

THE STATE PORT PILOT



Solid impact

Both arts and technology, South Brunswick Middle puts on show for governor's office review — 1B

Time out

North Brunswick loses to New Hanover on surprise call — 1C



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BIG BOUNCE



Photo by Jim Harper

The first full day of Spring Break and already they were bouncing off the walls. And petting the animals. And watching the entertainment. And enjoying chili. Another successful edition of the Robert Ruark Foundation Chili Cookoff. More photos and cookoff winners in the Neighbors section.

Rep. Mike McIntyre:

Fed agencies must aid, not hinder bridge

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Federal agencies should work with state and town officials to quickly site a second bridge to Oak Island, 7th District U. S. Congressman Mike McIntyre told a receptive crowd here last week.

Before departing Brunswick County Airport for a fly-over of eroded beaches and the area between the Yellow Banks and N. C. 211 where second bridge roadway alternative sites have been identified, McIntyre said plans for a first-class Oak Island post office have been solidified and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers may proceed with construction of an Oak Island Sea Turtle Habitat Restoration Project with funds in hand.



McINTYRE

"We want to be sure that federal agencies are there to find a solution and not hinder progress," McIntyre said of his interest in the second bridge to Oak Island.

The long-awaited second bridge project has been delayed for at least a year because U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service have objected to N. C. Department of Transportation plans to site a mainland roadway corridor reaching between the foot of a bridge from Middleton Street to a point on N. C. 211 near Midway Road.

Flying over the area lying between the Yellow Banks and Midway Road Wednesday afternoon, McIntyre was shown the sites of three western roadway corridor alternatives the two federal agencies have insisted be the focus of more study. All three of those alternatives would take Oak Island travelers

What else is news?

■ Plans for a first-class Oak Island post office have been solidified, calling for a 10,000-square-foot facility and a need for three acres of land

■ U. S. Army Corps of Engineers may proceed with construction of an Oak Island Sea Turtle Habitat Restoration Project with funds in hand

■ Federal officials will work with N. C. Department of Transportation to find funding for the proposed extension of the county airport runway

west to Sunset Harbor Road. One alternative the agencies have asked to be considered would site a bridge at the extreme western end of Oak Island Drive, and not at Middleton Street.

The Congressman seemed particularly concerned when flying over the new Virginia Williamson Elementary School at Winding River. He had been told a recent redistricting plan by the Brunswick County school board meant children from western Oak Island would be bused to the school near Supply. Without a second Oak Island bridge, this will mean substantial travel

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West Oak Island students Proposal would realign district

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Children living on the west end of Oak Island won't have to travel to the new Williamson Elementary School next fall and can remain at the Southport school with their other island friends under a modified redistricting plan proposal.

Brunswick County school administrators will present the revised plan to the board of education later this month. The board has final authority over the redistricting plan and can accept, reject

or further revise it.

"As a result of the input parents gave us at the town meetings, the administration decided to recommend to the school board that all children on Oak Island should continue to go to Southport Elementary," said Clarence Willie, assistant superintendent of operational programs, "and children in St. James Plantation will go to Williamson instead."

At the town meeting at South Brunswick High School last month, about two dozen parents showed up to express concerns regarding the

plan, which called for children on the west end of Oak Island to be rerouted from the Southport school to the new Williamson Elementary School at Winding River Plantation near Supply.

In drawing up the redistricting plan, consultants figured in the future of a second bridge to Oak Island but, as many parents pointed out, delays in construction of a bridge may take several years to resolve.

"When we first devised the plan, we were counting on the bridge being there," Willie said.

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City board restricts use of lake rafts

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Worried that rafts on city lakes may be a threat to public safety, the Boiling Spring Lakes Board of Commissioners voted Tuesday to prohibit permanent rafts and place restrictions on temporary ones on public waters.

