

THE STATE PORT PILOT



Dune deal

Long Beach may have secret to erosion control would help coastal

Wren wins

Boys, girls from Southport school are tourney



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

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SBSD tax bills draw criticism

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Angered that they were afforded only days to pay their first property tax bills without penalty, about 30 residents of Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District appeared before commissioners Monday morning.

In July, commissioners levied a property tax of 30 cents per \$100 valuation and, for district owners, this was the first property tax, outside county real estate taxes, levied against their holdings. Though tax scrolls were delivered to the district by Brunswick County in September, tax bills were not mailed to district property owners until late December. (See related story, page 2). Most district residents got their tax bills between Christmas and New Year's Day and learned they had only until Tuesday to make payment without incurring a two-percent penalty.

Complaints Monday morning appeared to fall into three categories. Some complained there was no need for a property tax at all. Some complained they lived in areas of the district to which no sewer service would be provided. Some complained of contractors' work and being overlooked when sewer lines were brought to individual properties.

Joanna Pangborn of Port Loop Road told commissioners she had attended meetings in the early 1990s when formation of a sanitary district to bring sewer service to the Long Beach Road area was first discussed.

"Nothing was ever said about a (property) tax," Ms. Pangborn said. "Nothing was said at any planning meetings about a tax."

Ms. Pangborn said the cost of her sewer service would require her to cut her food purchases in half and cut water usage, as she lives on fixed income. On top of that, she said she did not understand how her tax money would be used.

"I have no idea where my tax See SBSB, page 8

Lakes board okays garden center plans

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Conflict over a proposed lawn and garden center in Boiling Spring Lakes grew Tuesday night at the monthly board of commissioners meeting.

John and Pattie Falor, who plan to build PJ's Lawn, Garden and Hardware Center, hoped to have their plans approved Tuesday, but were surprised when members of See Plans, page 8

DOSHER DIG



Arnold Suther of Mar-Tech Land Developers was at work early Monday preparing the ground for the long-term care facility at Doshier Memorial Hospital. It will be one of many recent developments held in mind as the hospital staff and friends honor Dr. J. Arthur Doshier Sunday on the 60th anniversary of his death. That occasion will begin at 2 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Photo by Jim Harper

School discipline

Complaint by parent prompts rule changes

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Policies regarding discipline in Brunswick County schools will be revised after a Leland man complained that his son wasn't treated fairly.

Willie Cook, of Leland, said his son was suspended from North Brunswick High School for the rest of his senior year after skipping class, buying beer at a nearby convenience store and returning to school after drinking it.

Cook said he discovered later that a student at Shallotte Middle School was still attending class after allegedly possessing drugs on school property.

Policy changes will be made in the 6000 series of guidelines, which includes items concerning authority to discipline, parent notification See Complaint, page 6

'As a system, we administer the policy equally across the system. That doesn't always mean that it is the same.'

Mary McDuffie

OAK ISLAND

Forum topics include sewer, budget plans

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

"Basically, everybody's mind was in the sewer."

That was Long Beach resident Nick Giannatasio's observation Tuesday night after serving three sessions as facilitator for discussions of municipal finance issues at a second citizens' participation forum devoted to a proposal to consolidate Yaupon Beach and Long Beach municipal governments.

With a goal of forming the consolidated Town of Oak Island by July 1, elected officials began consolidation debate in October with a surprise joint announcement that the governing boards of both towns were committed to exploring the process. By November, elected officials had broken into "task groups" to explore community and service delivery issues in a consolidated town, in addition to financial mat-

'Even if we put all our ducks in a row, we're still looking at ten years to complete a system in Long Beach.'

Bob Fitzgerald

By December, a first public participation session was held at which citizens of Yaupon Beach and Long Beach identified their greatest concerns about consolidation. Overwhelmingly, development issues See Oak Island, page 10

Road corridor

Wal-Mart zone fails to attract state attention

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Zoning is no longer a concern for developers of a large tract across from Long Beach Road where a Wal-Mart shopping center is planned.

Brunswick County commissioners Monday voted unanimously to rezone 79.3 acres from residential to commercial low-density use adjoining 93 acres previously rezoned where the proposed Wal-Mart may be built.

The two tracts, managed by Tri-City Inc. of Rockingham, lies behind NationsBank on N. C. 211 at the Long Beach Road intersection and in the path of where the county earlier had mapped a new Doshier Cutoff Road corridor. Despite requests from the county that the N. C. Department of Transportation take steps now to reserve that corridor as a future roadway, highway

'DOT has every right to be here, as does anyone else. This is a rezoning of a property that was announced.'

JoAnn Bellamy Simmons
Commission chairman

officials haven't responded and did not attend Monday's public hearing. "DOT has every right to be here, as does anyone else," said JoAnn Bellamy Simmons, chairman of the board of commissioners. "This is a rezoning of a property that was See Wal-Mart, page 7

Volunteers collar animal shelter funding

By Terry Pope
County Editor

What has been a pet project for the Brunswick County Board of Health for almost two years was budgeted Monday by county commissioners, who added more dollars for construction of a new animal shelter near Supply.

About 50 county residents attended the public meeting to lobby for a better-equipped shelter than the proposed \$456,000 version submitted to county commissioners. The board added another \$44,000 to the project to expand kennel capacity, add a flea and tick bathing area and install a security system.

"The money for this shelter is not being spent on dogs," said animal control volunteer Linda Coletta. "It's for the public. To

say this money is being spent on dogs is the same as saying we're building a new courthouse for the criminals."

The 25-year lease for the current shelter near Supply expires in October, 2000, and the property owner has notified the county that the lease won't be renewed. Property will be acquired across from Lockwood Folly Township District Park near Supply for construction of a 10,000-square-foot building, using a combination of hired contractors and county labor to bring the cost down to around \$60 per square foot.

"What we're proposing to do is worlds above what we have now," said Brunswick County health director Don Yousey.

Last year, the county hired Criser and Troutman, an engineering firm, to prepare a plan which would serve the needs of the county not only now but for the next ten years. That cost

estimate for a shelter came in at nearly \$1.8 million.

The environmental subcommittee of the health board, felt that was too high and charged the firm with cutting costs. The next proposal was around \$600,000, and the health board charged the firm with further decreasing the cost to around \$450,000.

Those cuts went too deep, argued Ms. Coletta, and allowed for construction of just 28 kennels, four more than the current facility has. She said an additional \$30,000 would allow 106 kennels to be built and increase the holding period for animals. The expansion also would help meet future needs of the county as it continues to grow.

Ms. Coletta also argued there was no quarantine area for See Shelter, page 7



COLETTA