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The State Port

PILOT

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SOUTHPORT, N.C.

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Walk up north, then kayak back; it was a fund-raising adventure for two-- Page 2

SOUTHPORT TIBRARY
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Bald Head Davis, council settle

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The Bald Head Island Village Council Saturday offered property owner and former developer Walter Davis \$100,000 in settlement of a breach of contract action Davis announced in September, 1995, and filed in Brunswick County Superior Court in August of last year.

The settlement offer was discussed in two closed sessions of the council Saturday and the offer was made by mayor Tom Bradshaw, mayor pro-tem Bill Taft and council member Bill Leineweber after the second closed session which all council members attended.

The council delegation met with Davis in Doshier Memorial Hospital, where Davis was being treated for a bout of vertigo experienced earlier in the day on the island, and Davis accepted the offer, afterward terming the agreement an "amiable settlement."

Davis had sued for \$100,000 alleging both breach of contract and, in Bradshaw's case, fraud, claiming that Bradshaw had promised him \$100,000 to help offset expenses incurred in a suit Davis was prosecuting against the state.

A village petition for state permission to construct beach-stabilizing groins was granted shortly after Davis had dropped his personal action against the state in 1995.

The fraud allegation in the suit against Bradshaw was based on Davis' contention that Bradshaw had "personally guaranteed" the \$100,000 payment should the village not pay up.

Council member Leineweber said Monday that the \$100,000 payment to Davis would include \$25,000 in insurance money and \$75,000 in village funds, and Davis' lawyer, Michael Mills, said that payment was to include \$25,000 immediately, \$25,000 on February 1 and \$50,000 on July 1, 1998.

Most recently the case had been before a mediator, and in that session last Tuesday information was revealed to indicate that others had contacted Davis to help pave the way for the groin permit even before Bradshaw visited Davis and made the alleged \$100,000 offer.

On Tuesday morning, mayor Bradshaw said that no action had been taken in settlement of the suit, though he did not deny going with Taft and Leineweber to visit Davis on Saturday, out of which meeting came Davis' and Leineweber's reports that settlement had been offered and accepted.

Bradshaw said that presently "lawyers are talking with lawyers," and said that the council likely will meet next week to act on recommendations from their counsel, "and then we will explain our actions and our rationale for taking those actions."

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Photo by Jim Harper

Ballerinas and ballelookalikes performed for the joy of it and the good of the cause Saturday at the Boss Hog barbecue benefit for the Easter Seals program. Ol' Boss himself played a prominent role in the Franklin Square gathering which netted over \$1,000 for relief of children and adults with physical disabilities.

Southport City will face utility choices

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Facing an estimated \$100,000 deficit in the city's electric fund, Southport aldermen have asked each city department head to cut his or her department's expenditures by ten percent.

"... the board has asked me to direct each of you to examine your respective operating budgets and reduce them by ten percent," city manager Rob Gandy wrote all city department heads and supervisors on October 3. His memorandum was spurred by a board decision made at a workshop session of aldermen one night before.

"... the electric fund continues to suffer and is currently in a deficit situation," Gandy said. "The board will consider raising rates only as a last resort. They believe it is time for the other funds to come to the rescue of the electric fund to help build reserves."

If the other departments do come to the electric fund's rescue, that act will represent a complete role reversal. Until the late 1980s the city's electric fund was flush with money. The city's tax rate -- and even its water and sewer rates -- was kept artificially low by transferring the easy profits from electric system operations to the city's general fund and other utility funds.

"Those days are long gone," Gandy noted. In a presentation to the board of aldermen early in the month, public services director Ed Honeycutt said the projected \$100,000

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Electric fund comes up short, but long-range needs also involve water and sewer



Long Beach Council takes parting shots

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Preelection bickering, pitting Long Beach Town Council members Frances Allen and Helen Cashwell against other councilors, began during town manager Jerry Walters' report on his handling of Inspections Department complaints and continued through individual councilors' reports Tuesday night.

In the course of the three-hour council session:

■ Councilor Jeff Ensminger accused councilor Cashwell of engaging in a "witch hunt" to get code enforcement officer David Clemmons' job. Cashwell alleged building inspections records were "missing."

