

The State Port

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VOLUME 67/ NUMBER 17 SOUTHPORT, N.C. 50 CENTS



Sports

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Southport

Citizens protest trailer

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Establishing a daycare center in a modular unit at the Brunswick Learning Center in Southport would diminish property values, increase noise levels and damage the appearance of the Lord Street neighborhood, residents told the Southport Board of Aldermen Tuesday night.

"Why do you want to put it in our neighborhood?" Southport resident Ludelfia Rogers asked the board during a public hearing. "How much noise will there be? We do have to live there, you know."

Resident Leroy Parker asked alderman Paul Fisher if he'd like to live that close to nearly 30 children. "To answer you specifically, no," Fisher responded.

While the city's zoning ordinance allows modular units and prohibits trailers in that neighborhood, Parker and Rogers said they fear the structure will look like a trailer.

The board voted to table any decision. See Trailer, page 12

School finances praised

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

A state performance audit of the Brunswick County school system two years ago revealed severe internal control weaknesses in the finance department that affected operation of the entire school system.

Monday night, members of the board of education expressed gratitude and relief when a certified public accountant proclaimed the finance department "free of material weaknesses," or weaknesses that could lead to undetected accounting mistakes.

"The finance department reflects an attitude of commitment to excellence and to the school system as a whole," said certified public accountant Sam Rose, of the Wilmington firm McGladrey and Pullen.

But the audit did uncover one reportable condition in internal control that could adversely affect the school system's ability to accurately summarize financial reports. The condition involves a lack of monitoring of work performed by individual school treasurers, but Rose stressed that similar conditions exist

See Finances, page 12



There were angels by the armful at the Bolivia Volunteer Fire Department Christmas parade Saturday as the community celebrated the holiday season. Earlier many of the participants were in Leland for the parade sponsored by the Unity Group of North Brunswick.

Photo by Jim Harper

Trash hauling crisis is solved with agreement

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Brunswick County may not have solved its solid waste crisis, but it now has a five-point agreement with Waste Industries Inc. whereby county garbage will be hauled to a landfill in Sampson County at a cost of \$32.95 per ton until June 30, 1998.

The agreement -- written on two typed pages -- "shows the art of negotiation at its finest," county attorney Huey Marshall told county commissioners minutes before a 4-1 vote of adoption was cast. District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier voted against the agreement after questioning a provision which appears to ensure Waste Industries will continue to provide transport and disposal services for the county even if it does not perform collection services after June 30 of next year.

The agreement holds:
■ Waste Industries will continue to provide exclusive service to Brunswick County at existing green box sites and transfer stations through

See Hauling, page 12

Caswell rent tax approved

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Beginning February 1, it will cost vacation cottage and condominium renters two percent more to visit Caswell Beach than it will those enjoying similar accommodations elsewhere on Oak Island.

After a public hearing at which no dissension was voiced, Caswell Beach commissioners Thursday voted unanimously to raise the town's occupancy tax to five percent. Under terms of 1997 legislation, proceeds from the additional two-percent tax

See Rent tax, page 6

Beach council Second bridge without delay, petition asks

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Many had a great deal to say to town council about prospects for a second bridge to Oak Island Tuesday night, but few had anything at all to say about a Second Bridge to Oak Island Corridor Development Study which has been proposed as an amendment to the state-mandated land use plan of the Town of Long Beach.

And, while the second bridge was the topic of the evening, the December meeting of council was also a celebratory affair. Departing councilors Frances Allen, Helen Cashwell and Jeff Ensminger were awarded plaques recognizing their contributions to the town. Mayor Joan Altman and councilors Horace Collier, Kevin Bell and Mary Sneed were sworn to succeed themselves. New councilors J. K. Somers and Mike Oxford were also sworn to office.

Council called the hearing it conducted Tuesday night to receive public comment on the second bridge corridor plan, which discusses appropriate land uses and development policies in the roadway corridor which will access the bridge from the area of N. C. 211 at Midway Road. The public hearing was recessed that night and will be reconvened January 20 at 7:30 p.m. so that commissioners newly seated Tuesday can be privy to additional comment before they vote on whether or not to pass the proposed land use plan amendment on to the

Council was presented a petition bearing the signatures of 2,286 people who oppose any delay in construction of the second bridge

state's Coastal Resources Commission for ratification. Written comment on the Second Bridge to Oak Island Corridor Development Study will be received at Town Hall through January 20 also.

While the corridor study plan was the official issue of the night, most in attendance were satisfied to urge council to do whatever it took to keep state Department of Transportation officials on track to complete the second bridge and access road on time.

Resident Dara Royal presented council with a petition bearing the signatures of 2,286 people who oppose any delay in construction of the second bridge.

Later in the meeting, on a motion by councilor Jeff Ensminger, mayor Joan Altman was directed to for-

See Bridge, page 7

New foundation to support, unify charitable causes

A Brunswick County Community Foundation has been created to support charitable causes and non-profit organizations in Brunswick County.

The purpose of the Brunswick County Community Foundation is to establish a number of endowment funds, said board president Russ Thompson. The organization also should unify and support the work of non-profit organizations.

"Funds can be established through the foundation for local non-profit organizations, churches, schools

and other organizations as well to meet the charitable goals of individuals, families and corporations," Thompson said. "We have a lot of resources in Brunswick County, as well as many needs that can be met through the use of this foundation."

Brunswick is the 19th county in eastern North Carolina and the 37th in the state to establish an affiliate organization of the North Carolina Community Foundation.

"What this means," said Anne L. Steele of the North Carolina

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Early edition

Next week's edition of *The State Port Pilot* will be published a day early, on Tuesday. Deadline for real estate advertising will be noon Friday and classified ads Monday at 3 p.m., as usual. Deadline for news items and other display advertising will be noon Monday.



Cookie contest winners

Sugar and spice and everything nice goes into Christmas cookie recipes, and the *Pilot* contest winners offer some taste-tempting delights.

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