

THE STATE PORT PILOT



Festival program

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Volume 67, Number 44

Published every Wednesday

Southport, NC

Yaupon to fund rescue

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Concluding discussions Thursday night, Yaupon Beach commissioners were prepared to adopt a budget for 1998-99 calling for no tax or service fee increases and including no appropriation for a contract with Long Beach for rescue service.

Until Friday, Yaupon Beach commissioners were prepared to have only Brunswick County EMS respond to emergency medical calls in their town.

Revisiting that decision Friday night, commissioners reversed themselves, appropriating \$19,462, or a 14.4-percent share of the cost of supporting the Long Beach Rescue Squad which will be bolstered next year by four new paid employees.

Commissioners agonized over the rescue squad decision. The decision to fund the Long Beach rescue contract came by the slimmest of margins. Commissioners Dick Marshall and Linda Franklin voted to contract with Long Beach for rescue service. The 14.4-percent of rescue costs Yaupon Beach will pay is identical to the share of the permanent Oak Island population living in Yaupon Beach. Caswell Beach will pay 3.6 percent of rescue costs next year, or \$4,865.

Commissioners Bill Smith and Marty Wozniak refused to cast a vote on the measure. Their silence was counted as a "yes" vote under state law. Commissioner Roy Johnson, who opposed the Long Beach rescue contract last week, did not attend the Friday session.

Town clerk Nancy Wilson was directed to appropriate from general fund balance the additional funds needed to balance the 1998-99 budget proposal and to fund the Long Beach Rescue Squad contract. The pact with Long Beach will not impact the town's tax rate, which will remain at 37.5 cents per \$100 assessed valuation in the year to begin July 1.

Commissioners actually had been considering the Long Beach Rescue Squad proposal for months.

Long Beach town manager Jerry Walters first presented the proposed Yaupon Beach share of rescue. See Yaupon, page 11

N.C. 211 rezoning okayed

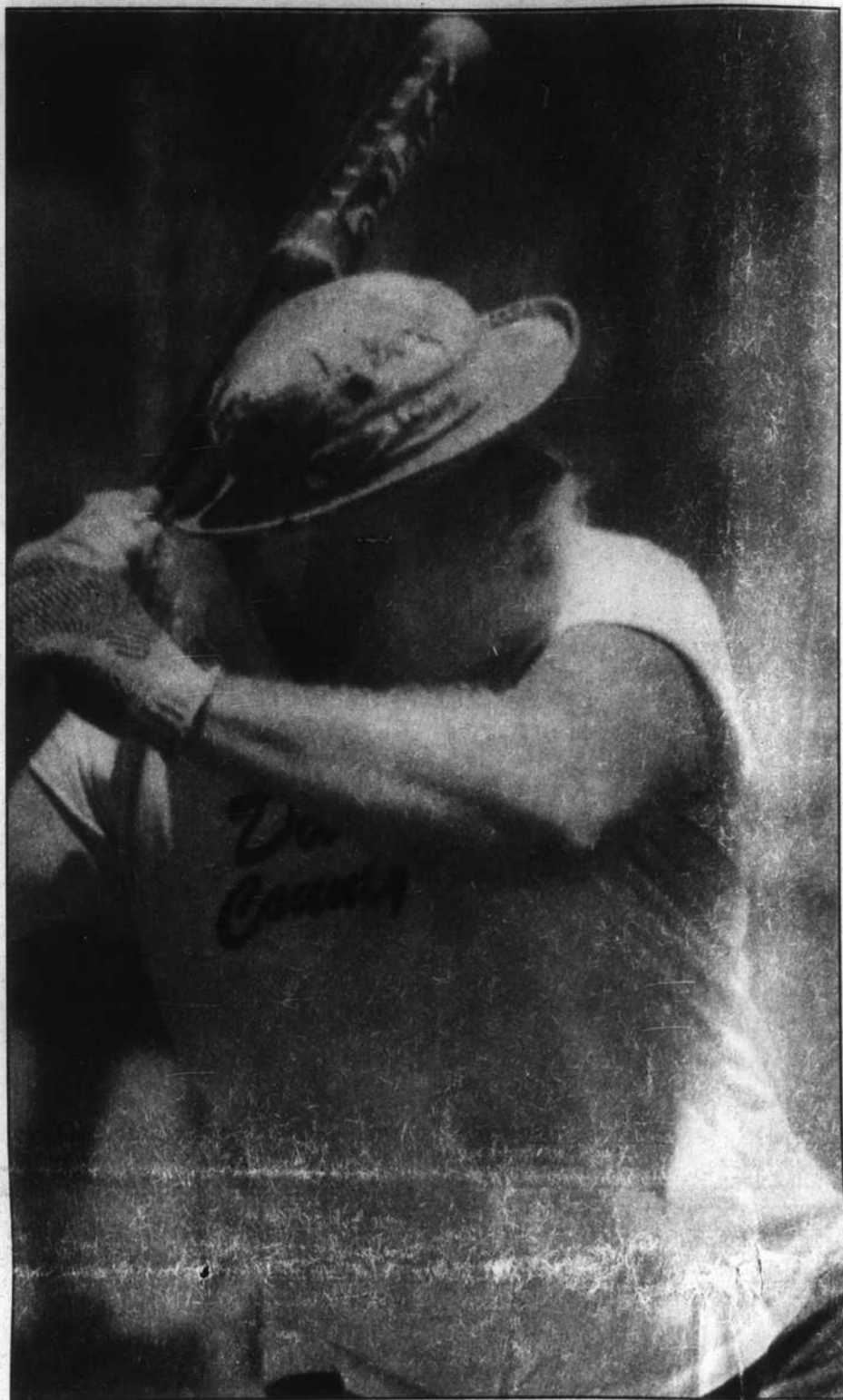
By Terry Pope
County Editor

Commercial growth in the Long Beach Road corridor is bringing with it increased traffic, but Brunswick County planners said last week they cannot halt development during the search for solutions.

