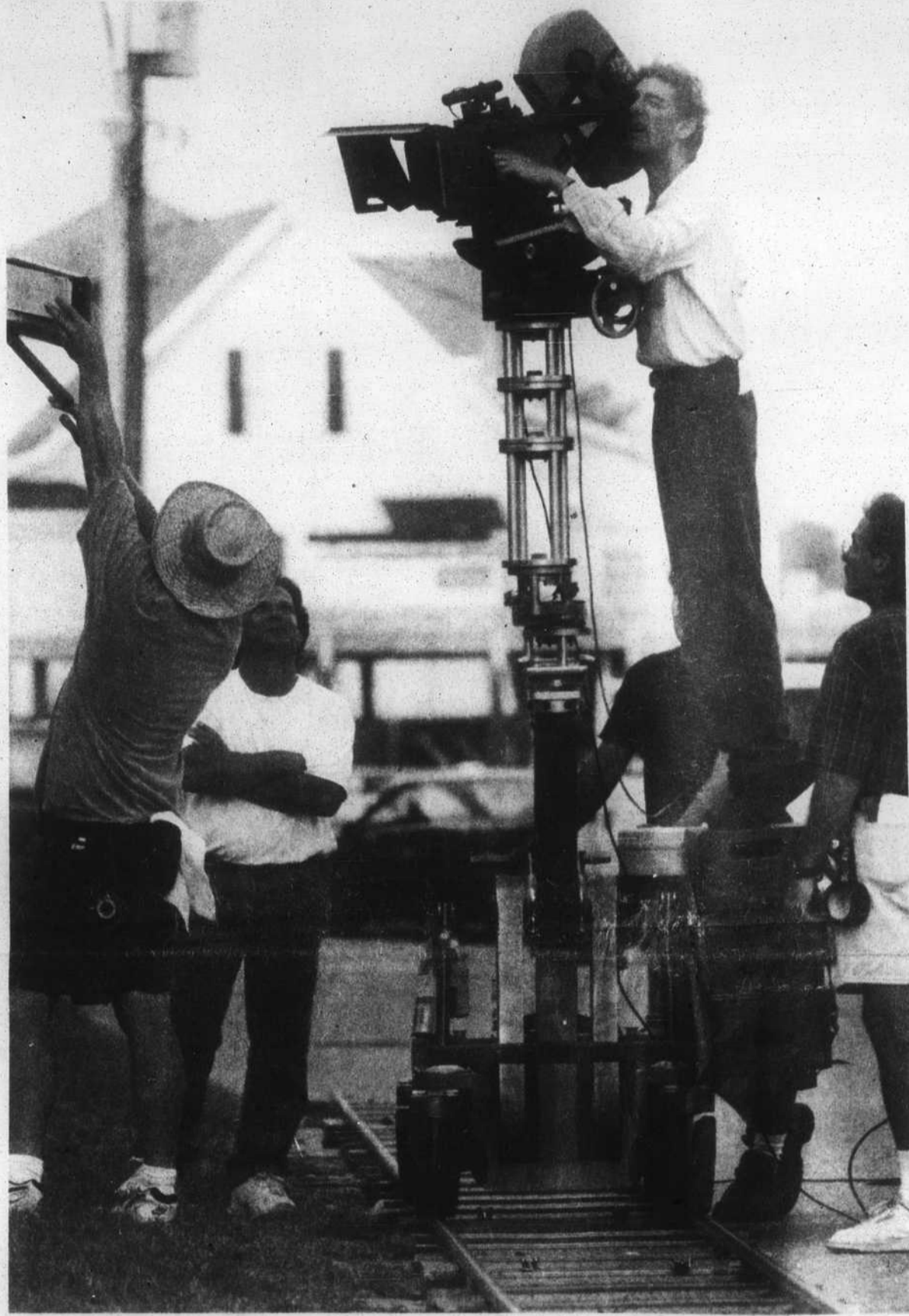


Photo by Jim Harper

Some cameramen will go to great lengths, and occasionally to precarious heights, to get just the right picture, as bystanders saw as filming of "The Wedding" continued on Bay Street. Movie-makers will again be evident this week along the Southport waterfront.

