

November 19, 1997

The State Port PILOT

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Sports

Quinton McCracken of Southport was the fourth pick in Tuesday draft -- 1C

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SOUTHPORT

Aldermen will oppose ADM plan

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Until Archer Daniel Midland's plan to dump diluted gypsum into the Cape Fear River is proved environmentally safe, the Southport Board of Aldermen will oppose that plan.

Unanimously, aldermen Thursday night voted to direct staff to send letters opposing the ADM plan to Gov. James B. Hunt, the state's legislative delegation and Brunswick County commissioners.

"I am a little concerned about an ADM permit to discharge gypsum effluent at that rate," alderman Bill Delaney said, bringing the matter to the board's attention. "It's hard to imagine that mountain dissolved in the river would be good for it."

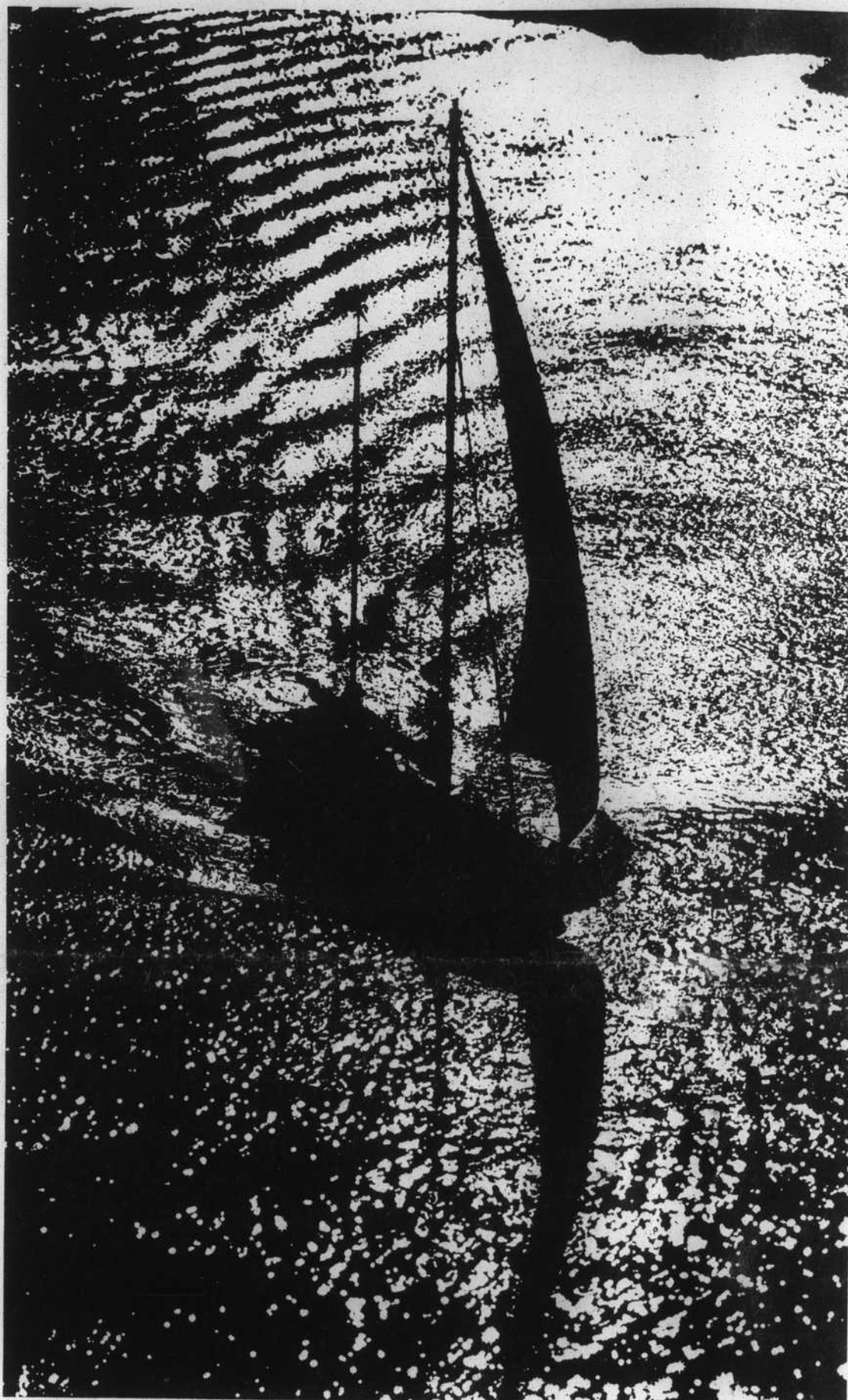
That "mountain" to which Delaney referred is an enormous stockpile of gypsum on ADM property northeast of the city. Gypsum, or calcium sulfate, is a byproduct of the citric acid manufacturing process employed first by Pfizer Inc. on the Southport site and later by ADM. Engineers say the pile of gypsum adjacent to the plant is so high now that no more can be added to it. Another means of disposal must be found.

On October 2, ADM engineer Randall Whitesides wrote state regulators, asking their help in securing a permit to discharge diluted gypsum into the Cape Fear River. While ADM did not say it would flush the pile of gypsum stored on site into the river, Whitesides said a pipeline would be installed from the citric acid process at the Southport plant "to introduce gypsum slurry at 100 gallons per minute into dissolving vessels. The resulting solution will gravity flow at 20,000 gallons per minute through a discharge pipeline atop the liquid cargo pier (Pfizer Dock) and will be distributed through a manifold arrangement beneath the (Cape Fear River) surface," he wrote.