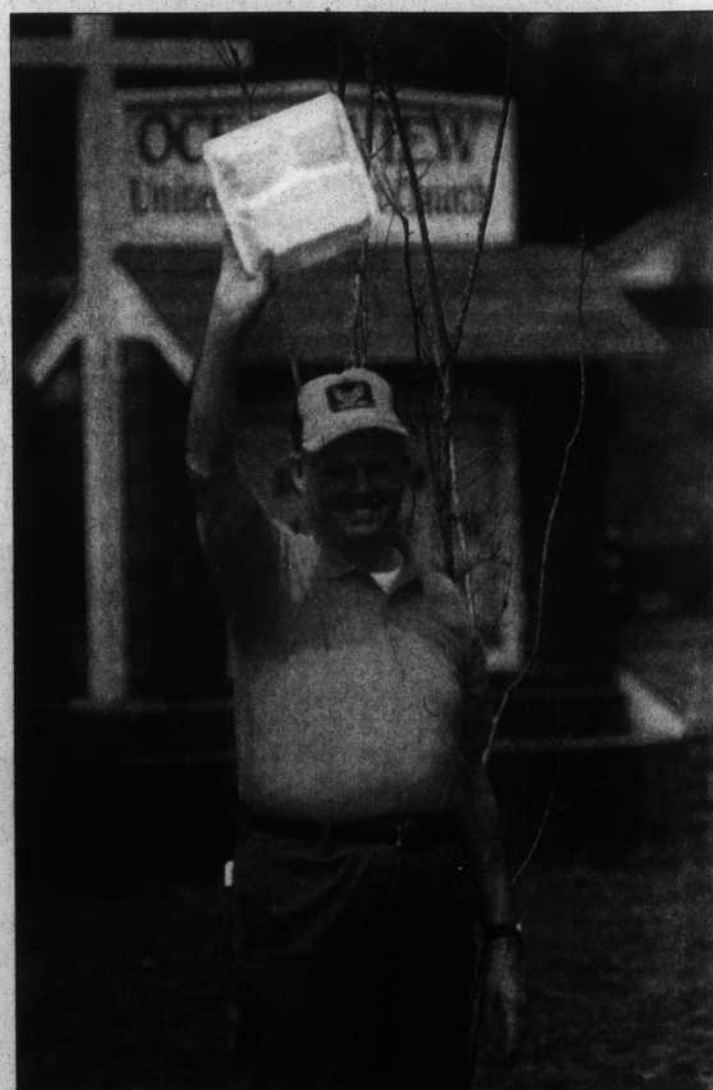
"I don't think it's unreasonable," said mayor Thomas Tully, noting that the city's insurance carrier requested that the raft ordinance be amended as such. "We had another option — to allow the homeowners to take over the lake and be in charge of the lake. But that would be an imprudent act. We'd have nothing but family feuds and we don't need that. This is the most prudent way."

The amended ordinance prohibits permanent rafts — those secured to the lake floor with anchors or concrete blocks — on any lake in the city.

Temporary rafts, which are not to exceed ten feet by ten feet in size, will be permitted under the amended ordinance in all lakes except Boiling Spring Lake. Temporary rafts can only be used on lakes between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., or sunset, whichever comes first.

At sunset, the raft will have to be taken to shore and affixed by the owner. If the raft is

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The most recognizable public figure on Oak Island holiday weekends is Bob Slockett, the regular pitchman for chicken barbecues at Ocean View United Methodist Church. He was working his side of the street on Good Friday. (Photo by Jim Harper)

Emergency operations Center may be off-island

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Although several more questions must be answered, Oak Island elected officials Thursday night decided to pursue establishment of an off-island communications and emergency operations center (EOC).

Cost of the new EOC was fixed at over \$460,000 and may range as high as \$660,000, a cost in line with that of the Shannon fire station on Oak Island Drive at SE 2nd Street. The communications center and EOC would serve as a central dispatch point for Oak Island emergency services and, possibly, Southport and Bald Head Island emergency ser-

vices as well. The EOC would feature dormitory space for use during storms and other emergencies, and garage space for an ambulance and fire truck.

With Yaupon Beach commissioners and Long Beach Town Council meeting in a joint workshop session, staff told elected officials that Brunswick County will no longer use Long Beach and Southport as backup stations for 911 emergency communications. Brunswick County will, beginning July 1, have only an unmanned backup communications center at its EMS substation in Leland.

Also effective July 1, Brunswick County will cease to pay radio and computer leases for equipment stationed at

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Arts could have 'Impact' South Brunswick Middle candidate for award

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Watching the spectacle of student performances at South Brunswick Middle School's Arts Impact celebration last Tuesday night, visiting teachers Barbara Lassiter and Barbara Savery were able to see first-hand how the school uses innovation and creativity to teach its lessons.

And after the curtain closed on the fanfare, the two teachers — members of Gov. Jim Hunt's Teacher Advisory Committee — returned to the middle school the next day to see what other innovative lesson plans were

hidden within the classrooms and hallways.

The visit from the Governor's Office could result in statewide accolades for South Brunswick Middle, which is a finalist for this year's state Entrepreneurial Schools Award.

"The governor charges us to go out and identify, recognize and celebrate schools on the cutting edge, schools willing to take responsible risks," said Lassiter, a classroom teacher in Gates County who is on the awards committee. "We have definitely seen risk-takers, responsible risk-takers, here."

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