

THE STATE PORT PILOT

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West is one
South had its hands full with the Trojans, who established a school scoring record.

Animal control
Southport adopts measures to protect pets and the public.

SOUTHPORT TOWN
W. MOORE STREET
SOUTHPORT, NC 28461

LELAND

Suit filed over sale of water

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The Town of Leland is suing the North Brunswick Sanitary District and has also threatened to include the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners in the legal dispute over the town's right to purchase water when nobody is willing to sell it.

Following a closed session Monday county commissioners were not amused, and voted unanimously not to sell water to Leland at wholesale rates because that could affect the sanitary district system already in place in northern Brunswick County. Leland wants to enter the water business so it can provide both water and sewer service to newer developments like the 900-acre Magnolia Greens Golf Course subdivision.

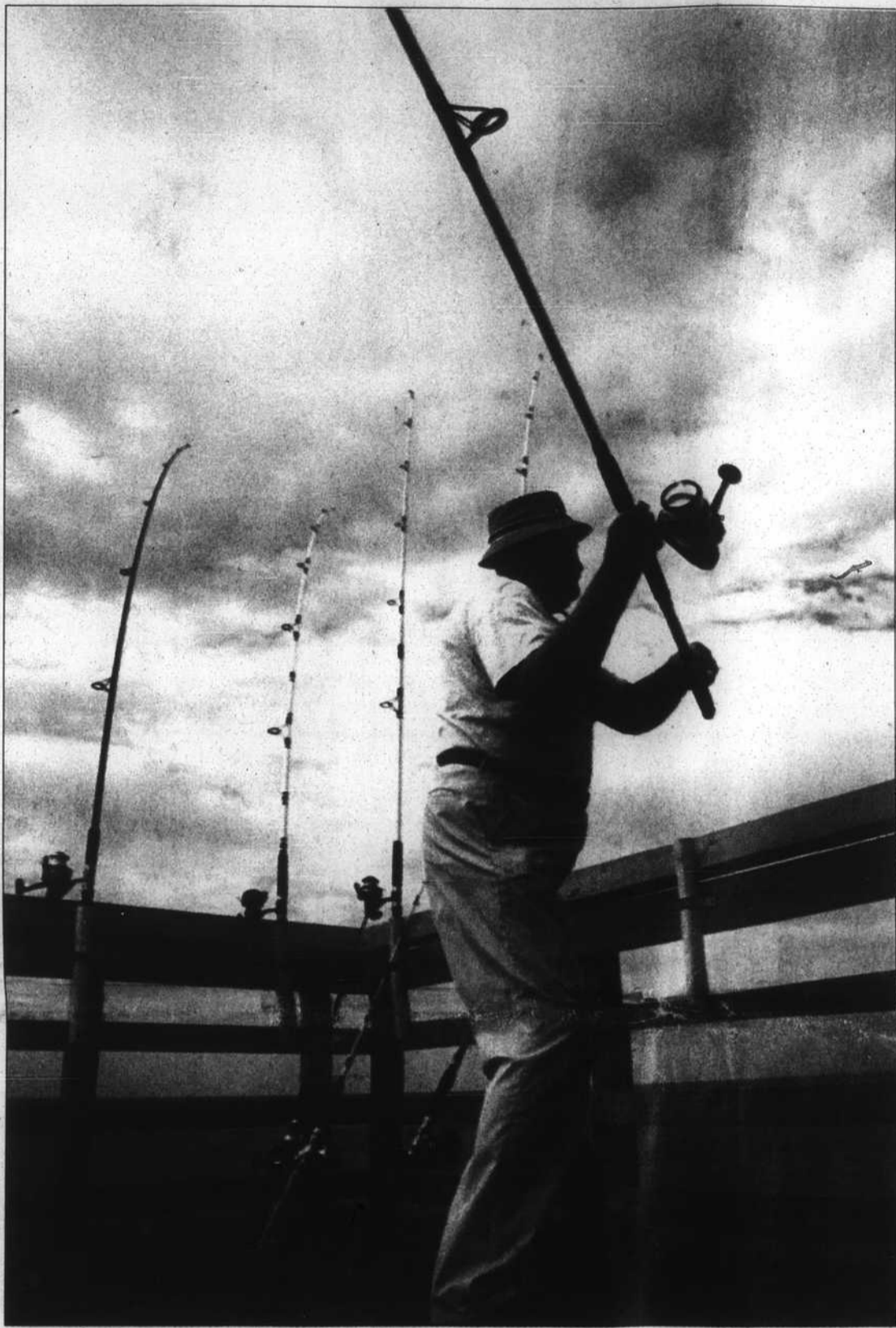
Leland mayor Franky Thomas said the town ended negotiations with the sanitary district and filed suit Monday in Brunswick County Superior Court to obtain a legal ruling on whether the district's refusal to sell water to the town is an act of discrimination. He said the county has never refused to sell water to a town either, and that it would constitute discrimination if it chose to do so.

Commissioners obtained legal advice from county attorney Huey Marshall, who indicated that discrimination would only apply if Leland becomes a customer and is treated differently from other towns with its rates or level of service.

"Just as Leland is not compelled to buy water from the county, then the obverse is the county is not compelled to sell the Town of Leland water," said Marshall.

Developers of Magnolia Greens have purchased another 500 acres
See Leland, page 10

CASTING OFF



David Roseman of Maiden -- "I fish from March to November every year" -- sets his anchor line and gets ready for a day of kingfishing on Ocean Crest Pier. King mackerel are foremost in the minds of pier anglers and boat fishermen as the fall run approaches.

