

# THE STATE PORT PILOT



**Stallion**  
South Brun  
one of the  
visiting So  
**How**  
User's gu  
for next T

its  
look at  
ams in  
s - 1C  
machines  
ction - 1B



Phone 910-457-4568/Fax 910-457-9427/e-mail pilot@southport.net

Volume 68, Number 10

Published every Wednesday in Southport, NC

## Record number are eligible for Tuesday's vote School, county board seats up for grabs

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Next Tuesday's election marks a welcomed return to staggered four-year terms for seats on the school board and county commission after a trial run with two-year terms.

That's why only two seats to each five-member board will be filled along with other local, state and national positions on the November 3 ballot. The other three seats on the county boards are for four years and won't be up for election until the year 2000. But there are other changes that voters will

notice, too.

New voting machines are ready for their first real test, and a record number of registered county voters are eligible to participate in the democratic process which begins when polls open Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. at 23 precincts throughout the county.

There are close to 42,000 active voters on the books at the Brunswick County Board of Elections office. According to the latest totals, about 21,300 are registered as Democrats and 14,800 as Republicans. Another 5,700 are unaffiliated, but those voters could play a huge role in deciding

Tuesday outcomes.

### County commission

Two incumbent county commissioners are trying for another term, this time for four years. Commissioners are elected by voters countywide but they represent specific electoral districts.

In District 1, Democrat Don Warren, 49, of Ocean Isle Beach is seeking reelection but faces Republican challenger Debbie Rupp, 44, of Ocean Isle Beach. Warren was voted out of office in 1994 but was voted back to the board in 1996. He is an

See Election, page 9



Signs of the time have sprung up around Brunswick County.

## Airport funding a 'Lauch'?

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Notice that a federal spending bill, with money for Brunswick County Airport's runway extension, was on its way to President Clinton's desk was delivered via fax to Brunswick County Airport October 6, but airport officials were told not to release that information until Tuesday, airport manager Howard Franklin said.

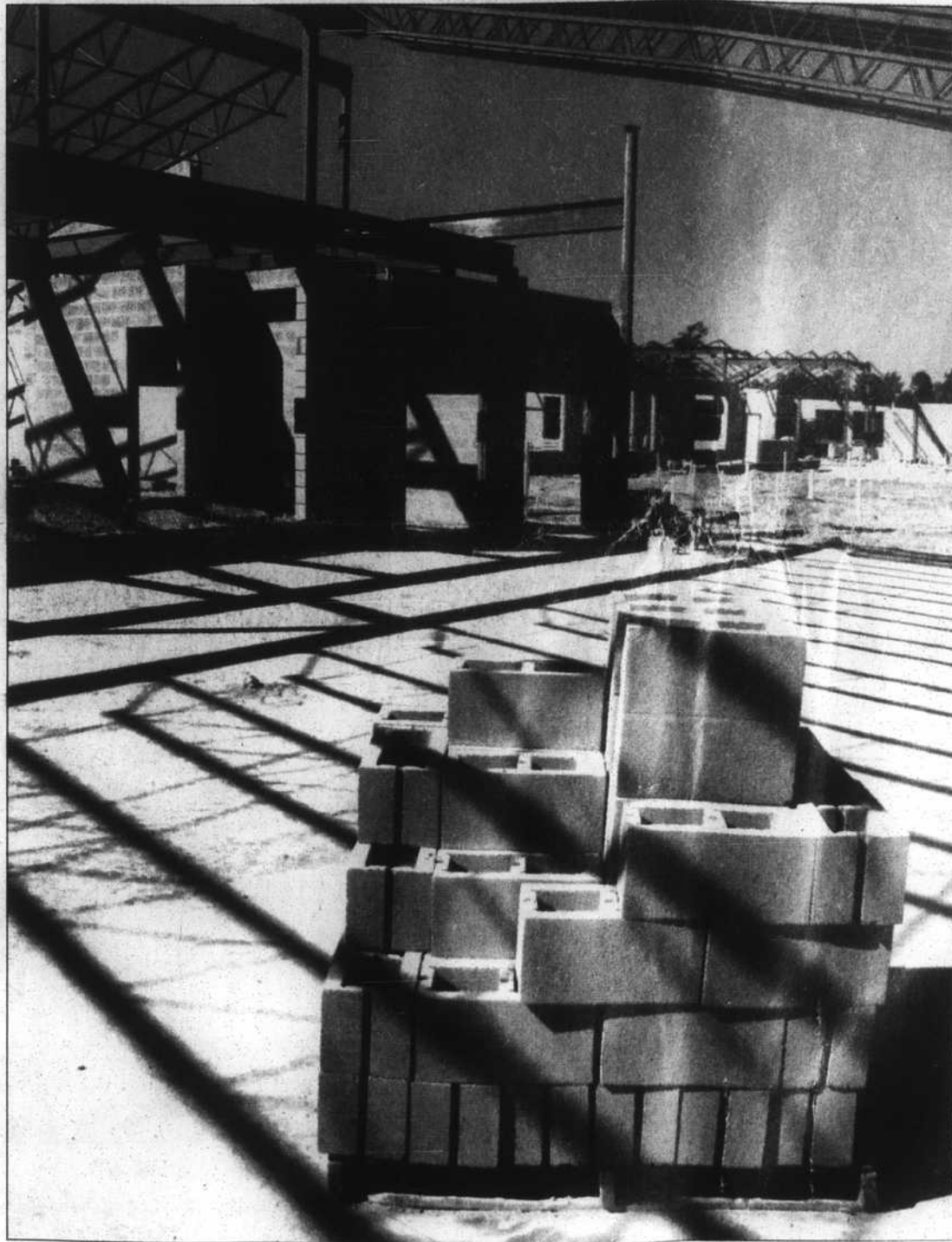
The announcement on the Senate stationery of U. S. Sen. Lauch Faircloth says only that the spending bill headed to the president "includes a special provision to fund a runway extension at Brunswick County Airport."

