



It's About Time...

Longer days are coming! Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead Saturday night.



P-e-r-f-e-c-t!

Amanda Sheffield wins the county spelling bee. Story and photos, Page 4-B.



A Few Nibbles

Spring fishing season is getting under way with some decent catches. Page 12-C.

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON



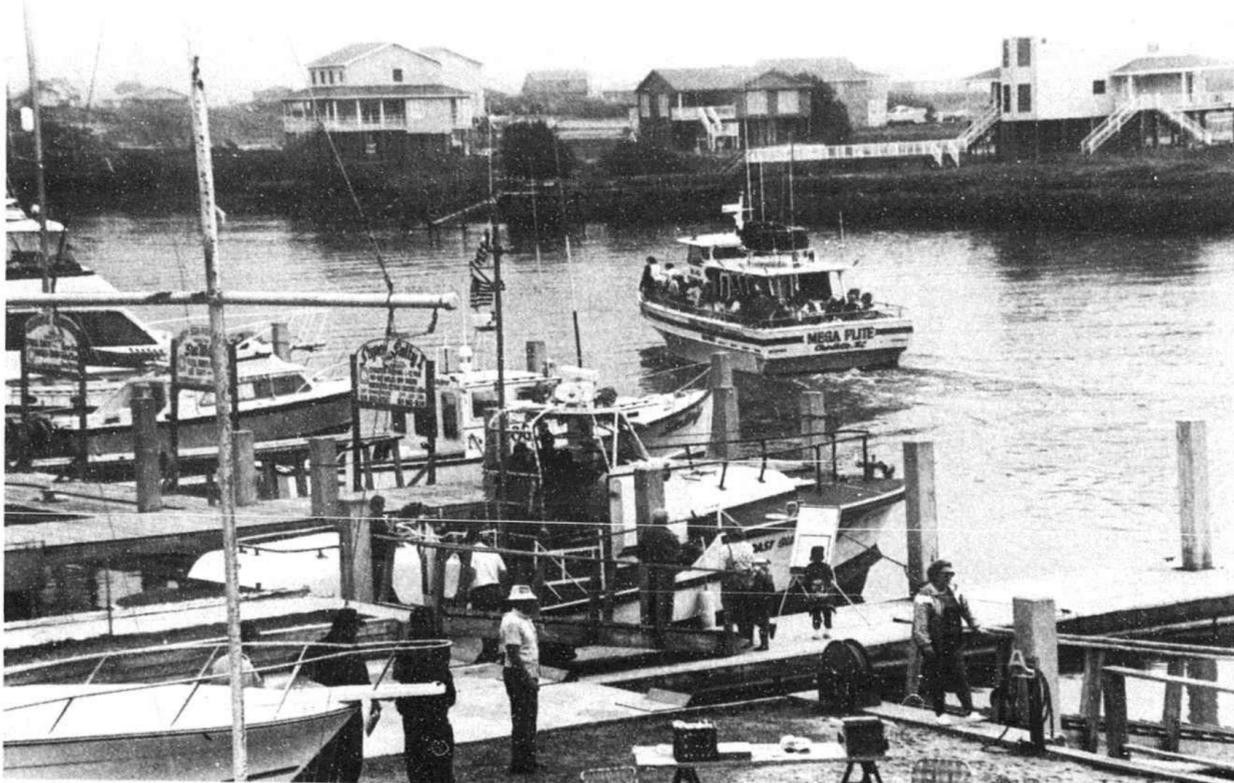
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STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON

Celebrating The Waterfront

About 600 people enjoyed waterway cruises at Saturday's second annual Day at the Docks, sponsored by the Greater Holden Beach Merchants' Association. Though the day began with fog, and parking lots were muddy from the previous night's heavy rains, the weather cleared by mid-day drawing a crowd hungry for food and fun. More Day at the Docks photos, Page 7-A.

Under Soles Bill, Either Calabash District Could Separate Town

BY LYNN CARLSON

A bill introduced by State Senator R.C. Soles late Tuesday would remove Carolina Shores from the corporate limits of Calabash as of June 30 if a majority of voters in either district approves.

District 2, Carolina Shores, has nine times the population of District 1, with an estimated 1,080 residents to District 1's 120.

In the 1989 vote which joined the two communities, Old Calabash voted 42-36 in favor of consolidating, with a 60-percent turnout. Carolina Shores voters favored the move by 458 to 142 with a 65-percent turnout.

The Soles bill calls for a referendum on the separation question and, on the same day, a vote in Carolina Shores on whether to incorporate as a new town with a mayor and five-member "village council."

