

THE STATE PORT PILOT

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Dean Dome

Brunswick Community College's basketball team ventured into the big time but came up short. JC

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NB project will utilize golf course

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

Treated effluent from the northern region sewer system will be piped to Magnolia Greens Golf Plantation in Leland and used to irrigate the golf course.

An agreement signed last week between Brunswick County officials and the developer of Magnolia Greens, Landmark Developers Inc., details a plan to dispose of the treated wastewater and what it will cost to provide that service.

Landmark Inc. will pay \$459,800 to build the transmission lines and also will bear the cost of connecting its sprinkler system.

The pact is a supplemental agreement between the county, Town of Leland and the golf course developer for operation of the Northeast Brunswick Regional Wastewater System, which has already received \$12 million in state and federal grants for construction. The system will be managed by the county but paid for solely by user fees from businesses and residents in the northern communities.

Engineers hope to obtain permits to expand a treatment plant at the Leland Industrial Park enough to serve the regional project. The treated effluent will be returned to Magnolia Greens and applied to the golf course through a sprinkler system rather than disposed

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Schools Chairman seat stays unsettled

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

A divided Brunswick County school board failed to elect a chairman and vice-chairman at its meeting Monday night after voting 2-2 four times, with neither side willing to budge.

The split — Pat Purvis Brown and Bud Thorsen versus Joyce Parker Hewett and Glenda Browning — was evident throughout the reorganization of the board, which is done each year in December by policy.

With board member Billy Carter absent, there was no one to break the tie votes. Carter, who suffered a stroke and heart attack in mid-March and was hospitalized again in September, has missed the last six school board meetings.

And on Monday, his absence meant

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SALTY DOG



Photo by Jim Harper

Having overseen decorating for the Christmas Flotilla on Saturday, Captain Cuervo rests. He had his day that night when the sloop was judged the most outstanding sailing boat in the procession that delighted hundreds of spectators along the Southport shore. More on the flotilla in the Neighbors section.

To accommodate Bald Head Consortium sifts through options

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

A federal Shoreline Protection Program project for Bald Head Island will be a chief topic of discussion at a Brunswick Beaches Consortium meeting in Oak Island Thursday.

BBC is to meet at 10 a.m. at the Oak Island Recreation Center.

Consortium members will discuss how Bald Head Island may be included in a federal program by which beaches there would receive initial sand nourishment, then renourishment in three-year intervals for 50 years. The discussion

of Bald Head Island's needs by consortium members is prelude to further talks with a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers official next month.

"We will discuss it among ourselves in an effort to determine what, from our collective, successful experiences, can be useful in assisting Bald Head," said Caswell Beach mayor Harry Simmons, BBC chairman.

Glenn McIntosh of the Corps of Engineers will meet with the consortium on January 20 to discuss a 50-year federal Shoreline Protection Program project for Bald Head Island.

Consortium members' eagerness to help Bald Head Island comes in an effort to get village officials to back off their

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EXPANSION

Oak Island 'to consider' future mainland growth

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

By adoption of a resolution of consideration Tuesday night, Oak Island Town Council served notice it will contemplate annexing any area of urban character lying south of N. C. 211 between Long Beach Road and Sunset Harbor Road, with the exception of the Town of St. James.

Touting the resolution of consideration for annexation as a planning tool, supporters of the resolution narrowly prevailed. The newly constituted town council voted 4-3 to adopt the resolution. Minutes after he was sworn to office, new councilor Ed Kivett joined councilors James Locke and Marty Wozniak in opposition. Councilor Scott King, also a November election winner sworn to office that night, supported the resolution with councilors Horace Collier, Bill Smith and J. K. Somers.

Earlier in the meeting, council split on a vote to adopt an annexation feasibility study for the planned annexation of 255 acres of land along the Long Beach Road corridor and N. C. 211. Locke, Kivett and Wozniak opposed the plan of service delivery. Kivett asserted the proposed annexation of the highly commercial area would cost the

'Planning two years out is not moving at too fast a pace, it is moving at a snail's pace.'

Horace Collier
Council member

town over \$213,500 in its first year, more than seven times town manager Jerry Walters' estimate.

But the resolution of "intent" to annex the 255 acres along Long Beach Road and N. C. 211 by March, 2001, is far different than the resolution of "consideration" for annexation that council adopted Tuesday, Walters explained.

The resolution of intent "doesn't mean there is any prescribed plans," Walters said. "It does put people on notice that this is an urban area and that during the period of the next two years,

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Southport 'New' aldermen look at old stuff

By Terry Calhoun
Staff Writer

Southport aldermen rolled up their collective sleeves Monday and began the task of governing the city as it seeks to move beyond a financially challenged 1999. Rebuilding city treasury reserves, paying off internal debt and finding new intergovernmental solutions to electricity and sewer problems took center stage in the City Hall meeting room.

Aldermen met in special session Monday night to consider business put off from Thursday's regular meeting that was devoted largely to organizational matters.

The board and staff heard an audit report on fiscal year 1998-99 operating funds showing the city far below state-recommended levels and at least tem-

porarily below the eight-percent-of-budget state standard. The N. C. Local Government Commission encourages municipalities to reserve a quarter of the budget as cash on hand.

The reality of a budget timetable that precedes by nearly six months the collection of most property taxes makes such a balance unlikely, city manager Rob Gandy said. Governments must often operate in the red until tax collections match expenditures.

The audit report will be available to the public both at City Hall and the library. A summary report shows a cash reserve in the general fund of \$204,228 as of June 30, 1999, the end of the audit review period. That figure has steadily declined year by year since 1996 when a balance of \$786,025 was reported. In 1997, that figure had dropped to

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Photo by Jim Harper

That right nautical 'elf and his wife welcomed youngsters aboard the Cape Fear Pilot II Saturday evening as the pilot boat joined other decorated craft in the Christmas Flotilla. It was the first-ever appearance by the Cape Fear pilots in the annual holiday event.

Bald Head officer Death is ruled suicide

Gore: Wound self-inflicted

By Terry Calhoun
Staff Writer

Brunswick County District Attorney Rex Gore has determined that based on evidence available to him the October 22 shooting death of Bald Head Island police officer Davina Buff Jones was a suicide.

Jones, 33, was found near the Bald Head Island lighthouse just before midnight that Friday after she had notified a county telecommunicator she would be out of her vehicle with three persons. She died of a single gunshot to the back of her head.

The suicide ruling followed six weeks of waiting for results of forensic analysis performed by both the

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DAVINA JONES

Father: Rush to judgment

By Terry Calhoun
Staff Writer

The father of slain police officer Davina Buff Jones has sought to counter some of the points made by District Attorney Rex Gore's Thursday statement, and has added new insight into the family's refusal to accept the suicide determination.

To those who would write-off the family's reaction as understandable denial, he responded, "That's nonsense. We have suffered and continue to suffer, but we are trying very hard to be objective and consider the facts. No one knew my daughter like I did, and I know she didn't kill herself."

To Buff, the strongest evidence was what he found

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