The announcement does not specify how much money will be on its way for a proposed \$7.3-million plan to extend the airport runway from 4,000 to 5,000 feet and to widen it to 100 feet. Construction of a parallel taxiway and completion of a precision instrument approach for all-weather use of the Brunswick County facility are also elements of the local plan.

"This airport money will ensure that Brunswick County Airport stays ahead of the growth curve and continues to fuel regional prosperity," Faircloth said in the October 6 release embargoed until Tuesday.

Although airport officials were notified 21 days earlier that the runway extension project would receive funding, Franklin said neither he nor airport commissioners

See Airport, page 13



Steel roof supports and cinderblocks await construction crews, who were back at work Monday morning at the Winding River elementary school site. Damage from Hurricane Bonnie set contractors' schedule back some, but completion still is expected sometime in the fall of 1999.

Photo by Ed Harper

## Oak Island Second bridge effort resumes

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

N. C. Department of Transportation staff will visit Long Beach and the surrounding area this week, apparently to shore-up arguments for siting a road corridor from N. C. 211 at Midway Road to a second Oak Island bridge at Middleton Street.

Long Beach mayor Joan Altman said she was to meet today (Wednesday) with DOT officials and consultants with DSAntastic, a Raleigh engineering firm which performed an environmental assessment of three proposed corridor routes -- known as alternatives A, B and C -- between the Midway Road intersection and a point on the mainland opposite Middleton Street.

DOT has scheduled a meeting November 12 in Raleigh with representatives of 17 state and federal agencies which, by law, must review and comment on roadway plans. When the three corridor alternatives found acceptable by DOT were distributed to the commenting agencies earlier in the year, several were critical of the transportation department's decision to eliminate from consideration two western routes to a second Oak Island bridge. A proposed corridor Alternative D would cross the Intracoastal Waterway at Middleton Street, then dogleg west to connect with Sunset Harbor Road, which intersects with N. C. 211 about five miles west of Midway Road. A corridor Alternative E would have the second

'If (A, B or C not chosen), we may be in for another 18 months to two years of study.'

