

THE STATE PORT PILOT

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Huge upset

North Brunswick rallies to defeat state's third-ranked team, South Robeson, in 15-14 thriller

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HURRICANE FLOYD: The recovery



Clean-up of debris from Hurricane Floyd continued along the Oak Island strand this week. Pieces of decks, walkways, porches and cottages were brought to the roadway for loading near 4500 West Beach Drive. The peaked roof in the center background is of one of five Long Beach homes which survived the onslaught of Hurricane Hazel in 1954.

Photo by Jim Harper

Tourism Down, not out Oak Island Walkways are restricted on federally built dunes

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

This week's *Entertainment Weekly* magazine, while musing about the new TV show "Wasteland," jabs that the name of the show could also refer to "any newscast from eastern North Carolina."

And that's not what the local tourism folks want to hear.

But with all the national telecasts proclaiming much of the state a disaster area following Hurricane Floyd, folks outside state boundaries could only imagine it as such.

"Yeah, I'm worried," said Dick Marshall, owner of Oak Island Accommodations. "I'm worried about the public perception of what the beach looks like. It's not going to be as bad as anyone thinks."

Of the 410 rental units Marshall serves, six are "gone forever" and another 80 to 90 have damage and must undergo an assessment and inspection to determine their fate. But that's nothing compared to what the public perceives as a virtual wipe-out

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By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

In a second emergency session devoted to Hurricane Floyd recovery Thursday afternoon, Oak Island Town Council said the state of emergency along the town's beachfront would continue, but noted sections of the restricted access area from SE 58th Street to West 20th Place will soon be opened.

In another storm recovery matter, council learned property owners will no longer be allowed to build private dune crosswalks to their homes. Because federally established new dunes will be public property, a system of communal dune crosswalks will have to be established by local government.

Two or more neighboring property owners will share dune crosswalks under a plan in formulation. No dune

crosswalk will be farther than 200 feet from any beachfront home, councilors said.

Council further relaxed restrictions on contractors' access to damaged beachfront homes and authorized staff to begin beach and restoration activities.

Specifically, council:

- Authorized staff to begin sand-pushing efforts to create or reinforce dunes in most obvious areas. The town is still awaiting notice where the N. C. Division of Coastal Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will establish a first line of vegetation and a new protective berm line. While those decisions are formulated, the town will begin to push sand where partial dunes or escarpments exist.

- Authorized staff to apply for all available state and federal grants and loans for extension of public sewer lines. Some oceanfront property owners may not be able to restore their homes because they cannot meet spatial requirements for installation of septic tanks lost to the hurricane. Availability of a public wastewater system will allow more homes to be rebuilt. Town officials are considering extension of a sewer line along East Beach Drive between SE 58th and SE 40th streets.

- Extended from one to three the number of oceanfront homes in the restricted area a contractor may be permitted to visit at one time. For security purposes, contractors working on oceanfront homes in the restricted access area must "badge-in" with inspections officials.

Council also on Thursday ratified a mutual aid agreement for police protection with the City of Winston-Salem. That city is among a number of towns and cities in the state that have sent law enforcement officers to aid in security efforts following the hurricane. Security strategies call for 56 officers to

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Photo by Jim Harper

The "Welcome" flag was out, along with the "Safe Seafood" sign, at Barb's Seafood on Beach Road this week. Only shellfish — oysters, clams and mussels — have been judged unsafe by state health authorities in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd.

Oak Island Annexation could reach to N. C. 211

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Been shopping at the Oak Island Hannaford store yet?

Had lunch at the Oak Island Pizza Hut or browsed the Oak Island Family Dollar?

You may soon.

Town council Thursday directed its staff to prepare a formal declaration of municipal intent to extend Oak Island's corporate limits to N. C. 211.

The entire length of Beach Road, one of the county's fastest-developing commercial corridors, may become part of the Town of Oak Island in little more than a year, if the proposed annexation by that town goes unchallenged.

Also on Thursday, over 500 acres of the mainland from Airport Road to the Oak Island bridge became part of Oak Island through an annexation procedure that was begun by the Town of Yaupon Beach in 1998. Council that day said Oak Island should quickly annex again, setting town limits as far north as state law will permit.

Town manager Jerry Walters presented council with a memorandum outlining annexation procedure and a map

"We have not done the precise work yet, but we have examined the area and we believe it will be doable under the statutes."

Jerry Walters
Oak Island manager

indicating the next annexation could put Oak Island corporate limits at the Beach Road and Southport-Supply Road (N. C. 211) intersection.

Live Oak Village and River Run shopping centers would be at the new entrance to Oak Island in slightly more than one year, if this annexation proceeds.

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SBSD controversy Manager fired; future in doubt

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Once again, Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District is without a professional manager.

Once again a manager has been fired amid a policy dispute with members of the district's board of commissioners.

By a 4-1 vote Monday morning, commissioners voted to dismiss manager Charles Smith after Smith refused to provide members of the board access to the new district office at Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation headquarters on N. C. 211.

"In essence, he's locked commissioners out of the office and, as chairman, I want a key," district chairman Gene Formy-Duval said in open ses-

"Maybe this board shouldn't be here, then. Maybe the district should be turned over to the county so it can be run the way it should be run."

Charles Smith

"As manager, I won't give you a key," Smith replied.

"Then I ask for your resignation."

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Brunswick will inspect SBSD, with conditions

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

Brunswick County commissioners are putting the squeeze on the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District.

The board of commissioners voted Monday to perform the district's building inspection duties, but under certain conditions. The district must first bring its zoning ordinance into compliance with the county's, and it also must adopt the Brunswick County Airport height control ordinance.

For the airport ordinance to be effective, each governing body with property within range of its coverage area must approve the document. Approval was given by all other agencies earlier this year, including the county, but

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"The challenge is to get the word out that while we're not 100 percent now, we will be by the spring, so don't write us off."

Karen Sphar
Southport-Oak Island
Chamber of Commerce