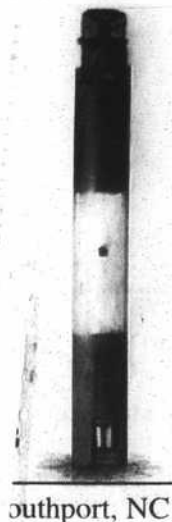


# THE STATE PORT PILOT



**Strong found**  
New support for area off to a good financial the help of former NFL quarterback Roman C

**Scramble**  
Yachting fun takes n



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## Long Beach

# Town effort aims to get The Point

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

While several west-end property owners objected to all or part of the Fragile Area Management Plan for public access development at The Point, Long Beach Town Council Tuesday night acknowledged FAMP was a document in transition.

By adopting the plan for public access development of The Point, approximately 40 acres bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Montgomery Slough and Lockwood Folly Inlet the town will be better positioned to compete for grants needed to foot the assumed \$300,000 to \$1 million purchase price of the land the

objecting Kings Lynn property owners that night repeatedly called "pristine."

Council's vote to adopt the plan was unanimous, but several members voiced objection to certain plan provisions, including some that bothered Kings Lynn owners the most.

Mayor Joan Altman said most people at least favored municipal purchase of the land. Those who objected to some of the proposed public access development plans contained in the plan, differed only little with supporters of the entire plan in some instances.

"Listening to the comments  
See Long Beach, page 15

# County hospital offer withdrawn

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Columbia/HCA Tuesday withdrew its offer to sell a long-term lease at the Brunswick Community Hospital at Supply to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington for \$36 million.

The decision came following a meeting with representatives of the Brunswick County Hospital Authority and county commissioners, who asked for concessions regarding the payback of the \$36 million by NHRMC and stipulations on where that money should

be invested.

The decision to withdraw the offer ends several months of negotiations between Columbia/HCA, the county and NHRMC.

Columbia/HCA Properties holds a 40-year lease on the hospital but agreed in May to offer that lease to NHRMC as part of a four-state, \$1.2-billion sell-off of its hospital holdings.

Also involved in the deal was Cape Fear Memorial Hospital in Wilmington.

"We feel like it is the best thing to Brunswick County right now."  
See Hospital, page 15

## SETTING SAIL



Chris Schnell pilots his *Madness I* at the start of the Yacht Basin Wooden Boat Shop Sailboat Scramble, one of two sailing events which kept harborwatchers excited all day long on Saturday.

Photo by Jim Harper

# Fire fund District options get call

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

County officials will study three rural fire response districts to see how a flat-rate fee for fire and rescue funding would help or hinder department budgets.

That decision came after a two-hour workshop by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday in which the board also discussed, but sided against, two methods to fund the county's 21 volunteer fire units by levying a special countywide property tax.

The board has asked tax administrator Boyd Williamson to determine the number of dwellings and lots in the Waccamaw, Civietown and Northwest fire districts that could be assessed under a flat-fee schedule. Commissioners are interested in seeing the benefits if the money stayed home, to be returned to the fire and rescue units responding to calls inside those service districts.

District 2 commissioner David Sandifer proposed a fee of \$25 per home, \$2.50 per vacant lot and a rate of 2.5 cents per square foot for commercial or industrial buildings up to 10,000 square feet and one cent per square foot for buildings larger than 10,000 square feet. Sandifer said if small, rural fire departments like Civietown can benefit under his proposal, then other larger departments should have no objection either. Fees would be the same in all districts.

County fire marshal Cecil Logan has asked for operating budgets from fire departments and should have them in hand by the end of August. That will allow commissioners to determine how much

See Options, page 12

# Mining control plea renewed Martin Marietta threat continues in area

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

A request to protect the underground Castle Hayne aquifer and other areas of the county from man-induced sinkholes through zoning control was once again presented to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners last week.

Members of the Brunswick Mining Awareness Committee petitioned commissioners for action and presented documents containing signatures from residents who feel the same way.

Zoning overlays to protect the aquifer, a local

source for potable drinking water that supplies the Southport city wells and the county's N. C. 211 water treatment plant, has been a topic of debate for three years. However, the county planning staff and elected leaders have not actively pursued the issue.

Commissioners accepted the petition from Brunswick Mining Awareness Committee coordinator Marcia Whiting but offered no comment.

The Brunswick County Long-Range Planning Committee in 1995 also recommended that the county zoning ordinance be amended to establish a protective "overlay" for the unconfined area of

the Castle Hayne aquifer to protect well water in the Southport-Oak Island area.

The Mining Awareness Committee was formed in opposition to Martin Marietta Aggregates' plan to open a large limestone quarry north of Southport near Bethel Church Road. The latest petition is needed, said Ms. Whiting, as a result of the issuance of a borrow pit permit expansion to Martin Marietta in the vicinity of the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point ammunitions depot and the Carolina Power and Light Co. rail lines that supply fuel rods for twin nuclear reactors at

See Mining, page 8

# Bolivia slaying Man is charged in parent deaths

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

A 28-year-old Bolivia man was arrested early Friday morning and charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the shotgun-shooting deaths of his parents.

Christopher John Benino, who lived with his parents in a small home at 2619 Goose Marsh Court at Bolivia, stands accused of shooting Anthony Frank (Tony) Benino, 50,

and Vicki Lyons Benino, 49, and then dumping his mother's body off the Gilbert Road bridge into a branch of the Lockwood Folly River.

Tony Benino's body was found lying in a pool of coagulated blood in the living room at the family home.

Christopher Benino made first appearance before District Court judge Ola Lewis Bray Friday. He was returned to Brunswick County jail without privilege of bond. James  
See Murder, page 14

# Schools open next Tuesday

By Laura Kimball  
Feature Editor

Fresh coats of paint shine on the walls, clean and untouched. New carpet, yet to be introduced to lines of shoes and the grind of a school year, awaits the rush.

The halls are quiet, but not for long....  
It's time for school to start.

The first day of the 1998-99 school year will be Tuesday, August 4, making the past few weeks a short summer vacation.

Since the 1997-98 school year ended the first week of June, schools — and, of course, students — haven't had much time to prepare for a new year, but schools have worked quickly to get everything in order.

Carolyn Williams, principal of Southport Elementary, said that  
See Schools, page 15



Photo by Jim Harper

Officers search the Lockwood Folly River for the body of Bolivia resident Vicki Benino.