

THE STATE PORT PILOT



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Scorps move to first

On the Spot
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CROP WALKERS



Photo by Jim Harper

CROP Walk participants begin a three-mile walk to raise money for the cause of local and world hunger.

The march against hunger

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Feet hit the street at 2 p.m. Sunday, but they weren't competing with each other.

In fact, the annual CROP Walk was a team effort to combat local and world hunger. The CROP Walk is a national event sponsored by the nondenominational Church World Service to raise money and awareness of poverty issues faced by millions of people around the world.

CROP walkers gathered sponsors who agreed to contribute money to the cause if the walker completed a three-mile route, which began at Stevens Park in Southport.

More than 175 walkers participated this year and almost \$10,000 was raised, according to Jim Bartlett,

treasurer of the Southport-Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship, a group of 18 area churches that organized the event.

Last year there were just over 100 walkers and \$5,600 was raised, he said.

Bartlett also pointed out that the area CROP Walk has come a long way since it started 18 years ago when \$300 was raised.

Each year, 25 percent of the money raised by the walk goes to local organizations involved in fighting hunger at the community level. The remaining 75 percent will be used by the Church World Service and for outreach, which includes assisting poverty- and disaster-stricken areas.

The 25 percent that stays in the area will be distributed by the human needs division of the

See CROP Walk, page 10

'It was one of those outstanding events that brings the whole community together.'

Jim Bartlett
Interchurch Fellowship

SBSD challenges annexation

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

The Town of Yaupon Beach has failed to follow procedures set out in state law in its attempt to annex property on Long Beach Road, Airport Road and Fish Factory Road, Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District's Board of Commissioners contend in a lawsuit filed October 13.

SBSD commissioners, on behalf

of the district, have asked the Superior Court in Brunswick County to declare the Yaupon Beach annexation ordinance of September 14 null and void and to declare the Long Beach Road tract ineligible for annexation. If the court is unable to make that ruling, SBSBD has asked the court to order Yaupon Beach to revamp its annexation ordinance to comply with state law. The entire tract proposed for

annexation lies within the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District, a government agency created in 1989 to establish a wastewater treatment system along the Long Beach Road corridor.

Wilmington attorney John Richard Newton filed suit for SBSBD commissioners one day before the deadline for objections to the annexation were eligible to be lodged, under state law.

The suit challenges elements of both the Annexation Feasibility Study the Town of Yaupon Beach performed, and adopted on July 20, and the annexation ordinance Yaupon Beach commissioners adopted September 14, several days after a required public hearing on the proposed annexation. If the challenge to the annexation action fails, the area targeted for annexation will be annexed to the town.

See SBSBD, page 11

LONG BEACH

Sewer project wins approval from council

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A 15,700-linear-foot wastewater collection system -- phase I of a Long Beach sewer system -- may be completed as early as September 30, 1999, under a plan submitted by a Southern Pines engineering firm.

Town council Tuesday night voted unanimously to engage engineering consultants Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates P.A. (HUA) from among six firms which initially responded to the town's request for proposals and three which were eventually interviewed. The successful firm proposed to do preliminary design work, design the collection system, coordinate bidding by construction contractors and perform administrative and inspection work during construction for a fee of \$90,580.

Construction is to begin April 1, 1999, under a project schedule submitted in response to the town's request for proposals.

"We made it clear we are in a fast-track process..." town manager Jerry Walters told councilors. He said three of the firms initially

Phase I will serve the business district and commercial areas along Oak Island Drive

responding to the town's request for proposals were disqualified because they could not guarantee phase I sewer system development at the pace the town desired.

The first phase of what will be a Long Beach wastewater collection system, and later likely a segment of a regional wastewater management system, was made possible last month when Yaupon Beach commissioners announced they would make 30,000 gallons of daily wastewater flow available to Long Beach immediately for treatment at the Yaupon Beach wastewater treat-

See Long Beach, page 12

Get to 'The Point'

Road widening gains approval

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Road shoulder improvement at the two streets accessing "The Point" are two elements of the Long Beach Fragile Area Management Plan which are both agreeable and can be done quickly with cash on hand.

Tuesday night, town council approved \$1,309 from the town's streets department budget to improve road shoulders along the westernmost sections of West Beach Drive and Kings Lynn Drive. The tandem road shoulder projects were the first recommendations to council from The Point committee it appointed recently.

The large committee is charged with recommending and refining elements of a Fragile Area Management Plan (FAMP) devel-

oped for the town by consulting planner William Farris. While some elements of the FAMP have been criticized as "overdevelopment" by neighboring property owners, town council has pledged to develop amenities with little impact on the environment.

The Point committee is composed of representatives of the town's planning board, recreation advisory board and erosion control committee. A representative of the Long Beach Preservation Trust Advisory Committee sits on the committee, as do two residents of The Harbor at Kings Lynn.

Councilor Horace Collier, who chairs The Point committee, said road shoulder improvements came as a recommendation from the committee at its first session. At least

See The Point, page 12

ST. JAMES PLANTATION

Development's fast pace continues

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Heavy trucks were still moving dirt around, and a green fuzz had sprouted on the four newest golf holes, as project manager Mark Brambell inspected progress of phase III in development of St. James Plantation last week.

This rapidly growing golf course community west of Southport officially opens its third phase of development this weekend on a new nine holes for The Members Club golf course with 100 acres and 140 new building lots ready for marketing.

"If you'd seen this place four and a half months ago, it was just virgin woods," said Brambell. "It's gone from a rural state to a not-finished product. But everything is in but the final improvements."

St. James Plantation keeps growing and growing. Phase III also includes a new seven-acre marina on the Intracoastal Waterway also under construction by E&T Construction Co. of Southport. It is slated to open in late 1999.

Now plans for a new fire department to serve the community have been endorsed by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

See Fast pace, page 8

'We've done our best to leave trees standing. We've even redesigned areas to leave trees.'

Mark Brambell
Project manager

County to help fund new fire department

By Terry Pope
County Editor

When the call first went out, 88 residents of St. James Plantation answered and said they want to become part of a new volunteer fire and rescue department at the golf course community west of Southport.

Those numbers and the experience of some organizing members convinced the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday to recognize the unit as the county's 22nd and to appropriate \$38,750 to help it get started.

"Having met with them, and seeing the progress that they have made, I want-

See Fire fund, page 8