

THE STATE PORT PILOT



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High school wres-
competitive, but
Playoffs
South boys seek
Cougars in play

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City/SBSD 'Merger' remains on hold

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

If and when Southport aldermen direct city staff to report on Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District commissioners' request for consolidation of the city and the district, city manager Rob Gandy will recommend aldermen hire a consultant to evaluate the request.

"I wouldn't feel comfortable tackling it on my own," Gandy said.

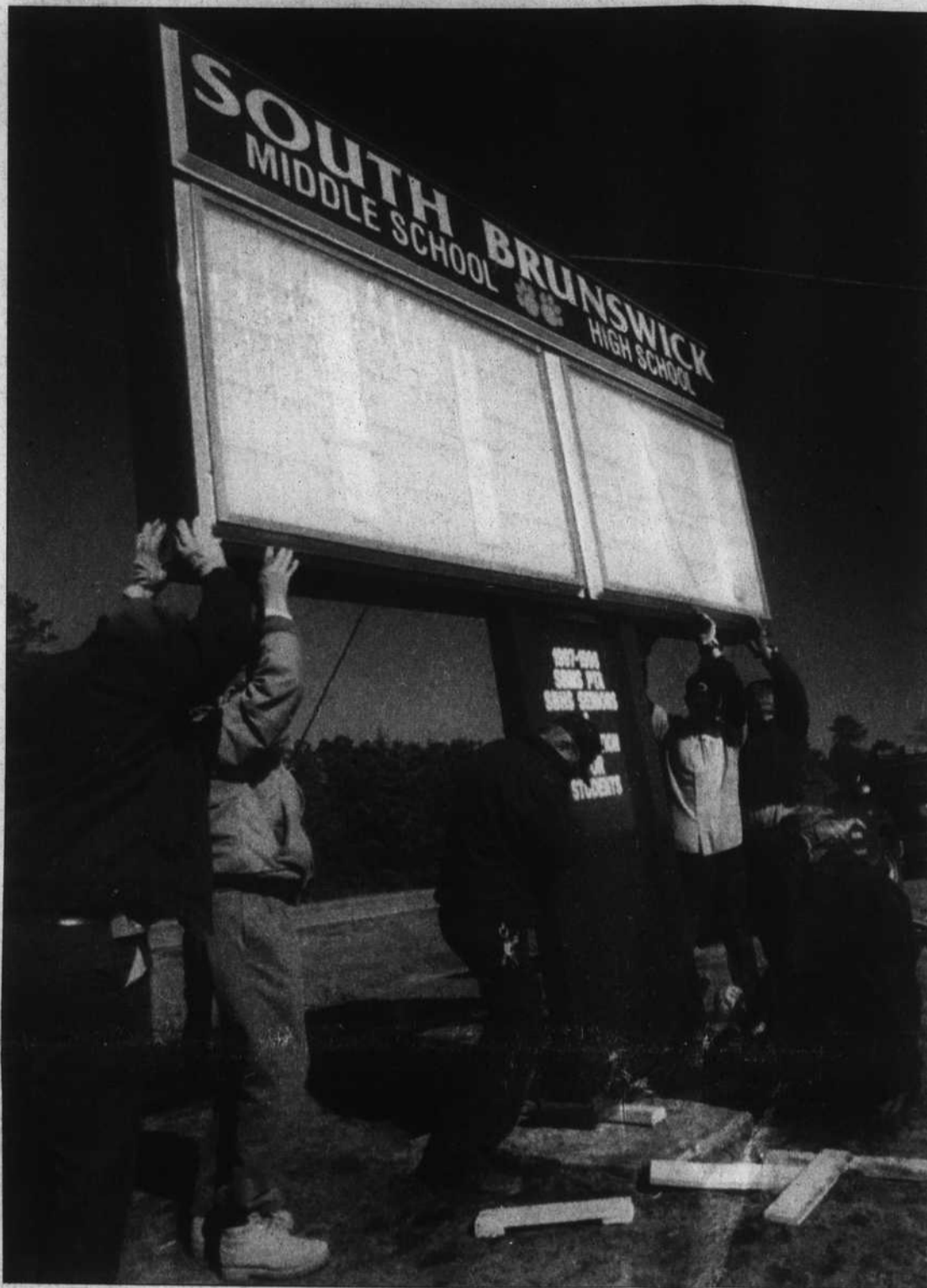
On January 14, SBSBD commissioners rejected a Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation offer to purchase the district's sewer system and voted to ask city aldermen to annex Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District to the City of Southport. The action comes after SBSBD commissioners filed suit attempting to block an attempt by Yaupon Beach to annex nearly 600 acres of the southern portion of Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District. SBSBD commissioners said they have more in common with Southport than they do with Oak Island towns.

