

The State Port PILOT

VOLUME 67/NUMBER 18 SOUTHPORT, N.C. 50 CENTS



Sports

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SBSD

Sewer billing

Laundromat owner says \$2,862 bill more than he bargained for

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

A Long Beach Road laundry owner says it will be hard to stay in business if he has to keep paying his sewer bills.

But, Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District's new manager said without sewer service, River Run Laundromat would absolutely be out of business.

In a letter to The State Port Pilot this week, River Run Laundromat owner Kenneth Conley said he expected to pay less for sewer service from SBSB. His first sewer bill -- for the period October 15 to November 14 -- was a hefty \$2,862, he said.

"We were told sewer would bring down our price," Conley wrote. "It is going to be difficult to stay in business paying these rates."

SBSD manager Woody Wilson Monday said Conley had not contacted him nor the SBSB office about his billing concerns. While the laundromat may pay more for sewer than Conley had anticipated, the laundromat would have had to stop operating without it.

Located in the River Run Shopping Center, the laundromat formerly discharged into a package wastewater treatment plant operated by the shopping center owners. The state's Division of Environmental Management found the package plant to be a source of pollution for the Dutchman Creek system and ordered River Run owners to either present an alternative wastewater plan or close.

With construction of a SBSB wastewater treatment plant still a year off, the district, shopping center owners and the City of Southport forged an agreement whereby Southport will treat up to

See Sewer bill, page 8



The living manger scene at Cape Fear Alliance Church over the weekend was a popular attraction, both for the devotional mood it encouraged and for the opportunity to get one's hands on a real baby goat.

Photo by Jim Harper

Oak Island project Bridge still has support, Mills says

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Transportation secretary Garland Garrett this week called for a State Bureau of Investigation probe of former transportation board member Odell Williamson and a Charlotte newspaper said the U. S. Department of Transportation will investigate use of federal money for North Carolina transportation projects including the second bridge to Oak Island.

But, one state transportation board member says Gov. James B. Hunt, secretary Garrett and state DOT division engineer Doug Bowers all continue to support the roadway and bridge which would link North Middleton Street in Long Beach to the mainland and N. C. 211 at Midway Road.

"This project is important to the governor, it's important to the DOT board, it's important to the secretary, to the division engineer, and it's important to me," said transportation board member Michael Mills of Wilmington.

Mills, who has strong ties to Brunswick County, is an at-large gubernatorial appointment to the policy arm of the state Department of Transportation which annually awards over \$1 billion in transportation improvement contracts.

"This is a good project, a worthy project," Mills said of the second

'... we are going to build that road in an as environmentally sound and sensitive manner as possible. But, we are going to build that road.'

Michael Mills
Transportation member

bridge to Oak Island. "It is an easy project to defend. It is an easy project to support, because it is vitally needed. This bridge and road will help ordinary citizens -- the people we are supposed to be serving."

But, as "easy to defend" as is the second bridge for which Oak Islanders have lobbied for nearly 20 years, the project has recently appeared mired in controversy.

Last month, Ocean Isle Beach developer Williamson was called before Gov. Hunt and told to resign his seat on the state Board of

See Bridge, page 7

Brunswick County schools Officials neutral on car seizures

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

Vehicles operated by drunk drivers previously convicted of driving while impaired and driving while their license is revoked will be impounded and turned over to local boards of education for auction.

But Brunswick County school officials don't know if the state law that became effective December 1 will be a blessing or a burden.

While the DWI case is pending in court, the school system must pay towing expenses, storage fees and insurance on the vehicle, and can be held liable for damage done to the vehicle if it is ultimately returned to the owner, said Brunswick

County superintendent of schools Marion Wise.

"It could, in effect, cost us money," he said. "It could take months for the case to be resolved and we have to store the vehicle and be responsible for any damage. We could invest over \$1,000 in a vehicle that we may not be able to sell for that, if we can sell it at all."

The school system is not equipped to tow vehicles, so it would have to pay either a private towing company or the N. C. Highway Patrol to tow the impounded vehicle to a safe storage area, Wise said.

"In either case, we gotta pay," he said. "And if we can't store the vehicles at the bus garage, we could have to pay \$5 per day to have the vehicle stored. In six months, we could have almost \$1,000 in storage

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'We're just going to get into all kinds of stuff and we don't know if it's going to be a good thing or not yet.'

Supt. Marion Wise

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

When students are suspended from school for smoking they usually return with the same habit: They still smoke, and they still aren't fully aware of the health effects of cigarettes, said assistant superintendent of schools Mary McDuffie.

"They go home for a few days and when they come back they still smoke," McDuffie said. "I think one of the key roles for us is to educate students about how dangerous smoking is."

To accomplish this goal McDuffie solicited the help of the Brunswick County Health Department to develop a stop-

See Smokers, page 7

'I think when students are caught making bad choices, providing an option that isn't punitive is a very positive thing.'

Glenda Browning
School chairman

City pool hall raid brings nine arrests

By Richard Nubel
News Editor

Execution of a search warrant at Dee's Pool Hall in Southport and an adjacent home resulted in arrest of nine persons on drug, weapons and gambling charges Friday night.

City police teamed with Brunswick County sheriff's deputies wearing body video cameras and state Alcohol Law

Enforcement Division officers to make the arrests at the North Lord Street establishment.

Southport police chief Bob Gray and Brunswick County sheriff Ronald E. Hewett said the warrant was drawn in response to numerous citizen complaints about the pool hall and an adjacent home.

"Southport and ALE were working on a nuisance law violation on the scene," said deputy Billy Ingram. "We joined in in

hopes of helping them along on their nuisance case."

Sheriff Hewett said at least two arrests came when deputies working undercover were able to purchase drugs at or near Dee's.

"The city had received quite a few complaints about the area and we conducted an undercover operation which resulted in numerous drug buys, which resulted in execution of the search

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