

# THE STATE PORT PILOT



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## Dosher decision

Board ponders possible razing of old hospital

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Dosher Memorial Hospital trustees have a decision to make -- maybe a tough one.

Whether or not Dosher hospital trustees choose to tear down Dr. J. Arthur Dosher's original 1930 structure to make way for new facilities, no work will begin for 18 months or more and completion of any new facilities are up to three years off.

But, trustees must decide: Does the old building go, or does it stay?

Architects with Wilkerson Associates appeared before trustees Monday afternoon to lay out the options for expansion:

■ **Scheme I** -- Keep the original structure and surround "challenging" new construction with an awkward 12-inch fire wall. The plan will cost about \$4 million, but will end construction on-site forever.

■ **Scheme II** -- Tear down the old building and replace it with modern new facilities, oversized to allow growth. A second floor will allow administration and other non-patient services to make way for new in-patient and out-patient services. Growth beyond that which is built in a first phase is possible with this \$6-million option.

Regardless of which "scheme" is selected, architects say the hospital will also need a \$1-million, 9,000-square-foot physical therapy unit and another \$400,000 structure on the west side of Howe Street.

Although the hospital's potential to accommodate growth without See **Dosher**, page 8

## Holiday closing

The State Port Pilot office will be open regular hours Wednesday but will be closed Thanksgiving Day. The office will be open Friday from 9 a.m. until noon, the normal deadline for real estate advertising for the following week's edition. Regular office hours will resume Monday. The newspaper staff wishes you a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

## COMING DOWN



Photo by Jim Harper

Tim Carter moved his backhoe into place and the walls started tumbling down at the former county schools headquarters (and former county home site) in Smithville Township District Park. The property reverted to parks and recreation department control when the school administration moved, but there are no immediate plans to incorporate it into the township athletic complex.

## Long Beach Road at NC 211

# Development may hurt plan for connector road

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

County planners are worried that rapid commercial development could detour plans to build an extension to Long Beach Road west of Southport.

The roadway is mapped as a future need in the current Brunswick County Thoroughfare Plan to help relieve congestion along the Dosher Cutoff Road corridor. However, commercial rezoning and proposed development at the Long Beach Road and N. C. 211 intersection threaten to gobble up any right-of-way required for the road that would lead to the Sunny Point intersection between Southport and Boiling Spring Lakes.

Another rezoning request for 79.3 acres was recommended for change from residential to commercial use by the Brunswick County Planning Board last week. The tract lies adjacent to 93 acres previously rezoned where a proposed Wal-Mart shopping center may be built.

'I think, because of the recent rezonings and projected activities in the area, we might want to urge DOT to be more aggressive with that plan.'

John Thompson  
Planning board member

The new tract, also managed by Tri-City Inc. of Rockingham, lies behind NationsBank on N. C. 211 and clearly in the path of where the county had earlier mapped the Long

Beach Road extension. Although the connector road has been described as a need by county planners, N. C. Department of Transportation officials have yet to include it as a priority item on the state's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2000-2006. Planning board members are becoming a bit antsy with the recent changes and development plans for the busy intersection, but they have no reason to deny property owners' requests.

"I think, because of the recent rezonings and projected activities in the area," said county planning board member John Thompson, "we might want to urge DOT to be more aggressive with that plan."

Southport attorney Susan Darby said her client, Tri-City Inc., requested a rezoning "so the property can be used in ways that are more compatible with the surrounding area." Another rezoning change to commercial use was approved to the east for Tri-City last month. Another See **Connector**, page 11

## Drive still on

# Delay, review are impacting bridge project

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

A proposed five-year delay of all state transportation projects and regulatory uncertainty about siting of a roadway corridor threaten to set back the schedule for construction of a second bridge to Oak Island.

Members of Long Beach Town Council last week said it was time for the public to join elected officials in their demand that the second Oak Island bridge project remain on schedule. Members also said those who favor location of a second bridge at North Middleton Street and a roadway corridor to N. C. 211 at Midway Road should be willing to tell transportation officials and environmental regulators.

"You need to write now," mayor Joan Altman told citizens attending last week's council meeting. "The citizens need to tell the agencies what we want and make them responsible for their actions."

Once again last week, representatives of the 17 federal and state regulatory agencies which review N. C. Department of Transportation projects failed to select a roadway corridor for a second Oak Island bridge. Although DOT has focused its attention on three roadway alternatives between North Middleton and the Midway area, the reviewing agencies have asked transportation

'One of these (reviewers) lives in Atlanta and has never been here. Yet, he can look at a map and tell us where our bridge should go.'

Joan Altman  
Long Beach mayor

officials to further justify their rejection of two western corridor alternatives which would take travelers from western Oak Island on a circuitous route following Sunset Harbor Road to a point on N. C. 211 more than five miles west of Midway Road. One alternative involves construction of a bridge off western Oak Island Drive. At other times, agency representatives have talked of a bridge leaving Oak Island at 12th or 13th streets NW. The most direct route between Middleton and Midway is about See **Bridge**, page 12

## Brunswick County Planners want zoning restart

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

For four years, county planners feel they have been patching up a zoning ordinance and correcting its mistakes.

But in the process, county control over development may have weakened. "I'd like to look at recapturing control over zoning again," said Brunswick County Planning Board member Sharon Marshall of Long Beach. "We need to redefine where we're going to take this county through our zoning ordinance."

She has asked that the planning board schedule a series of workshops to totally rewrite the zoning ordinance adopted in 1994. The ordinance was See **Zoning**, page 10

# Hometown Security branches upstate

## Merger with Randleman bank means no changes here

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Southport's oldest and only remaining home-grown financial institution has reached out to expand.

Security Savings Bank and Randleman Savings Bank Monday announced an agreement and plan to merge. Both are state-chartered savings banks. Randleman Savings, of Randleman, near Greensboro, will operate as a division of Security Savings Bank. Randleman Savings operates one office in that city.

Security Savings Bank officials say customers of its branches in Southport,

Long Beach, Leland, Shallotte and Calabash will have a stronger institution working for them, but won't notice any change in services to which they have become accustomed.

"Customers here won't notice any difference in operations," said Ken Mabe, Security Savings Bank's vice-president of operations. "Randleman typically does 80 percent of its business in mortgage loans and CDs (certificates of deposit). We should be able to expand their services like we have here."

New banking products and services Security will offer to Randleman customers will include home equity loans,

consumer loans, commercial real estate loans, a variety of personal and commercial checking and savings account options, individual retirement accounts and automatic teller machine cards.

"We should be able to give them additional products and services all around," Mabe said.

The combined resources will provide each division of the new institution the financial strength to become more competitive and more responsive to the needs of customers in their local communities, the savings banks say.

The merger is subject to regulator and member approval. As part of the combi-

nation process, members of Security Savings Bank and Randleman Savings Bank will be asked to approve the merger at special member meetings of the two banks in January.

Application for merger was filed with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) on Monday. Applications with state banking officials were also filed. Approval is expected to be announced in late June, 1999.

Mabe said the merger announcement of Monday capped nearly four months of negotiations between principals of the

See **Merger**, page 10



Security headquarters in downtown Southport.