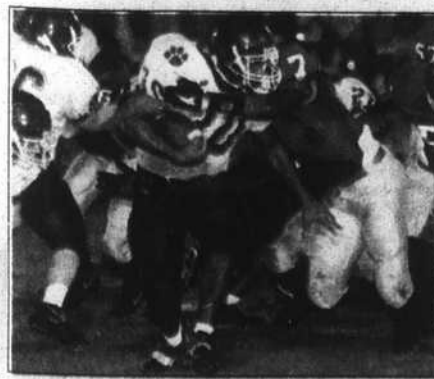


THE STATE PORT PILOT



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Museum now part of system

By Laura Kimball
Staff Writer

A new name isn't the only change occurring at the Southport Maritime Museum.

The museum, which houses exhibits ranging from shipwreck artifacts and hurricane information to the history of the lower Cape Fear region, is now part of the state museum system.

The museum is now the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport, placing it alongside the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort and the North Carolina Maritime Museum on Roanoke Island.

"For a while we'll still be wearing our shirts and we'll still have the sign up, but that will change," said Mary Strickland, now the branch head, instead of the executive director, of the museum.

Having the museum adopted by the state system is a "dream come true" for Strickland, who has been trying since the museum's inception to obtain state support for the facility.

"It's a dream for this board," she said. "It will be the beginning of the future for the museum."

The North Howe Street museum opened in 1992 in an effort to bring tourism to a dwindling Southport downtown. Since then, the downtown area has been bustling with shops, restaurants and other businesses, but the museum has suffered from a lack of financial support since it relies heavily on private donations.

Strickland has kept in touch with state representatives since the opening of the museum seven years ago. She wrote letters about four times a year, she said, keeping them posted on the financial situation of the museum and its local importance.

Faced with financial difficulties in the spring of this year, Strickland had announced possibly closing the doors of the museum. Her announcement prompted sizeable donations and the county increased its support, but she still was worried about the museum being sustainable in the future.

"I knew that we could not forever keep funding this on a grassroots level," she said. "It could not continue without support."

The current annual budget for the museum is approximately \$80,000. The county contributes

See Museum, page 11

'It's a dream for this board. It will be the beginning of the future for the museum.'

BREATH CHECK



Photo by Jim Harper

Southport police officer Bryan Renn demonstrates use of one of two Alco-Sensors made available to the city through a grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Commission. The Alco-Sensor measures blood-alcohol content. Because it is small it can be carried by officers in the field. "It gives us one more piece of information to take to court in DWI cases," officer Renn said.

HIGH FLYER



Photo by Jim Harper

Once again Sarah Patterson found herself high over Legion Stadium on Friday evening as she and her South Brunswick High School cheerleading teammates participated in the BB&T Football Jamboree. The Cougar cheering squad and varsity gridders open their season at home at 7:30 p.m. Friday against Hoggard.

OAK ISLAND

Deliberate fish dump costs town

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

It cost the Town of Oak Island \$10,780.08 to recover its beaches for public use Wednesday and Thursday after a Beaufort Fisheries vessel deliberately released an estimated 200,000 dead menhaden to wash ashore.

While a bill for that sum was mailed to Beaufort Fisheries on Tuesday, Oak Island mayor Joan Altman said the cost of mitigation represented only a fraction of the losses Oak Island may sustain from the ruined vacations and bad impressions of the town that were left on thousands of tourists in town last week.

"Beaufort Fisheries doesn't have enough money to pay for the damage done here today," mayor

'... for the people who don't get the true story of what has just happened, Oak Island is just a smelly place where dead fish wash up on shore.'



See Dead fish, page 3

St. James plans should continue with Brunswick

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

Development within St. James Plantation should continue as usual under its long-range plan as the municipality switches planning and zoning control from Oak Island to Brunswick County.

The Brunswick County Planning Board voted unanimously last week to uphold vested rights St. James had requested for its phase II, phase III and marina village developments along the Intracoastal Waterway.

Those rights were held by the Town of Long Beach, and later by the Town of Oak Island, but the island municipality agreed to relinquish its zoning jurisdiction after the July incorporation of St. James. That includes subdivision requirements and inspection of construction projects.

Some portions of the golf course and residential community fell within the one-mile extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction (ETJ) of Oak Island, and at least part of the area was being

See Zoning, page 6

Fiscal year budget

Dosher expects growth

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Anticipating the opening of Doshier Memorial Hospital's new extended care facility and a larger medical staff admitting patients, hospital trustees Monday approved a \$15.5-million budget for the facility's next fiscal year.

Doshier's fiscal year begins October 1.

The hospital projects it will next year experience operating expenses of \$15,347,560 and will be left with a modest excess from operations of \$141,973. But, to meet expenses and have that sum left over, the hospital's finance committee said it actually will have to bill patients \$27.3 million in the

coming year. The committee has anticipated revenue deductions of nearly \$12.5 million.

Revenue deductions come as bad debts and service to indigents, as well as services rendered for which the hospital is not reimbursed by government programs and managed care providers.

While that looks like a sacrifice, hospital trustee Eugene B. Tomlinson painted a happier picture.

"That's 50 percent of our revenue going right back into the community," Tomlinson said.

Hospital rates and fees are to rise by an average of only 3.5 percent next year, the budget indicates.

See Hospital, page 12

National recognition

South P.E. classes in excellent shape

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Signs hanging on the wall of South Brunswick Middle School's gymnasium read, "If you're grinning, you're winning," and "Your best will do just fine."

Backing up those statements are physical education teachers Patrick Bellamy and Melanie Champion, who work as a team to teach the school's 800 students that being active and working one's body and mind are necessary for a healthy life.

And it's that attitude — carried into the P.E. classes at South — that account for the school being named a National Physical Fitness Demonstration Center for the next three years.

"Programs like yours are examples of how a physical education program can make a difference in the lives of everyone involved," wrote Christine Spain, director of special projects at the President's Council of Physical Fitness and Sports in Washington, D. C. "The council challenge is necessary for a healthy life."

See Physical, page 7



Photo by Diana D'Abruzzo

South Brunswick Middle School physical education teachers Patrick Bellamy and Melanie Champion unfurl the banner proclaiming the school a National Physical Fitness Demonstration Center.