Joan Altman  
Long Beach mayor

Oak Island bridge built at the western terminus of Oak Island Drive at Schuster Park. The bridge would span the Intracoastal Waterway to Howell's Point, then link with Sunset Harbor Road.

In rejecting Alternative D and Alternative E last February, DOT cited higher costs of the two western alternatives and the possibility of more extensive environmental disruption.

"Based on the higher potential wetland impacts, higher right-of-way and construction costs, higher relocation impacts and lower traffic use, alternatives D and E were determined not reasonable and feasible and were eliminated from further consideration," DOT concluded.

The commenting agencies, however, appeared particularly concerned with the secondary development a second

See Oak Island, page 11

## Skilled care bids are due Further review if Doshier costs too high

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Bid opening today (Wednesday) will determine whether or not Doshier Memorial Hospital may proceed immediately to begin construction of its planned 40-bed skilled nursing facility, new dietary center and new front entrance, or wait another 90 days or more as the three-part project is subjected to further state review.

In short, the bid for the skilled nursing facility component alone of the proposed hospital expansion project must cost Doshier less than \$3.27 million total. If construction bids, to be opened at 2 p.m. today, come in higher than that, Haywood said state regulators will require Doshier to submit an application for a second certificate of need (CON). Processing that request for a second CON would take at least

90 days to complete.

"The problem is, we are dealing with two-year-old numbers now," Haywood said.

Cost of public health care facilities in North Carolina are regulated by the state Department of Health's Division of Facility Services which issues certificates of need for public projects. The function of DFS is to control cost and to see that services in an area are not duplicated. DFS also assures providers do not overbuild as that would drive the cost of health care for the public higher.

When Doshier submitted its certificate of need application and was awarded the 40-skilled-nursing-bed allocation two years ago, it estimated the cost of the nursing facility alone to be \$2.834 million. The state will allow that cost to be exceeded by 15 percent.

See Bids due, page 8

'If we come in over (\$3.27 million), we've got to get a determination from the certificate of need division on what their position will be.'

Edgar Haywood  
Hospital administrator

### HEADSTONES

## Monuments are to honor Howe, Smith

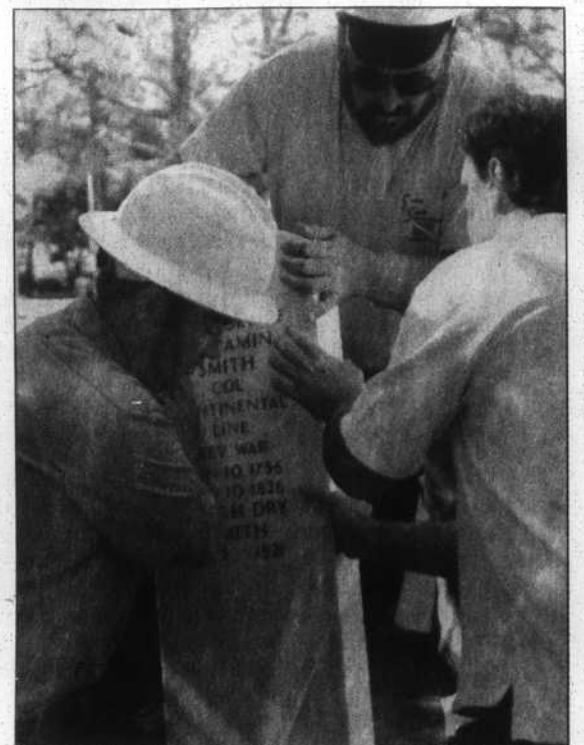
By Laura Kimball  
Feature Editor

Two new marble monuments, each weighing about 150 pounds, were placed near the entrance to Old Smithville Burying Grounds on Monday.

The monuments, engraved with the names of Benjamin Smith and Robert Howe, are to recognize two of Southport's important ancestors.

In 1792, Southport, formerly Smithville, was chartered and named to honor Smith, one of five commissioners. During the Revolutionary War, Smith served under George Washington and later became gover-

See Markers, page 11



McNeill Williamson, Wayne Strickland and Jim McKee help install the new monuments.