Later that night, district chairman James W. (Bubba) Smith appeared before Southport aldermen to convey the annexation request. Aldermen received Smith's request. Mayor Bill Crowe allowed no public discussion of the annexation proposal that night and aldermen have not publicly entertained the request.

Gandy said Monday that aldermen had not yet scheduled a time to consider the SBSBD annexation request. Aldermen last Wednesday conducted a lengthy workshop session with consulting engineers who have been

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HERE'S YOUR SIGN



County school workers last week erected a new sign at the head of Cougar Drive in Boiling Spring Lakes, and both South Brunswick middle and high schools are already using it for informational messages.

Photo by Jim Harper

Oak Island

Mock budget for new town is bottom line

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

"Well, maybe those guys haven't been just throwing our hard-earned money away."

That was probably the sentiment of most of the approximately 80 persons who took part in formulation of a mock budget for the new Town of Oak Island at the Long Beach Recreation Center Tuesday night. The exercise was conducted at the third in a series of four citizen participation workshops to which Yaupon Beach and Long Beach residents have been invited to discuss various aspects of the planned con-

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"I hope they understand now how difficult it is to provide services and keep the tax rate in line at the same time."

Dot Kelly
Yaupon Beach mayor

Early-bird sessions get public criticism

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Until the board is presented petitions signed by 51 percent of eligible voters, Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District commissioners will not even consider scheduling night business meetings.

Commissioners Tuesday shunned a resident's request for evening board meetings to be scheduled so

more district residents could witness commissioners' actions. SBSBD commissioners regularly meet at 8 a.m. the first Monday of each month and usually schedule all special meetings during morning hours.

"We feel if we have to pay an assessment ... we want to be able to come to the meetings and take part and hear what is said," said Oakwood Glen resident Jenny

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Removal was hasty, resolutions say

Realtors, builders rally around Horne

By Terry Pope
County Editor

A hasty dismissal of Wade Horne as county representative for the Coastal Resources Commission's Coastal Advisory Council last month has local home builders and developers concerned.

Two of those groups presented resolutions to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday asking that the board

reconsider its appointment of Long Beach resident Rupert Riley and reverse Horne's sudden dismissal.

Buddy Rudd, president of the Brunswick County Board of Realtors, and Randy Hurst, president of South Brunswick Islands Home Builders Association, presented commissioners with their concerns over the recent changes. The board listened and accepted the resolutions but took no action.

Commissioners voted 4-1 on January 19 to

remove Horne from the council on District 5 commissioner Bill Sue's motion. They replaced him with Riley, who has twice run unsuccessfully for mayor of Long Beach and is past president of the political action committee Long Beach United for Progress.

Rudd said the 300-plus members of the Brunswick County Board of Realtors stand opposed to the sudden actions and urged commissioners to seek input from citizens before making the appointment permanent. They

believe that Horne's understanding of coastal issues makes him the most qualified candidate.

"We are faced with changing and challenging circumstances which Mr. Horne is aware of and has been involved with," said Rudd. "We believe the termination of Mr. Horne and the appointment of his replacement was hurried and done without consideration for any

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RUDD



Every member of the Pilot staff received journalism awards from Gov. Jim Hunt in Chapel Hill last Thursday, and editor Ed Harper accepted another first-place plaque for the newspaper's general excellence.

Photo by Ginger Harper

'Simply the best'

Pilot wins 16 state awards,
including excellence, news

The State Port Pilot received 16 awards -- the most of any community newspaper in North Carolina -- at the state press association ceremony held Thursday night in Chapel Hill.

First-place awards in general excellence and news coverage, and individual honors for all members of the news, editorial and photography staff, placed the Pilot at the head of competition in the 3,500-to-10,000 circulation division. The next highest awards total in the division was seven, shared by several newspapers from across the Tar Heel State.

Pilot photographer Jim Harper won seven awards himself -- six in various photography categories and another in general news reporting. Outdoors writer Douglas Cutting won two awards and Pilot municipal editor Richard Nubel, sports editor Terry Pope and feature editor Laura Kimball each won individual state press honors.

Awards were presented during the Winter Institute conducted by the North Carolina Press Association and were based on work published during the period October, 1997, through last September. Gov. James B.

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Modular now okay at Lakes

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Modular homes may appear in Boiling Spring Lakes soon, but not before some current property owners have their say.

At a city board meeting Tuesday night, it was announced the planning board has recommended modular homes be permitted in Boiling Spring Lakes, but only if certain standards are required.

For example, the home must be transported by a flat-bed vehicle which is removed from the premises within 72 hours, lifted by a

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