"I'm not being belligerent," Sole said in response to criticism that he disregarded the objection of many townspeople to a split. "I feel I've done the right thing. They can vote,

and we'll see where we go from there. They were incorporated by vote, and if they unincorporate, it will be by vote, too."

There has been growing division in Calabash between residents of "Old Calabash," primarily business people and native Brunswick Countians, and Carolina Shores, dominated by retirees from the Northeast and Midwest.

Only three of 200 people at a Feb. 19 public hearing on the issue indicated they thought the town should be separated. But in an early February poll by the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association, 60 percent of respondents said they favored a split, though only 25 percent of those eligible responded to the organization's questionnaire.

"There are good people on both sides, but they have completely different backgrounds, thoughts and attitudes," Soles said. "People don't realize the amount of controversy we've had. Every time you turn around I've been getting phone calls or letters for the past year and a half."

The Soles bill was expected to have its first reading in the Senate on Wednesday and to be referred to the Senate Local Government Committee before being taken up by the full Senate in one to two weeks.

If approved by the Senate, the bill would then go to the House Local Government Committee.

Soles said he had "conferred at length" about his plans with the other members of the Brunswick County delegation—Reps. David Redwine and Dewey Hill. However, Redwine, reached in Raleigh late Tuesday, was reluctant to discuss whether he would support the measure until he sees how the bill emerges from the Senate.

(See SPLIT, Page 2-A)

(See TOWNS, Page 2-A)

Five Towns May Ask Hunt For Regional Sewer Funds

BY ERIC CARLSON

Five Brunswick County town boards will consider asking Gov. Jim Hunt to fund a plan that would allow them to create the first regional sewerage and storm water management system in coastal North Carolina.

Four mayors and 18 board members from the towns of Calabash, Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach, Shallotte and Sunset Beach met in Bolivia Tuesday to hear engineers explain the advantages of forming a joint treatment system and how to attract state money to pay for it.

"Now is a good time to put the governor on the spot," said Joseph Tombro of Powell Associates. "We're telling him, 'Everything in state water-quality regulations says treatment plans should be regionalized. We're asking you to put some money in to help us do it.'"

Tombro asked the town representatives to consider authorizing a letter to the governor outlining the need for state assistance in the planning and implementation of what is called a "South Brunswick Environmental Management Program." It asks for funding of a regional sewage disposal plan for all of southwestern Brunswick County.

The letter further asks the governor to grant the five-town "environmental coalition" special funding status as a demonstration project that could be expanded to manage sewage and runoff in a broader watershed, including the "Grand Strand" area of South Carolina.

"With your assistance we can expand this program to include the entire state-defined water quality basin in its region and demonstrate that coastal water resources can be managed to the extent of bettering estuarine water quality

on a permanent basis," the letter says.

Powell engineers Tombro and Jim Billups have been hired by Calabash and Sunset Beach to help the two towns form a joint sewage system. They told the group Tuesday that the proposed letter was drafted in response to inquiries from officials of several towns about the feasibility of expanding the plan into a regional sewerage system.

Several town representatives expressed reservations about embarking on such a far-reaching effort without the assistance—or at least the endorsement—of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

In past years, the county board has been reluctant to take the lead in regional sewerage planning, leaving it to the towns to develop their own systems. Shallotte, Ocean Isle Beach and portions of Calabash have sewage treat-

ment facilities.

"Does not the county own, control or regulate 95 percent of the land in this storm water management area?" asked Finley Boney, engineer for the towns of Shallotte and Ocean Isle Beach. "As I see it, the county has got to be a part of this program if it's going to succeed."

Holden Beach Commissioner Jim Fournier agreed, saying, "I believe in this concept of sending a letter. But the first letter ought to go to the county commissioners. We send a tremendous amount of money to Bolivia. We need to get them involved."

Several board members expressed opposing views about which type of wastewater—overloaded septic systems or storm runoff—poses the greatest pollution threat to local waters. Likewise, there were varying opinions about

Teen Injured In Bus Wreck Recovering From Second Surgery

BY SUSAN USHER

A Supply teen-ager critically injured March 19 when a logging truck rear-ended the school bus in which she was riding was recovering Tuesday from a second round of surgery at Duke University Medical Center in Durham.

Brunswick County Sheriff's Lt. Ronald Hewett, a cousin of Amanda Scoggins and friend of her family, said she successfully underwent 7½ hours of surgery Monday to treat breaks in her pelvis.

Amanda is the daughter of Ronnie and Belinda Scoggins. Tuesday she had been moved to her own room from the pediatric intensive care unit and was resting well, Hewett said after talking with both her and her mother by telephone that afternoon. "She was resting comfortably and was in good spirits. I think this is the turning point."

