

THE STATE PORT PILOT



Music in
Southport was lit only by light bulbs during the holiday spirit festival.

Tourney
The State Port first 'Battle of'

50 cents

at the
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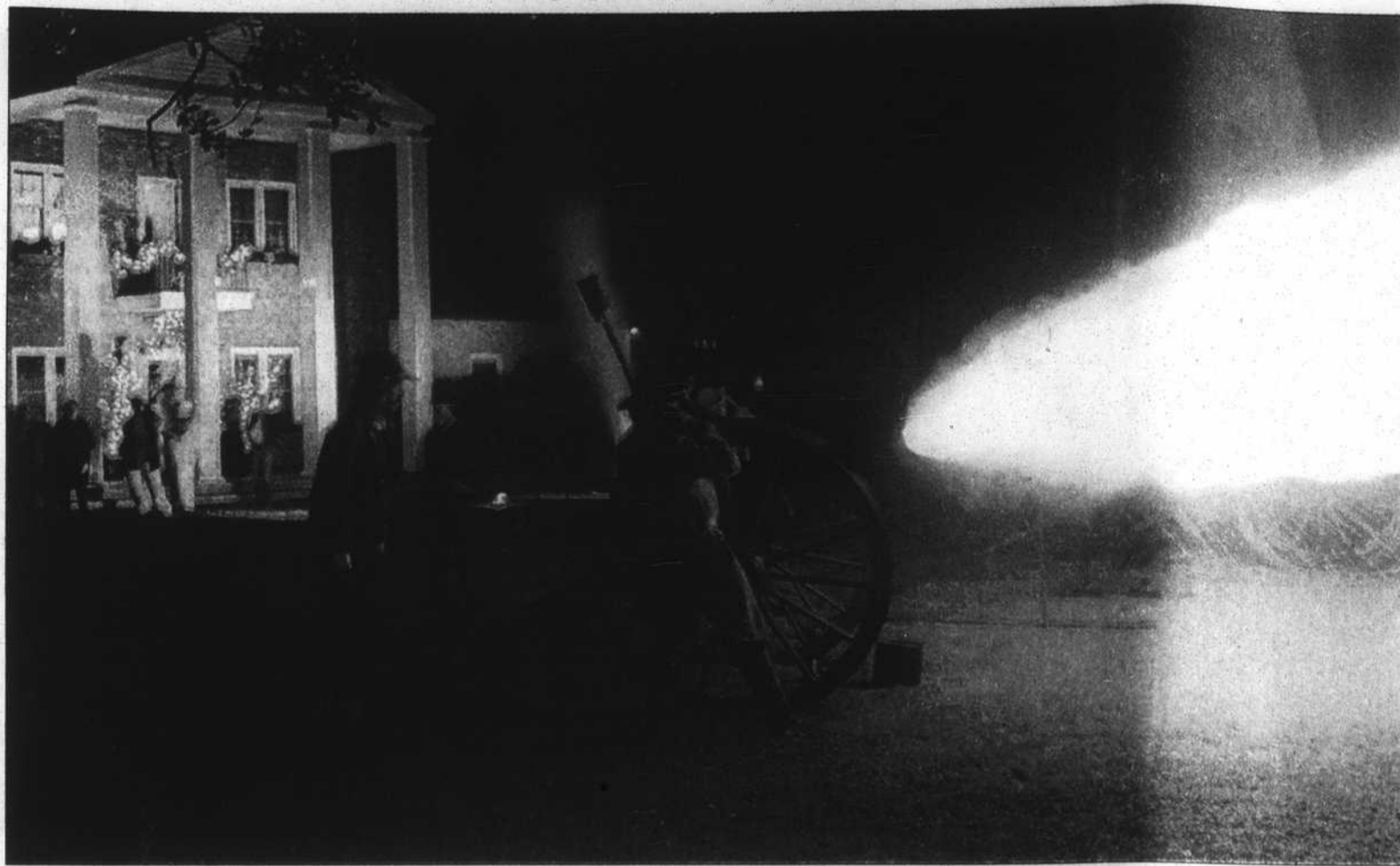
Published in Southport, NC

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Volume 68, Number 17

Published e

A JOYFUL NOISE



Southport's most impressive winter sound-and-light show was provided Saturday as Civil War reenactors fired their six-pounder from the Garrison to signal the beginning of the Christmas-by-the-Sea flotilla.

Hundreds of spectators enjoyed the subsequent 18-boat parade along the riverfront.

Photo by Jim Harper

Long Beach

'Point' plan suggestions win support

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

While town council wasn't ready to embrace portable restrooms or limit the number of private access ramps which may cross a frontal dune to public property at The Point, it did accept four of six committee recommendations for public access development of the westernmost section of the strand Tuesday night.

And, while council wasn't fully prepared to hire a full-time employee to work in development of a municipal wastewater management system, it did adopt a phased program of sewer system development by which construction is to begin in 1999 and continue for perhaps as long as 15 years.

