

THE STATE PORT PILOT

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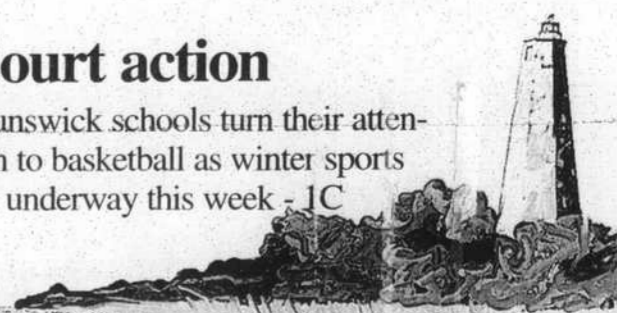
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Court action

Brunswick schools turn their attention to basketball as winter sports get underway this week - JC

November 24, 1999/50 cents



OAK ISLAND CLEANUP



Photo by Jim Harper

Ross Edwards was on hand Friday as the remains of his family cottage, protected for so long by bulkheading, came down on East Beach Drive, a victim of hurricanes Floyd and Irene. To the east and west stand homes

which will be moved or razed shortly because there is no longer any land to sustain them.

Bald Head opposition

Consortium wants sand as proposed

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Acting on the instruction of Bald Head Island Village Council, village planner Becky King on Friday cast the lone vote in opposition to a plan to distribute sand from the Wilmington Harbor Project in four towns in Brunswick County.

Bald Head Island officials said they want two and a half times the amount of sand that plan afforded them. The village has threatened to sue to stop the project if it does not get the 2.5 million cubic yards of sand it seeks.

The action came as members of the Brunswick Beaches Consortium reconvened a meeting begun Thursday to direct the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers how to spread an estimated 4.8 million cubic yards of sand on Bald Head Island, Caswell Beach, Oak Island and Holden Beach.

The consortium's 4-1 vote, with Brunswick County's representative abstaining, comes as endorsement of a Corps sand distribution plan of October in which Bald Head Island is offered one million cubic yards of sand at no cost. Beach-quality sand is to come from the project to widen and deepen the Cape Fear River Shipping Channel.

"I'm not necessarily sure (mayor Berne's) contentions have anything to do with the fair and equitable distribution of sand in this project."

Harry Simmons
Consortium chairman

That project is to begin in November, 2000, and Corps district officials were to have details of the Section 933 sand distribution program to regional headquarters in Atlanta on November 15.

In letters to the Corps of Engineers and Brunswick Beaches Consortium on November 11, Bald Head Island officials sent notice they would object to the sand distribution plan. Corps dis-

See Consortium, page 12

Annexation likely

Oak Island moves toward N. C. 211

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Oak Island town limits could extend the entire length of Long Beach Road to its intersection with N. C. 211 within a year.

Town council has called a special meeting Monday to consider a resolution of intent to annex additional property on the mainland. The area targeted for annexation extends from the town's present corporate limits at Fish Factory Road and includes rows of commercial lots on either side of Long Beach Road.

If the resolution of intent is adopted by town council and is not successfully challenged, the tract could become part of Oak Island in one year.

In September, Oak Island completed a first mainland annexation begun by Yaupon Beach before consolidation. In that annexation, over 500 acres of the Long Beach Road corridor, extending from the foot of the Oak Island bridge to Fish Factory Road and including a portion of Airport Road, became part of the municipi-

See Annexation, page 15

Kelly heads CCPS

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Oak Island resident David E. Kelly was sworn-in Tuesday as Secretary of the N. C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Gov. James B. Hunt announced deputy secretary Kelly's ascension to the post last week after Richard Moore tendered his resignation to seek the Democratic Party nomination to run for state treasurer in 2000.

Kelly was sworn to office in a 3 p.m. ceremony in the Senate Chamber of the Old Capitol Building in Raleigh. Chief Justice Henry E. Frye administered the oath of office.

After months of speculation over who would succeed Moore, Kelly, who has been the department's deputy secretary since May, 1997, was advised of his pending appointment in an early morning telephone call from Gov. Hunt.

"I got a call from Gov. Hunt that morning after I had talked to him on

See Kelly, page 15

Office closed

This week's edition of *The State Port Pilot* was published and delivered a day early because of Thanksgiving.

The newspaper office will be closed Thursday, but will be open on an abbreviated schedule both Friday and Saturday. Those who have business to conduct with the newspaper are advised to call 457-4568 or 253-7733.

All deadlines for next week's edition, including the noon Friday deadline for real estate advertising, will remain the same.

Plan involves 1,226-acre tract

Large golf development proposed at Winnabow

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

Most everyone agrees a proposed 1,226-acre golf course community would bring change to a quiet and rural Winnabow.

