

Bald Head Hoping Dune Building Proposal Clears The Final Hurdle

BY DOUG RUTTER

Bald Head Island officials are sitting on pins and needles these days, hoping a plan to bolster an eroding shoreline clears a final bureaucratic hurdle.

Town leaders expect to hear within the next few weeks whether the federal government likes a long-term proposal to dredge sand from the Cape Fear River ocean bar channel and dump it on Bald Head Island.

"We're just sort of standing on end here waiting for it," Town Manager Wallace Martin said last week. "We'll be real disappointed if it doesn't go through."

Plans call for the placement of about 300,000 cubic yards of dredged material on the beach, according to a June 5 notice from the Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District.

Martin said the dredged sand would be deposited along an 8,000-foot stretch of beachfront, extending from the west side of the island south to an area known as East Beach.

The ocean bar dredging is scheduled for this fall. Martin said the only question is whether or not the sand will be placed on Bald Head Island to help build up the beach or another disposal site.

The Corps of Engineers has proposed the beach nourishment as part of a 50-year project for the Wilmington Harbor.

"It's not like being at Sunset Beach where your beach is always accruing. We'd like to have some of that."

—Wallace Martin
Bald Head Island manager

Plans call for dredging every year for the first 15 years, and then every four years for the next 35 years. Placement of sand on the beach after the first year would be based on requests from the state, according to the Corps notice.

Martin, who is a former town administrator at Sunset Beach, said Bald Head Island is steadily eroding, and that's causing problems for beachfront property owners.

"It's not like being at Sunset Beach where your beach is always accruing," Martin said. "We'd like to have some of that."

Erosion along the section of beach targeted for nourishment has forced nine homeowners to move their cottages away from the ocean.

Martin said two other people are planning to relocate, and three more homes probably will have to be moved if erosion continues at its present rate.

Bald Head Island started working on the beach nourishment proposal about 18 months ago, shortly after

Hurricane Hugo caused several million dollars in property damage.

Martin said the community is trying to take advantage of a relatively new program in which the federal and local governments share the extra cost of dumping dredged material on beaches instead of in a designated spoil area.

Bald Head Island Village Council hasn't decided exactly how it will pay for its share of the project, which should be about \$450,000. Martin said council has been considering raising the money with taxes and assessments.

The proposal to dump sand on Bald Head Island cleared Corps of Engineers offices in Wilmington and Atlanta before it was sent to Washington, D.C., about two months ago.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Public Works is expected to make a final decision on the project this month.

"It's a real complicated process," Martin said. "It takes a long time to get things through."



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Brush Fire Threatens Homes

A brush fire threatened two homes in the Holden Beach area last Friday afternoon before it was extinguished by firefighters from Tri-Beach and Civietown VFDs. The blaze started from a pile of burning brush on a vacant lot on Barracuda Street off Seashore Road. The fire came within 10 feet of two homes on either side of the vacant lot.

Bolivia Man Shot At Nightclub

BY DOUG RUTTER

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department had not filed any charges as of Monday in connection with the weekend shooting of a Bolivia man at a local nightclub.

The 32-year-old man was shot in the arm Saturday around 3 a.m. at Warren's Night Club in Bolivia, according to a sheriff's department report.

Deputy Don Stovall said Monday no charges had been filed and the case was still under investigation.

The victim told authorities that another subject at the nightclub told him to approach because the subject had something for him, according to the report.

The subject then pulled out what appeared to be a long-barreled .22-caliber pistol and shot the victim in the left forearm, the report indicated.

After he was shot, the victim ran into the woods near the club. He returned to the club 30 to 45 minutes later and was taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

In other reports on file at the sheriff's department:

■ A Mack truck and produce trailer valued at \$90,000 was reported stolen from Chemical Cartage Service of Leland. The rig was apparently taken sometime between Friday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 5:30 p.m., according to Deputy Randy Robinson's report. The business manager told authorities that keys had not been left in the truck, but the front gate was not locked.