ADM's plan is to pump the gypsum solution into the Cape Fear River at a rate of 20,000 gallons per minute "continuously," according to its letter to the Permits and Engineering Unit of the Water Quality Section of the N. C. Division of Environmental Management.

Alderman Paul Fisher said that meant 1.2 million gallons of the gypsum solution would be pumped into the river just above Southport every hour. That comes to over 200 million gallons per week, he said.

Alderman-elect Wayne Hewett, who will be seated as an alderman from Ward II next month, warned gypsum is See ADM plan, page 9



A southbound sailing yacht passes under the Oak Island bridge as the annual migration of pleasure craft nears its peak. Photo by Jim Harper

Long Beach Seniors, town will negotiate sale of center

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Oak Island Senior Citizens Inc. was offered a price of \$330,000 by the Town of Long Beach on September 30 for its craft shop in the 5900 block of East Oak Island Drive and for several lots it owns between 30th and 31st streets SE on Oak Island Drive.

The town had agreed to pay the \$270,000 debt the seniors organization owed on the building and to maintain the facility exclusively as a municipal seniors center under the auspices of the Long Beach Recreation Department. The remaining \$60,000 would be held in reserve for future expansion of the municipal seniors center.

On October 27, OISC president Don Smith wrote the town with a

"I believe I've gone about as far as I can go without council direction."

Jerry Walters
Town manager

counter offer, asking a \$360,000 sales price, with \$270,000 to burn the organization's mortgage and \$90,000 to be paid to Oak Island Senior Citizens for its own use.

Before the town could respond to that counter offer, Smith, on See Long Beach, page 7

Water system Caswell wants county service

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Acknowledging Caswell Beach was relying too heavily on "goodwill" to see to its water system needs, commissioners Thursday said they will move to secure a contract for system operation and maintenance with Brunswick County.

The Town of Long Beach was outbid for the water system maintenance contract. Brunswick County bid less to provide each of five separate services to the town.

Although a process by which the town's water distribution system will See Caswell, page 7

State-mandated goals High schools to learn ABCs

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Brunswick County high schools are expected to achieve state-mandated student performance goals this year as the New ABCs, the state's newest school improvement program, is expanded to include these grade levels.

Elementary and middle schools were brought into the plan last year while state administrators

studied ways to measure student achievement in high school.

A mathematical formula has allowed Brunswick County school administrators to provide each high school with a general idea of how much growth will be expected in student performance. Assistant superintendent for instruction Mary McDuffie, however, said the state will not issue its specific goals for each school until spring 1998.

Schools that exceed their expected growth levels will qualify for monetary rewards, while schools that do not meet their expected growth levels will be closely monitored and could be taken over by state public education officials.

"Schools have an approximation of their goals, but we won't know exactly what the state's goals are until spring," McDuffie said. "On a daily basis, the numbers don't really See ABCs, page 9

Area EMS site chosen

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Adopting a \$2.6-million financing package to make improvements to the Brunswick County water system and to build three new Emergency Medical Service substations, county commissioners Monday night effectively See Area EMS, page 8

Early edition

Next week's edition of *The State Port Pilot* will be published a day early -- on Tuesday -- and some deadlines have been changed accordingly.

The deadline for display advertising and for news material to be published in the Thanksgiving week edition is Monday at noon. Deadlines for real estate advertising (noon Friday) and classified advertising (3 p.m. Monday) will remain the same.

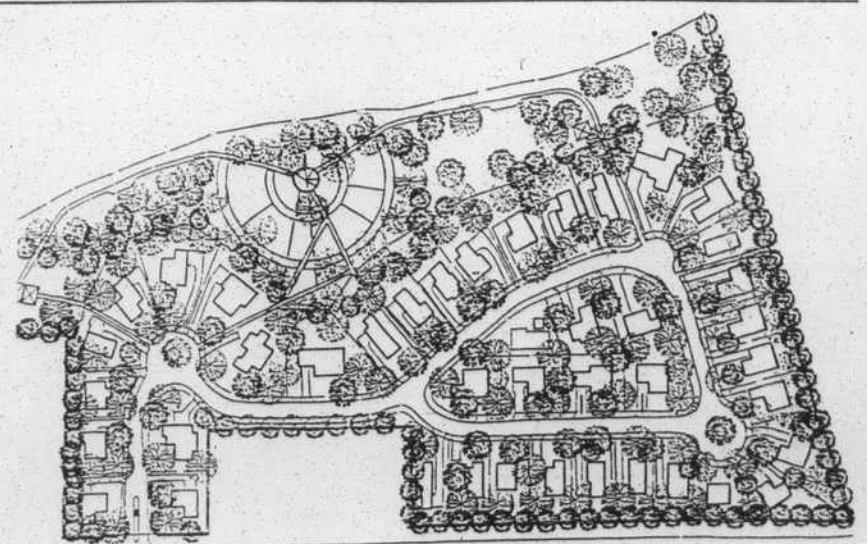
The early publication will allow mailing of the newspaper on Tuesday afternoon, meaning nearby subscribers can expect delivery on Wednesday. Rack and counter-sale outlets will be serviced Tuesday afternoon, though perhaps a little later in the day than normal.

Willis Drive proposal City board rejects PRD development

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

About 100 residents of the Willis Drive area left City Hall with smiles on their faces Thursday night after aldermen turned down a developer's request to rezone nearly 20 acres on the west side of Willis Drive for a planned residential development.

The request of Olde Creek Developments LLC, for a departure from the R-1 zoning designation now assigned that parcel, was denied by unanimous vote of the board of aldermen on a motion by Paul Fisher, seconded by Phil Joyner. Alderman Nelson Adams did not attend the meeting and alderman Bill Delaney was excused from voting at his own request because he had done See City board, page 12



Willis Drive