Hewett was at Duke Monday during Amanda's operation and said it went very well. "She was in surgery from 10 a.m. until about 5:30 p.m. She pulled through like a champion," said Hewett. "The doctor says she is now on the road to physical therapy and recovery."

Hewett called Amanda, 13, a "walking miracle," noting she has had 11 units of blood replaced since the accident.

She was the most seriously injured of those on the Shallotte Middle School bus. Her seatmate, Melanie Fields, 12, was released after one night at Doshier Memorial Hospital in Supply and was recuperating at home. Thirteen other students were treated and released. Driver Mattie Bryant was released Friday from The Brunswick Hospital. She had been readmitted following the accident with complications from her injuries.

The school bus had stopped in the northbound lane on U.S.

17 just north of the N.C. 211/U.S. 17 intersection at Supply to unload a passenger at the time of the accident.

Seated at the back of the bus, Amanda was pinned between two seats when an empty logging struck the bus in the rear. Truck driver Willie C. Prigden, 44, of Ivanhoe, was charged with failure to reduce speed to avoid a collision.

The numerous breaks to Amanda's legs were treated in 8½ hours of surgery last week at Duke, where she was airlifted within hours of the accident.

A fund has been established for Amanda at the main office of United Carolina Bank in Shallotte. Judy Flint is the contact person. While the students' medical bills are being referred to the insurance company for L&T Trucking of Watha, the fund will be used to meet needs Amanda may incur later in her recovery.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE

Groups Agree Golf Courses Impact Coastal Environment

BY DOUG RUTTER

Developers, scientists and environmentalists agree that golf courses like the ones in Brunswick County can benefit the environment if they're designed right or cause harm if they're built wrong.

That was the consensus of speakers and panelists at a symposium on the impact of golf courses on the coastal environment held last week at UNC-Wilmington.

Bill Benton, general manager of Lockwood Golf Links at Holden Beach, said he was impressed with the harmony of the diverse factions represented at the symposium, "Is Golfing Green?"

"I thought everybody was in accord really with what can go wrong on a golf course if it's not done properly," he said. "I learned some things that I want to do here."

Another local golf course developer, Dean Walters of Sea Trail Corp., came away from the seminar feeling that the positive impacts of golf courses weren't emphasized enough.

"Despite public opinion, golf courses do more to help the environment than pollute

it," he said. "We provide wildlife habitat. Our osprey and alligators have increased."

Dr. Charles Peacock, associate professor of crop science at N.C. State University, said only 1 percent of golfers and 3 percent of non-golfers think courses have a negative impact on the environment.

But many of the symposium speakers described the types of environmental damage being caused by golf courses, which can pollute surface and ground water and destroy wildlife habitat.

JoAnn Burkholder, associate professor of aquatic biology at N.C. State University, said courses are adding to the growing water quality problems along the coast.

"It's a trend nationwide that golf courses are going into very beautiful areas and many in our area are going next to coastal waters," she said. "Golf courses aren't nearly as bad as agricultural fields, but they contribute to pollution."

Golf course superintendents use an estimated 12 million pounds of pesticides per

'Despite public opinion, golf courses do more to help the environment than (to) pollute it.'

—Dean Walters
Sea Trail



year, while farmers use 550 million pounds, according to Dr. Greg Jennings of N.C. State.

Many of the chemicals used on golf course can be toxic to humans and aquatic animals. Mike Gantt of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said golf courses can harm wildlife by destroying natural habitat.

Most developments destroy wildlife habitat. Gantt said the golf industry has the unique opportunity to enhance existing habitat as part of its development scheme.

The state's two main concerns about golf courses are sedimentation during construction and the use of chemicals after the course is built, said Dr. Greg Thorpe of the N.C. Division of Environmental Management.

"It's important to consider these issues early in the design stage and I think that's beginning to happen," Thorpe said. "It is important that we make these cooperative efforts. I think we're on our way to doing that."

Thorpe suggested that using of silt fence and phasing construction of the fairways is one way to reduce the negative impact on the environment. "There is good golf course

development taking place all across this state."

As a result of the symposium, Benton said he wants to add buffer zones around the lakes at Lockwood Links. Grass and wetland buffers serve as habitat for wildlife and filters for stormwater runoff.

"The last thing we want to do at Lockwood is hurt the environment," Benton said. "The Lockwood Folly River and waterway is what attracts people to our course."

Walters, general manager of Sea Trail at Sunset Beach, says golf is a clean industry that does a lot of good. Courses create jobs, a healthy tax base and actually help the environment if they're run well.

"There are some problems out there between golf courses and the environment, particularly during construction," he said. "It's minimal for quality developers. There's always the bad apple."

Walters said a lot of positive points about golf courses weren't brought out at the symposium. (See 'GREEN-NESS,' Page 2-A)

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