## County authorizes tax on short-term rentals

By Richard Nubel  
News Editor

By the first of the year, it will cost guests of Brunswick County lodging facilities another penny on the dollar to stay here.

County commissioners Monday night reviewed and ordered minor changes to an ordinance establishing a one-percent countywide occupancy tax on short-term lodging rentals. If the ordinance, which was the subject of public hearing that night, stays on track, it will become effective January 1, 1998.

County attorney Huey Marshall was directed to refine the measure and to return a second draft to commissioners on October 6. With the required public hearing completed, commissioners are free to ratify the measure at any time.

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'Our concern is that this is a tourism tax.... Expertise has to come from people in the tourism business.'

Tripp Sloane  
Ocean Isle Beach

## Long Beach Beach trust is approved

By Richard Nubel  
News Editor

In five separate actions Tuesday night, town council formally created a seven-member Long Beach Preservation Trust, integrated it into municipal government structure and empowered it to begin its five-pronged plan of work, including the raising and receiving of private funds to promote beach stabilization.

In other business before council: Staff was directed to develop a third proposal to manage the Caswell Beach water delivery system for a fee; a recommendation of the planning board to not change provisions of a sign ordinance, as Oak Island Presbyterian Church had requested, was accepted; conditions at Middleton Park and treatment of inmate labor was discussed; and, town manager Jerry Walters reported he would respond within the month to those who have complained about the town's chief building inspector.

After a public hearing matter, council also accepted Mac Construction Co.'s \$371,000 bid to pave 17 southeast and southwest

street-ends, several portions of Pelican Drive and White Lane. The \$129,362 bid of Virtexco Corporation to build an extension of Town Hall also was accepted.

Taking up an August report of the town's preservation trust fund advisory committee, council upon staff's recommendation voted unanimously to create a seven-member Long Beach Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Board. Members will serve staggered three-year terms of office.

The five persons who made up the advisory committee offering recommendations for the trust board were appointed as its original members. Two more members will be appointed when council meets October 21.

As outlined by the committee, the Long Beach Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Board has been established to promote private and corporate donations for beach stabilization projects. The fund board also will work to educate the public on beach stabilization techniques and the need for beach stabilization as public policy. It will seek grant funding wherever available and will make recommendations about

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## Harbor Oaks project City annexes 131-acre tract

By Richard Nubel  
News Editor

Southport grew by about 131 acres Thursday night.

Without any substantial discussion, aldermen voted unanimously to annex a single parcel to be developed as Harbor Oaks subdivision by Oleander Development Company. The parcel straddles Price's Creek and lies between Leonard and Moore streets.

The annexation of the future Harbor Oaks subdivision comes at the request of Oleander Development Company. Earlier this year aldermen virtually made voluntary annexation a condition of extending needed wastewater management service to the development, which is expected to include over 200 single-family homesites to be built in phases.

The parcel abuts existing city limits and had been subject to city land use and housing standards ordinances, under the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Now that the Oleander Develop-

With the possibility of additional residential units within the next several years, aldermen have scheduled a public workshop on utility expansion

ment property, formerly owned by Pfizer Inc., is legally a part of the city, "its citizens and property shall be subject to all debts, laws, ordinances and regulations in force in the City of Southport and shall be entitled to the

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## 'Making Waves for Children'

# Seminar fosters concern for youth

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

How to reduce the number of Brunswick County children in foster care, and the time they spend in foster care, were topics of a two-day seminar last week.

Brunswick was among 13 counties selected to participate in a

demonstration project to explore ways to reform the foster care system.

In conjunction with the "Making Waves for Children" conference, conducted by the Jordan Family Institute and held at Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation headquarters, a candlelight vigil was held in memory of the 43 children who died in North Carolina last year as a result of abuse or neglect.

And, a display entitled "Torn Souls" was exhibited at Columbia Brunswick Hospital to draw attention to the 950 cases of child abuse or neglect reported last year in Brunswick County. The display included 950 pairs of old shoes.

Over 70 people spent two days discussing what is wrong with the foster care system, what is right with the system and what

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