While some residents welcome such change, others stand firm against it.

Bluegreen Golf Clubs Inc. has applied to rezone the large tract owned by International Paper Realty Corp. of Georgetown, S. C., from rural to R-7500, for medium-density residential. The company plans to file for a planned unit development (PUD) that will allow it to turn the timber tract into a golf course and residential community bordering Rice's Creek.

A public hearing on the rezoning request held by the Brunswick County Planning Board was recessed last Wednesday after a Winnabow man who

Bluegreen Golf Clubs Inc. has developed the Winding River Plantation golf community and its Fred Couples signature course, Carolina National Golf Club

spoke in favor of the project suddenly collapsed in the commission chambers. (See related story.) The meeting was recessed until Wednesday, December 1,

at 7 p.m., when planning board members will resume the hearing and vote on whether to recommend approval or denial of the rezoning request to county commissioners, who have the final say. Commissioners must hold a second hearing before they vote.

The board also elected Alan Lewis as chairman and Boyd Evans as vice-chairman. Bobby Long of Shallotte was sworn to office. He was appointed to replace chairman Ricky Tompkins, whose term had expired.

Lewis, an engineer, and board member Tom Morgan, a registered land surveyor, were excused from the discussion and vote on the Bluegreen Inc. project. They indicated they wanted to avoid a possible conflict of interest.

Phillip Locklear gathered petitions against the rezoning and opposed what is believed will be a secondary entrance

See Winnabow, page 6

Finding some peace

Family, schoolmates struggle with loss of 16-year-old killed by alleged drunk driver

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Friends and family of Jesse Lockamy are quick to tell you that the 16-year-old was never happier than when he was on his bicycle, riding to Wednesday night youth services at Antioch Baptist Church.

He loved being outdoors on his bike. And he loved his church, where he was baptized just a few months ago.

But Jesse's ride ended in his death last Wednesday, when a passing truck hit him head-on as he pedaled down Green-Lewis Road on his way to church.

The driver, 34-year-old Thomas Edward Swain of Bolivia, was charged with driving while impaired and murder.

So while students at South Brunswick High School mourn for their classmate — a young man many say had turned his life around and was on the road to success — they also are dealing with the anger of knowing Jesse's life may have been

taken by a man who was driving drunk.

Algebra teacher Beth Allred said her classroom was filled with talk about Jesse on Thursday — when the students and teachers got word of his death.

"We got into talking about drinking and driving," Allred said. "It was a very surreal discussion with his empty desk right there — it made a huge point. I pleaded with them to remember how this pain felt so they never drink and drive. We talked about how everything happens for a reason and how we should walk away from this having learned something."

Jesse's death brought a blanket of grief to South Brunswick High School last week, as students tried to deal with the loss. Members of the Brunswick County Crisis Response Team were brought in to counsel students, and hundreds took advantage of the help.

"It's important for the students to talk about their feelings

See Fatal wreck, page 8

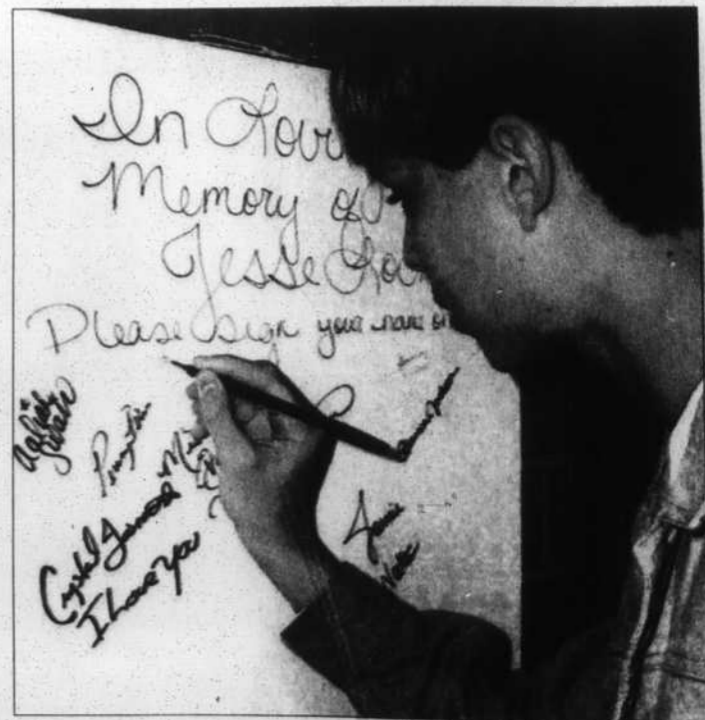


Photo by Diana D'Abruzzo

South Brunswick High School student Stephen Butler signs one of the many posters in memory of Jesse Lockamy that were placed around the school.