■ Cashwell asserted council members had kept volunteers wishing to form a water rescue department of town government "hanging out" by not quickly voting on the volunteers' proposal.

■ Allen asserted councilor Kevin Bell had tried to get a piece of

Inspections

Proposals to improve performance include:

- Establish a building trades advisory board
- Make the inspections application packet more "user-friendly"
- Customer service training of Inspections Department employees
- Develop a customer service survey to be provided all customers
- Provide new computer software to better track inspections records.

drainage equipment required by ordinance because he sold the equipment
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Short-term plan County will haul trash to Sampson

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Garbage will be hauled out of Brunswick County at a cost of approximately \$32.90 per ton and deposited in a landfill in Sampson County at least until June, 1998, county commissioners decided Monday night.

The decision comes as commissioners face expiration of Brunswick County's permit to operate a landfill at the end of this year.

"Our time is getting short," commissioners' chairman JoAnn Simmons said. "In fact, we are going to have to move our waste out of the county and close our landfill."

Commissioner David Sandifer said the nearly \$33-per-ton cost of hauling

garbage to Sampson County for land-filling matches the cost Waste Industries Inc. is charging to haul trash out of county now with no contract in force. Both Waste Industries Inc. and Waste Management Inc. have been in negotiations with county officials in their effort to seek alternatives to land-filling in Brunswick County.

Brunswick County's refuse dilemma was forged last year when county officials contracted to haul refuse to a Cumberland County waste-to-energy facility operated by VEDCO Industries Inc. VEDCO experienced financial difficulties from which it apparently has not been able to recover.

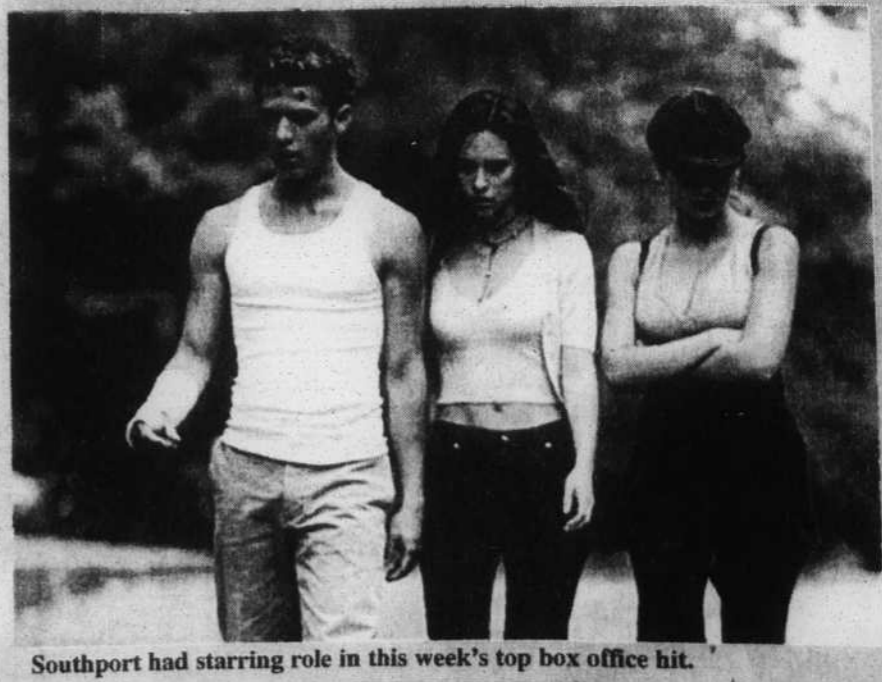
Without its partner in the waste-to-energy effort, and with its own unlined
See Trash haul, page 6

'Summer' near record Second best October opening ever

"I Know What You Did Last Summer" beat the devil at the weekend box office.

The thriller about four teenagers who are stalked after trying to cover up a hit-and-run accident had an estimated \$16.1 million in debut ticket sales. "Devil's Advocate" was second, earning \$12.2 million in its first weekend. Another murder-thriller, "Kiss the Girls," was third.

"I Know What You Did Last Summer," which was filmed almost entirely in Southport and features many local scenes and movie extras, had the second biggest October opening ever, behind the \$16.7 million earned by "Stargate" in 1994.



Southport had starring role in this week's top box office hit.