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Publish

REMEMBRANCE



Marchers commemorated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a parade down Howe Street on Sunday, then returned to the ILA hall for further celebration of his life. On Monday, the obser-

ance continued in a breakfast at the N. C. Baptist Assembly, where Dr. Felicia Wilkins-Turner (below), regional director of the N. C. Human Relations Commission, was guest speaker.

Photos by Jim Harper

Youth, unity themes for King celebration

March, community breakfast honor slain civil rights leader

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Youth and constant effort toward unity were the main topics of concern at the fourth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day breakfast.

Held Monday at the N. C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, over 150 persons gathered for fellowship, a guest speaker and discussions about what Brunswick County individuals can do to bring communities together.

Discussion was prompted by speaker Dr. Felicia Wilkins-Turner, regional director of the N. C. Human Relations Commission, which

provides services and programs designed to improve relationships among citizens and seeks to ensure equal opportunity. Wilkins-Turner encouraged participants to become involved in their towns and to be role models in their families and communities.

"As members of the community, make a commitment to do something this last year of the century and share it with us next year," she said.

For example, simply complimenting five people a day can have an impact on the community, she said.

Group discussions followed Wilkins-Turner's speech and many of the participants,

like Shirley Coatney, who works in the county tax collector's office, agreed that they could make a difference in simple ways like complimenting someone or just smiling while at work.

Coatney also was concerned about how the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday is used.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was always for education," she said. "We should take this day to educate children and let young kids know that this isn't a day off just to play basketball."

Veronica Edgè and Jackie White, students at North Brunswick High School, were part of Coatney's discussion group. They would like
See Dr. King, page 5



Defensive move?

SBSD seeks merger, city keeps quiet

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Making public what had been discussed in secret for months, Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District commissioners Thursday night asked the Southport Board of Aldermen to annex the district.

SBSD commissioners, after turning down Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation's offer to purchase the district wastewater management system Thursday morning, appeared before the city board of aldermen that night, asking city officials to consolidate the sanitary district and the city. The consolidation, or annexation, would be of a very large area that is not contiguous to the city. The consolidation could only be effected by act of the N. C. General Assembly. Existing annexation law neither permits the city to forcibly annex the district nor permits the district to petition for annexation.

"We, the members of the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District Board of Commissioners, request annexation of Southeast Brunswick

'It's apparent from all concerns, there are people out there that want us.'

Gene Formy-Duval
SBSD commissioner

Sanitary District to the City of Southport, and I have the paperwork here." SBSD chairman James W. (Bubba) Smith announced to aldermen.

City mayor Bill Crowe allowed no public nor board comment on the SBSD request. He said a workshop on the district proposal would be held, but no date was set at Thursday's meeting.

Crowe and others confirmed last week a proposal to consolidate the City of Southport and SBSD had
See Merger, page 6

Council resignation

Bell says work will take its toll

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A 12-year veteran of first the board of commissioners of the Town of Long Beach and later Long Beach Town-Council, Kevin Bell Tuesday night said he will not stay around to serve the Town of Oak Island governing body.

After a closed town council session Tuesday night, Bell offered his resignation from council, asking fellow councilors to relieve him of his responsibilities to the town governing body as soon as possible and no later than 60 days.

In other business before town

council, plans for a sidewalk along West Beach Drive were discussed and a petition from neighboring residents opposed to a planned boat-launch ramp upgrade at 20th Street SW was received.

"After 12-plus years I hate to get out, but the timing is right, considering my age, my opportunities and interests," Bell said.

Bell said he plans a major expansion of his company, Bell Supply, to one or more locations outside Brunswick County. Sites in Wilmington, Fayetteville and Myrtle Beach, SC, are under consideration and Bell believes the travel required
See Council, page 14

NAACP criticizes dismissal

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Though a full house greeted Brunswick County school board members Tuesday night, not everyone was there to observe board appreciation month.

Many were there to show support for a former county coach who lost his job.

After T-shirts, artwork and other gifts from county schools were handed members, Leslie Myrie, during a public address, expressed
See Dismissal, page 9

Coastal advisory council

Horne out, Riley is appointed

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The chairman of the Coastal Resources Commission Advisory Council was voted off that board in a surprise move by Brunswick County commissioners Tuesday and replaced with Long Beach resident Rupert Riley.

Wade Horne, village manager at Bald Head Island and former Brunswick County planning director, had served three years as one of the county's two representatives on the council and was most recently elected its chairman.

District 5 commissioner Bill Sue of Leland says he wasn't happy with Horne's

performance and made the motion to replace him, which incensed District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier of Long Beach. Sue's motion passed 4-1, with Ms. Collier opposed.

"This was a complete and total shock to me," said Ms. Collier following the vote. "I cannot believe this happened tonight."

Ms. Collier said Horne was supportive of county coastal issues and had most recently walked the county's land use plan update through for N. C. Coastal Resources Commission approval. The advisory council studies coastal issues and makes recommendations to the CRC on policies that regulate development along the North
See Coastal, page 8

'The man you are nominating has fought valiantly against beach renourishment, and some projects that you have spoken very elegantly for, including a second bridge to Oak Island.'

Leslie Collier
District 3 commissioner

Wal-Mart receives city invite

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Southport aldermen could not say "no" to Wal-Mart.

Paving the way for a developer rumored to be courting Wal-Mart as anchor for a \$12.5-million retail development just outside present city limits, aldermen Thursday night voted to exempt commercial developments from a year-long moratorium on large subdivisions, voted to rezone for commercial
See Wal-Mart, page 7