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THE STATE PORT PILOT



Guilty pleas
20-to-25 years for murder

Construction
Sanitary district plant project

All-conference
Five Cougars make the

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Photo by Jim Harper

The Godwin Seahawk concrete fleet rolled in from three different mixing sites Saturday to provide material for a major pouring in the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District treatment plant project. Kenneth Thomas of Supply officiated at the unloading near the Sea Pines community.

Door-to-Door

County approves trash contract, but Long Beach wants to explore options

Brunswick

By Terry Pope
County Editor

By mid-July, all homes should have 90-gallon, roll-out carts for roadside garbage collection under a six-year, \$30-million contract approved on a 3-2 vote of Brunswick County commissioners Monday. Waste Industries Inc. will provide once-a-week pickup to all 40,000 homes in the county, including those inside municipalities, and haul the garbage to a regional landfill in Sampson County. It means the county green boxes will be removed and charges will be imposed for dumping waste at the convenience stations and landfill at Supply.

District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach tried to table the vote Monday, but her motion failed 3-2. She and District 1 commissioner Don Warren of Shallotte voted against the contract, saying municipalities that will be asked to become part of the countywide plan have not had time to review the final draft.

"I do feel that since we've established a commercial trash committee, I would like to have had the chance for the committee to review the contract prior to adoption," said Ms. Collier. "Also, municipalities haven't had the opportunity to offer input See Brunswick, page 6

Long Beach

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

If they had their druthers, Long Beach Town Council would tell Brunswick County, "Thanks, but no thanks."

While councilors Tuesday night refused to approve an interlocal agreement tying the town to county commissioners' proposed countywide curbside refuse collection program, it also refused to take action on town manager Jerry Walters' proposed amended interlocal agreement, which sought a number of financial concessions from Brunswick County for recycling, refuse container ownership and preparing yard debris for disposal, among other things.

Walters and mayor Joan Altman argued that Brunswick County had rejected all of the town's suggested contract amendments with Waste Industries. The only course left for municipal officials who felt uncomfortable with the county plan was to attempt to amend the interlocal agreement between the county and town governments.

The contract price quoted Brunswick County by Waste Industries Inc. assumes all 18 municipalities will participate in the plan. The interlocal agree See Long Beach, page 6

Bridge choices narrow

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

The number of corridor alternatives for the road leading to a second bridge to Oak Island is down to three. Routes through Sunset Harbor will no longer be considered, the N. C. Department of Transportation says.

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers this week issued notice it will consider DOT's request to fill wetlands to construct a two-lane road to the proposed second bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway to Oak Island.

In a March 12 notice, the corps says it has jurisdiction over the project granted by the River and Harbor Act of 1899 and the federal Clean Water Act, but will not approve a permit for the project until the N. C. Division of Water Quality "issues, denies or waives state certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act." Thus, comment on the Clean Water Act certification may be directed to N. C. Division of Water Quality, See Bridge, page 8

Pageant finance draws questions

By Holly Edwards, Terry Pope
Pilot staff writers

Concerns about administration of the Miss Brunswick County Pageant have prompted the chairman of Brunswick County commissioners to call for an investigation of pageant operations and withdrawal of county funding.

Commissioners chairman Jo Ann Bellamy Simmons said she is con-

cerned about the use of public money by the pageant association and the treatment of pageant winners and contestants by director Susan Kaufman.

But there are two stories emerging from the dispute over what has tarnished the county's most glamorous title.

"I don't feel like the county should fund it as long as Susan Kaufman is See Pageant, page 14

County to contest permit expansion

By Terry Pope
County Editor

County commissioners will officially oppose any permit modification for Martin Marietta Aggregates next week, but county attorney Huey Marshall will keep a watchful eye on what is said at the public hearing.

District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach was appointed by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday to serve as county spokesperson at the

March 25 state hearing. It is being held by the N. C. Division of Land Resources to decide if the mining company should be allowed to expand its borrow permit to include an additional 4.5 acres.

The hearing will be held in the public assembly building at the county government center near Bolivia at 7 p.m.

Martin Marietta holds a permit to operate a borrow pit on 4.9 acres of its 1,000-acre tract north of Southport just south of the Military See Permit, page 5

Aldermen meet Thursday Deregulation hearing concerns city's future

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A good deal of misinformation surrounds debate over deregulation of the electricity industry, city officials learned at a Thursday appearance before a state legislative commission studying the issue.

City officials' appearance before the commission -- alderman Paul Fisher spoke -- forced the regularly scheduled meeting of the board of aldermen to be recessed last Thursday night without any business transacted. The meeting will be reconvened this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The legislative study commission, meeting last week on the UNC-Wilmington campus, is charged with plotting this state's path to deregulation of the electricity

industry. Under deregulation, in theory, electricity customers would have the option to pick and choose electricity suppliers such as telephone customers now choose long distance companies. Electricity distributors would have greater leeway to make minute-to-minute decisions on bulk purchases of electricity at cheapest prices through a process known as "wheeling" in a network of electricity brokerage worldwide.

But, if the state is to deregulate the electricity industry it must deal with the question which Southport finds itself at the heart: Who will pay the stranded debt assumed by cities like Southport to build power-generating facilities that have benefited all?

Chief among the advocates to speak for immediate deregulation of the power industry is a group calling See Deregulation, page 12

Caswell sifts through erosion proposals

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Caswell Beach may be lost in the shuffle for federal funds if it doesn't start accruing its share of cost of nourishing and renourishing its beachfront, a member of the town's beach erosion control committee told commissioners and residents Thursday.

Despite current federal reluctance to provide matching funds for beach stabilization

projects, those funds may be available one day. When they are, the town must be ready with its own source of beach nourishment revenue, said committee member Frank Bausch.

"I'm all for fiscal responsibility, except when it comes to the beach," Bausch told commissioners. "If we don't reserve money for the beach, there are so many claimants, we are going to be the last to get (federal) funds."

Debate over reserving funds for a future beach nourishment project was waged by commissioners late last year when the state's General Assembly authorized Caswell Beach and other towns to levy an additional two-percent occupancy tax which may only be spent for beach stabilization projects. After much debate by board members, Caswell Beach commissioners agreed to begin levying the additional two-percent tax on short-term lodgings to create a pool of possible

matching funds for a beach nourishment project. Yaupon Beach had the same option, but decided not to levy the additional two-percent tax. Long Beach did not have the option to levy an additional lodgings tax.

Thursday, Bausch said the town's beach erosion control committee will ask that the town appropriate a total of \$126,000 this year for beach maintenance and stabilization. The town spent about \$6,000 on the beach this See Erosion, page 14

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