■ A Southport man reported that his 1989 Toyota pickup truck was stolen last Friday from the parking lot at Wilson's in Southport. The man said that his father drove the truck to the store and it was gone when he returned 10 minutes later. The keys had been left in the truck, which was valued at \$10,000. An outboard motor valued at \$175 was in the bed of the truck, reported

CRIME REPORT

Deputy Georgia Phelps.

■ A 1985 Chevrolet pickup truck was reported stolen from Alpha America Inc. at Lincoln Industrial Park in Leland last Thursday. Two windows were damaged and the office was ransacked, according to Deputy M.S. Mason's report. In addition to the company vehicle, one set of channel locks, a screw driver and \$4 in change also were reported stolen. Damage to the windows, a screen and heat vent was estimated at \$500.

■ A Leland man reported that his 1986 Ford Mustang was stolen last week. He left it parked outside his residence Saturday night and it was gone Sunday morning, according to Deputy Robinson. The car was valued at \$5,200.

■ Several pieces of jewelry, a video cassette recorder and a portable telephone were reportedly taken from a Winnabow residence last week. The home was broken into between last Thursday night and Saturday night, according to Deputy Charles Crocker's report. The items were valued at \$2,090.

■ A Conway, S.C., man told local authorities that a .44-caliber automatic handgun was taken from a suitcase at a residence in the Seaside area. The gun was valued at \$2,000, according to Deputy Phil Bryant's report.

■ A Shallotte area man reported that a .44-caliber gun, cassette tapes and a tape case were taken from his vehicle while he was working Saturday at Sunset Beach. The stolen merchandise was valued at \$530, according to Deputy Shelton Caison's report.

■ A Southport man reported that a German-made fiddle and an instrument case was stolen from a closet in his residence sometime between May 10 and May 13. The value of the items was estimated at \$550, according to a report filed by Deputy C.W. Miller.

■ A Leland man told sheriff's deputies that two flags hanging on a cable between two trees in his yard were stolen early Saturday morning. The man said he put up the American and North Carolina flags to welcome his son home. Deputy Mason reported that the flags, which had been hanging 28 feet off the ground, were valued at \$60.

County Officers Make 24 Arrests

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department made 24 arrests as prosecuting witnesses in May, according to the monthly activity report.

Officers answered 1,042 calls during the month, including 144 domestic calls, and summoned 100 witnesses.

The department conducted 354 investigations and recovered \$12,564 in property. Officers spent 369 hours in court, according to the report.

Lawmen served 761 civil papers, 399 local warrants, 63 foreign warrants, seven juvenile petitions and five mental and inebriate papers in May.

Officers traveled 97,091 miles during the month and made 31 trips out of the county. The department logged 1,101 miles on the transport van.

The department held 19 crime prevention meetings during the month, according to the report.

Hearing Set For Boiling Spring Lakes Teen Accused Of Shooting Mother

A probable cause hearing is set for Friday, June 28, in Brunswick County Juvenile Court for a 15-year-old Boiling Spring Lakes teen being held in connection with his mother's death.

It will be up to a District Court judge to determine if the youth is to be tried as an adult on murder charges.

Virginia Anderson, 44, was found dead in her bedroom May 21 after she had been shot in the back of the head about a week earlier.

Her body was discovered at her residence by Boiling Spring Lakes police officers who were investigat-

ing why she had failed to report to work.

The woman, who worked at Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport, lived with her son on Pierce Road. An officer approached the home and asked the teen-ager for permission to search it after the officer noticed a strange odor.

Her body was found inside a locked bedroom. Autopsy reports indicate she had been shot once in the head.

A juvenile petition was served on the youth, who is being held at the Juvenile Services Center in New Hanover County. His name has not been released by authorities.

Children under 16 are often not arrested and charged with crimes, but they are taken into custody under juvenile petitions.

District Attorney Rex Gore said if the judge finds enough evidence in Friday's probable cause hearing to send the case to trial, it will automatically be transferred to Brunswick County Superior Court.

In that case, the youth would be tried as an adult.

Under state law, a District Court judge must send a case to Superior Court if probable cause is found, if the youth is 14 or older and the crime is punishable by death.

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