The Brunswick County Planning Board voted 4-2 to approve a rezoning request which opens a 93-acre tract on N. C. 211 just west of Long Beach Road to commercial low density (C-LD) development with talk of a major retail store looking to locate on the property owned by Z-1 Commercial Properties Inc. of Wilmington.

"That's a big problem in Brunswick County -- roads," said JoAnn Bellamy Simmons, planning board member and chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners. "But I can't solve the problem of roads by denying." See Rezoning, page 8

BATTER UP



Action was not only woolly but wild Saturday as senior softballers played to their hearts' content in a tournament of the Eastern Carolina Senior Softball League in Smithville Township District Park.

Photo by Jim Harper

'Empty Seats' filling up

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Thousands of people are expected at Brunswick Community College this weekend, and they won't all be students.

A four-day festival, "No Empty Seats," will begin Thursday and end Sunday. All sorts of music -- from beach and bluegrass to gospel and southern rock -- as well as arts, crafts and food are on the agenda.

The name of the festival, "No Empty Seats," has a philosophical and a practical meaning behind it, said John Holleman, executive producer of the festival and director of institution-

al resource development.

"We don't want any empty seats at the college, and we're planning to have a sell-out event," he said.

The festival is a fund-raiser for students who wish to pursue their education but need financial assistance.

"We are the first community college in the state to offer to every senior the opportunity to come free of charge, including tuition, books and fees, to the college. We wanted to remove all barriers," he said.

Holleman and others are leaving no stone unturned in promoting the festival. They plan See Seats, page 15

Budget hearing

City aldermen weigh rec, dispatch concern

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Critics of the City of Southport's proposed \$7.06-million budget for 1998-99 zeroed-in on two proposed general fund expenditures at a public hearing Thursday night: The proposed \$180,900 budget for the city parks and recreation department; and, a proposed \$180,000 purchase of a new fire truck to replace a 34-year-old pumper.

Aldermen also heard several appeals from agencies outside city government which either wanted appropriations or increases in appropriations the city's budget committee had recommended. Representatives of

Southport Maritime Museum, Southport 2000 and the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce made appeals for more money.

Hearing an earful, aldermen delayed action on the budget proposal. The board has scheduled a workshop session for 6 p.m. Thursday at which members have asked to hear again from Mary Strickland of the Southport Maritime Museum and city department heads. Action on the budget proposal may not be taken until as late as June 29; midnight June 30 is the deadline for budget adoption.

Debate of the parks and recreation department's proposed \$180,000 budget for the See Concern, page 11

Beach Road area Residents object to Yaupon plan for annexation

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Their message was short and to the point and almost unanimous: We don't want to be part of Yaupon Beach.

Perhaps it was the two-minute time limit on comments before Yaupon Beach commissioners at the Moose Lodge Tuesday night, but residents of the Long Beach Road, Airport Road and Fish Factory Road communities -- the communities targeted in a resolution of Yaupon Beach's intent to annex -- took only 45 minutes to deliver their forceful message.

With the exception of two speakers, residents of the southern portion of Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District told Yaupon See Annex, page 7

'It is a legitimate concern of the town to seek to expand its borders to protect its economic base.'

Roger Lee Edwards
Yaupon Beach attorney

Managed care dilemma Doshier wants say in lease proposal

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

No agreement to lease Brunswick Community Hospital will contain any provision detrimental to Doshier Memorial Hospital.

Doshier's administration and trustees said Brunswick County commissioners and members of the county hospital authority have offered that assurance as the two bodies seek to negotiate Brunswick Community Hospital's management future. New Hanover Regional Medical Center, of Wilmington, has offered to purchase assets of Brunswick Community Hospital from Columbia/HCA, which holds a 40-year lease of the facility. Brunswick County built the hospital facility in the late 1970s and the deal must be approved by the Brunswick County Hospital Authority, an 11-member appointed body which serves at the pleasure of county commissioners. While county commissioners have expressed concern that management of the Supply facility be kept local and that the hospital not be utilized as a "feeder" facility

'The worst-case scenario is Columbia keeps the hospital.... The other scenario is they work out a new lease to New Hanover.'

Edgar Haywood
Doshier administrator

ty for the larger NHRMC, Doshier's concerns are more specific. "We don't want to be cut out of the managed care market," Doshier administrator Edgar Haywood told trustees Monday. "That doesn't appear to be a problem. We also want them to recognize the traditional boundaries of the Doshier hospital service See Doshier, page 8



Carolina Power & Light Co. Brunswick Nuclear Plant vice-president Jack Keenan (right) and manager of communications Ann Mary Carley present a \$10,000 check to Southport officials alderman Paul Fisher, city manager Rob Gandy and mayor Bill Crowe in support of the community building reconstruction project. CP&L has made a five-year, \$25,000 commitment to the project.