

THE STATE PORT PILOT

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

Volume 68, Number 43

Published every Friday in Southport, NC



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BRUNSWICK

Long-range sewer plan presented

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

A plan to provide countywide sewer service over the next 20 years was unveiled before Brunswick County commissioners Monday.

It calls for three phases of action and anticipates three large sewer treatment plants in the Leland, Southport and Shallotte areas. Estimated rates for the first phase, which should be completed by the year 2010, are \$32 per month per household. By the end of phase III, in 2020, the cost should decrease to \$27 a month.

The Stormwater Management Oversight Committee, appointed by the board of commissioners last year, hired HDR Engineering Inc. of the Carolinas to draft the long-range plan that will help guide the county to implement a sewer system to replace individual septic tanks that may be harming the environment.

"We have a wastewater problem in Brunswick County," said committee chairman May Moore. "Pollution is only going to become worse as our county develops in the future."

Since work began on the long-range plan, the committee has received 18 resolutions of support from local municipalities. Brunswick County already has taken the first step in regional sewer in the northern area where a joint effort is underway to provide service to the North Brunswick Sanitary District, Leland and Navassa. Two other districts — Southeast Brunswick District in the Southport-Oak Island area and South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority in the Calabash area — either have sewer projects underway or in development.

Commissioners agreed with the committee Monday to open discussions with state officials about effluent disposal options for its three proposed regional plants and to pursue reform of

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Military presence in festival

The military, prominent in Fourth of July celebrations here since the late 18th century, will again play a major role as the city hosts North Carolina's official observance of Independence Day.

The 2nd Marine Division Band will present a pre-Fourth concert on Saturday, June 26. The performance will be on the grounds of Fort Johnston, overlooking the Cape Fear River, where several patriotic events are scheduled during the N. C. Fourth of July Festival July 1-5.

The Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, will be exhibited on the Garrison during the period July 1-8. The 440th Army Band will perform in concert there on Saturday, July 3, and Marine units from Camp Lejeune will be displayed along the Southport waterfront during the festival.

A Monday observance at the historic Southport cemetery will honor two of the city's founding fathers who served in the Revolutionary War.

While the military has been involved in the celebration for more than two centuries, the Southport festival has expanded far beyond the 21-gun salutes. Arts and crafts, waterfront entertainment, a parade — held July 5 this year because the Fourth falls on a Sunday — and a fireworks display over the river are highlights that draw

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YOUNG CREWMEN



Setting sail

A little help from the big guys is always appreciated as youngsters in Cape Fear Yacht Club's Optimist and Sunfish training program get underway from the Southport shore. Graduation for the summer's first class was Sunday; a new two-week course is now in progress. (photos by Jim Harper)



Nighttime response

Rescue volunteers want to answer call

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Oak Island rescue volunteers will make their case to remain in charge of nighttime emergency medical service tonight (Wednesday) when Yaupon Beach commissioners and Long Beach town councilors meet in what is to be the last of their budget workshops for the year.

Last Wednesday, June 9, rescue volunteers told the two governing boards they could devise a plan to assure all calls for assistance are answered between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Noting 103 calls had not been answered during that period of time this year, elected officials earlier had approved Long Beach town councilor Jeff Ensminger's motion to employ professional emergency medical technicians to work the 12-hour evening shift. Professionals will soon complete one year of service to the Long Beach Rescue Squad. They work daytime hours only, seven days a week.

At the conclusion of the Wednesday night ses-

We realize there is a problem. It's a matter of us sitting down as a group and getting up schedules.'

Kim Belanovich
Rescue squad chief

sion, council told the rescue volunteers they had a week to devise a plan for 100-percent nighttime emergency medical coverage.

"Money for paid personnel remains in the

See Rescue, page 7

LONG BEACH

Crossings approved

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Meeting for the last time in regular monthly session as Long Beach Town Council Tuesday night, members went to see a man about a bridge.

In fact, they saw consulting engineer John Kuske of Andrew and Kuske Consulting Engineers Inc. about two bridges, and bought them both.

Council agreed to pay about \$755,000 for construction of bridges across "Little" Days Canal at 15th Street SW and at 28th Street SW. The bridges will replace earthen dams and culverts that connect the mainland to Pine Island at 15th Street SW and to Island Drive at 28th Street SW.

The bridges, long considered by a number of governing boards and long

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Sand funds added

Caswell tax is 38 cents

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Property tax rate for the Town of Caswell Beach next fiscal-year will be 38 cents per \$100 valuation, the town's board of commissioners decided Thursday on a 4-1 vote.

The approved tax rate for next year is 14 cents higher than that proposed by commissioners one week earlier.

Commissioners Thursday bowed to public demand to fund the anticipated local share of a federal beach nourishment project, adding 12 cents to the tax rate to generate approximately \$151,000.

Though Caswell Beach and Town of Oak Island officials are still in negotiation over a fee for rescue service, commissioners added another two cents to the tax rate to generate another \$25,160 toward that fee to Oak Island. That sum may be added to the \$7,300 commissioners earlier earmarked for rescue service.

Only commissioner Paul O'Connor voted against the town's budget and the tax rate substantially higher than the one he proposed last week as co-budget chairman. Fellow co-budget chairman Bob Spake joined commissioners Bill Boyd, Billy Coleman and Marcia Whiting to adopt the budget and its 38-cent tax rate.

Commissioners last week unveiled a \$775,755 spending plan for the year to begin July 1 which was silent on the issue of beach nourishment and did not anticipate how much money Oak Island officials would ask for rescue service next year. The two issues — particularly citizens' will-

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'This will show our partners, federal, state and county, that we are committed to beach renourishmen.'

Dutch O'Connell
Caswell resident

St. James incorporation

If gate stays, no state funds

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

If the gate stays up, St. James can become a town, but it can't accept state pass-through revenues.

That's the compromise Rep. E. David Redwine has offered those who wish to incorporate the gated and guarded St. James Plantation as the Town of St. James.

Mayor-designate Earl Dye floated the compromise before proposed town leaders Tuesday.

"If they agree not to accept state money, we'll let them be a town and they can run it on their own," Redwine said Tuesday from his office in Raleigh.

The deal to become a municipal corporation ineligible for state funds was offered as Redwine and state Sen. R. C. Soles Jr. became suspicious of St. James developers' willingness to remove the gate and guardhouse that restricts entry to St. James Plantation. Redwine met with St. James

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Instrument flight training

Veteran space walker is earning new wings

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

When you've been through space and orbited Earth a couple hundred times, flying in an airplane through a few clouds doesn't seem like too big a deal.

But for Kathryn Thornton, it is.

The NASA astronaut, whose career has taken her aboard the space shuttles *Discovery*, *Endeavor* and *Columbia*, arrived in Brunswick County on Saturday to learn the ins and outs of airplane flying from a resident expert.

Thornton already has her private pilot's certificate, but she came here to learn how to fly using instru-

ments.

"I just like to learn new things, and it's fun to go flying," Thornton said after arriving at Brunswick County Airport on red carpet treatment.

Thornton arrived at the airport behind the wheel of a Bonanza airplane owned by instructor Jimmy Kilbourne, who accompanied her along with his wife. A crowd of onlookers gathered at the airport to meet the "real, live astronaut."

The astronaut's visit to Brunswick County won't go unnoticed — in between her rigorous instrument rating training, Thornton will speak at the Southport Rotary Club and Brunswick County Airport

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Astronaut Thornton and co-pilot Jimmy Kilbourne train at Brunswick County Airport. Photo by Jim Harper