Plans to develop public access amenities as part of the Long Beach Fragile Area Management Plan for The Point had been entrusted by council to a committee made up of

'Are we getting continual complaints at Town Hall because we don't have bathrooms at The Point? Nobody could answer that.'

Robin Schuster
Committee member

recreation advisory board, planning board, Long Beach Preservation Trust board members and residents
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January session

Teen peers will pass 'judgment' on court

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Juvenile first offenders will soon have not only a taste of the legal system but a chance at a clean record — if they're willing to appear in a court of their peers.

Brunswick County Teen Court will have its first session January 26, featuring a courtroom composed of a jury, bailiffs and attorneys that are between the ages of 12 and 18.

Judge Napoleon Barefoot will oversee the court, which is a partnership between the district attorney's office and Communities In Schools.

"I think it's great. First-time offenders will have no permanent record, and it holds kids more accountable," said Vickie Prince, a Brunswick County juvenile court counselor.

Before teen court, juveniles had no choice but to go through juvenile court, which could include expensive fees and possibly mar the record of someone who made an unfortunate mistake, Prince said.

Juvenile court counselors, like Prince, are responsible for handing cases over to teen court if the offender admits guilt and is willing to appear in teen court and comply with the sentence. Therefore, the teen jury does not determine guilt,

Offenses to be handled by teen court fall into three categories, each with a list of mandatory requirements for sentencing as well as optional penalties

but suggests a constructive sentence.

Prince also considers whether or not a student will benefit from teen court and if the student's parents will support the process.

"I'm not going to send anyone who is irresponsible and whose parents won't follow through," she said last Thursday at a meeting of the court's advisory board.

Offenses that will be handled by teen court fall into three categories: Type one, type two and type three. Each category has a list of mandatory

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TIP requests coming from county, towns

By Terry Pope
County Editor

There are no surprises on the county's wish-list of highway priorities which will be presented today (Wednesday) at a joint meeting of county, municipal and local chambers of commerce officials.

A second bridge to Oak Island tops the county's list of urgent highway needs followed by a push for the Brunswick County portion of the Northern Outer Loop that will connect U. S. 17 traffic with Interstate 40 north of Wilmington.

Brunswick County commissioners, local municipalities, Brunswick County Economic Development Commission, county planning board, both chambers of commerce and the Brunswick County Airport Commission have been invited to the meeting held at the Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation district office near Supply at 1:30 p.m.

County planner Don Eggert said all recommendations will be packaged as a unified request from Brunswick County which will be forwarded in January to N. C. Department of Transportation

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Oak Island system Caswell wants disposal trade

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Caswell Beach mayor Joe O'Brien Thursday signaled he is willing to hold hostage rights to spray wastewater effluent on the Oak Island Golf and Country Club property until Caswell Beach is given a 150,000-gallon-per-day wastewater flow allocation.

"I was brutally frank," O'Brien said, describing his discussion of a proposed Oak Island wastewater treatment agreement with officials of other municipal governments. "I said unless our town had 150,000 gallons flow, I didn't think we'd give permission to spray."

Caswell Beach has adopted an ordinance which purports to prohibit

the spraying of wastewater by any entity other than Caswell Beach in the town. The ordinance was adopted specifically to prevent neighboring Yaupon Beach from executing an agreement proposed at the time by which it would sell treated wastewater to the golf course for irrigation. Yaupon Beach's wastewater treatment plant has a capacity to treat 400,000 gallons of wastewater per day but the town, at the time, could only dispose of 180,000 gallons.

O'Brien's threat to once again stymie Oak Island wastewater management with the ordinance came as commissioners Thursday discussed a proposed tri-party wastewater management agreement with Yaupon Beach.

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Bald Head property

Public, city board wary of Deep Run annexation

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Fearing they will be left to foot the utilities tab, and in the process line a developer's pockets, residents of Southport Thursday joined the debate over Bald Head Island's annexation request for the 77.1-acre property to be developed as Deep Run.

The property lies east of The Landing, recently annexed and now

under development, and abuts Ferry Road and the Cape Fear River. The site is to be home to Bald Head Island's new ferry transportation terminal, a marina with rental slips, warehousing facilities, 20 acres for parking and an information center.

For months, aldermen have battled over Bald Head Island's request that the parcel be annexed. The annexation request comes as the development company seeks a provider of utilities,

especially wastewater management service.

Board members are about equally divided on the question of the Deep Run annexation. Aldermen Paul Fisher, Meezie Childs and Jim Brown have said they feel the city made a commitment to annex Deep Run a couple years ago when the board issued a conditional use permit for development of the tract. Aldermen

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Riverwalk

Rain moved the occasion indoors at the Riverwalk gazebo Tuesday as Southport city manager Rob Gandy and mayor Bill Crowe thanked CP&L's Skip Orser and Jack Keenan for the work of the Brunswick plant management team in erecting the structure and, not surprisingly, electrifying the 700-foot walkway.