Photo by Jim Harper

Long Beach

Council okays public sewer, regional plan

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Long Beach will build a public sewage collection system, town council decided Tuesday night.

There have been times in recent Long Beach history when the mere mention of public wastewater management was enough to provoke a fist-fight. But, so changed is the political environment today, council's action was taken unanimously, with no challenge from the public.

In separate actions, council:

■ Voted to accept the offer of neighboring Yaupon Beach to provide the town 35,000 gallons daily wastewater flow capacity immediately. That capacity will be increased to between 135,000 and 170,000 gallons per day by July, 1999, depending on another flow commitment Yaupon Beach may have.

■ Authorized staff to issue a request for proposals from engineering consulting firms which will design and oversee construction of the first phase of a Long Beach wastewater management system.

'Costs will be covered by assessments, tap fees and then usage. Those who do not have access to the sewer system will not pay for the sewer system...'

This initial system is likely to serve the town's central business district. Eventually, it is anticipated, flow from all properties east of 46th Street will be directed to Yaupon Beach for treatment, as a regional wastewater management system develops.

There is consensus we need a See Long Beach, page 5

'Non-aggressive'

Two-bill policy tried for rescue

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Not wanting to harass those unable to pay, town council Tuesday night said patients treated by the Long Beach Rescue Squad will only be billed twice.

If payment is not made after a second billing, the account will be written off. Councilors said this action is in keeping with a commitment to a "non-aggressive" collection policy council asserted when it began operating a paid rescue service on July 1.

Council's action and its billing determination came as it ratified a contract for billing services with EMS Management and Consultants Inc., a Winston-Salem company which currently bills for Leland, Coastline and Town Creek volunteer rescue squads in Brunswick County.

Councilors struck a provision of the proposed contract that outlined a procedure whereby follow-up bills would have been sent at 45 days, 75 days and 95 days before being determined to be uncollectable.

The two-billings-only policy adopted as a compromise -- councilor Horace Collier wanted one billing only; councilor Kevin Bell wanted to allow the full four billings -- will apply to those who carry medical insurance as well as to those who do not.

"The first assumption we took to budget deliberations was we would have a non-aggressive collection policy -- a policy without collection agencies," town manager Jerry Walters reminded council. "We put a small amount in the budget (revenue side) for collection from third-party payers."

Walters suggested everyone be sent an initial bill for rescue service. After that one bill, he said, collection efforts could be terminated.

"That's about as non-aggressive as you can get," Walters said.

But, councilor Bell said some insurance companies do not respond until third billing notices are sent. Councilor Mary Snead suggested the two-billings compromise and See Rescue, page 5

How to treat the city's future Southport faces question of infrastructure

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

With new residential and commercial development virtually on hold, Southport soon faces critical decisions about how it will meet the wastewater needs of the city and its presumed service area.

"We're talking about a substantial capital project somewhere down the road," city manager Rob Gandy said this week. And, that road may be a short one.

Already, city officials have imposed a "moratorium" on consideration of new residential subdivisions of ten acres or more or of 20 units or more. This action comes as consulting engineers for the city seek to determine how much more wastewater treatment capacity can be freed for

Results of the consulting engineers' in-flow and infiltration study are expected to be presented to aldermen at their October 8 meeting

allocation by plugging collection system leaks which allow in-flow and infiltration of stormwater.

But, while it will become important to the city to put its wastewater collection system in good repair, the anticipated additional flow the city's system will afford -- even absent infiltration -- won't be sufficient to meet needs of the city's growing service area.

Aldermen may begin allocating flow to new development upon completion of the in-flow and infiltration study now nearing completion, but only a very limited amount of flow will actually become available when in-flow problems are remedied.

"Even if that buys us 50,000 gallons per day, that is really not very much," Gandy said.

Public services director Ed Honeycutt estimates one subdivision on the order of The Landing would use up 50,000 gallons of daily See Southport, page 12

Superintendent gets high marks, bonus

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Brunswick County schools superintendent Marion Wise received an excellent evaluation and a bonus Monday night at a meeting of the county school board.

Board chairman Glenda Browning said on a scale of one to six, with one being the best rating, Wise received mostly twos. His perfor-

mance was rated "well above standard," she said.

Board members recommended Wise receive a \$4,000 bonus. The bonus is part of Wise's contract which is awarded to him if he meets goals for the year.

Also, Wise's contract will be extended two years. Since Wise is already two years into a four-year contract, this will make him school superintendent through 2002.

Browning pointed out, though Wise has done an excellent job, that improvements in the school system are a result of teamwork. Mary McDuffie, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, and Clarence Willie, assistant superintendent of operational programs, each will be given a \$1,500 bonus for their parts in the team effort, she said.

"We are just so very proud of what

the team has accomplished under his leadership," Browning said.

Board member Billy Carter also has noticed improvement under Wise's leadership. According to Carter, the schools seem cleaner and more upbeat, and test scores are up.

"The board is well-satisfied with the performance of the superintendent," he said.

Also at the Monday meeting, a change in the half-days awarded

Brunswick County teachers was announced.

Each staff member will be given two half-days of leave, from noon to 4 p.m., on November 25 and December 22. The previous schedule had December 18 as a half-day off, but it will remain a teacher workday.

The half-days are a reward to staff members for their part in the ABCs of Public Education results.

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